

For Immediate Release

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**SHIVA AS 'LORD OF MUSIC' STARS AS THE COVER LOT
OF THE INDIAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART SALE**

*Indian and Southeast Asian Art Including 20th Century Indian Paintings
September 17, 2003*

New York – A fine selection of Indian and Southeast Asian works of art as well as a group of modern and contemporary Indian paintings will be offered on September 17. Stone sculpture and bronzes lead the morning session, highlighted by a splendid Indian bronze of Shiva and concluded by a series of Indian miniature paintings. Following the success of last September's sale, the afternoon will be devoted to modern and contemporary Indian painters thereby reinforcing the strong reputation Christie's has developed in this field over the years.

The auction begins with an impressive selection of Gandhara sculpture that includes a large gray schist figure of Maitreya. Extremely well carved, the figure is wearing long draped robes and jewelry and is holding the flask with the elixir of immortality (estimate: \$200,000–250,000). A striking gray schist seated figure of Buddha with flames emerging from his shoulders, illustrates the miracle of Sravasti where Buddha performed eight miracles (estimate: \$100,000–150,000). A another highlight is a large figure of Buddha with elaborately carved drapery and a beatific smile (estimate: \$150,000–200,000). A rare terracotta head of a Bodhisattva with a contemplative expression and beautifully shaped eyes, still showing the original polychrome painting on the facial features, concludes this section (estimate: \$50,000–70,000).

A splendid group of sculpture from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Phillips showcases some extraordinary pieces such as the cover lot of the sale, the highly important bronze figure of Shiva as Vinadhara (Lord of Music), South India, Chola period (last quarter of the 10th century) (estimate: \$400,000–600,000). This piece has occupied a unique place in the field of Indian bronzes ever since it was chosen by Stella Kramrisch to appear on the catalogue cover of the seminal Philadelphia exhibition 'Manifestations of Shiva' in 1981.

An exquisite marble figure of Buddha, Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura period (6th/7th century) (estimate: \$250,000–350,000) is also offered. The figure shows elegant restraint and power and is one of the very few complete examples of its type still in private hands.

Also coming from the Phillips Collection is a bronze figure of the shaivaité saint Sambandar, Chola period, 11th century (estimate: \$80,000–100,000) and a large bronze Khmer figure of Uma in the Angkor Wat style, dating from the 12th/13th century (estimate: \$90,000–120,000).

The sale further includes a fine Indian medieval sculpture representing Shiva and Parvati from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (estimate: \$40,000–60,000) and a wide-ranging group of bronzes from various parts of Asia. Among the most intriguing is a Nepalese gilt bronze figure of Amoghapasa (estimate: \$150,000–200,000). This bronze is a superb example of 11th century period sculpture as evidenced by the sensitivity of its modeling, the graceful flow and overall refinement. A large bronze figure of Parvati from South India, Vijayanagar, 14th century (estimate: \$150,000–200,000) is beautifully cast and shows exquisite details of the garments and jewelry such as multi-tiered necklaces and beaded bracelets. A gilt bronze figure of Tara, Mongolia, 18th century is offered by a New York Private Collector (estimate: \$120,000–150,000). Also from the 18th century, from Sri Lanka, is a gilt bronze figure of Buddha, Kandyan period (estimate: \$80,000–100,000). This richly gilt figure has incised flower-heads on his hands and feet and shows fine treatment of the rippling folds of the drapery.

The morning session will end with a group of Indian miniature paintings from a private collection.

The afternoon session will entirely focus on 20th century Indian paintings (separate release available).

Auction: Indian and Southeast Art

Including 20th Century Indian Paintings

September 17 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

September 12 - 16

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of Indian and Southeast Asian Art Including 20th Century Indian Paintings can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Loffinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.