

For Immediate Release

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FRESH, DIVERSE AND COLOURFUL SELECTION OF SCOTTISH ART TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN OCTOBER

**The Scottish Sale at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh
Thursday, 26 October 2006 at 10.30am and 2.30pm**



Edinburgh - Christie's is pleased to announce the annual sale of Scottish Art which will take place at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh on 26 October and will offer a rediscovered masterpiece by Charles Lees (1800-1880) alongside one of the most important selections of Colourist paintings to come to the market in recent years. Elsewhere the sale will offer a strong selection of works from the 18th to the 20th centuries, reflecting the artistic heritage of Scotland and including

paintings by Jacob More, Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir David Wilkie, Joseph Farquharson, William McTaggart, Elizabeth Blackadder, Anne Redpath and Alberto Morrocco.

Winter Day - A slide scene, Duddingstone Loch by Charles Lees (1800-1880) illustrated above left is a masterpiece by one of the leading artists of 19th century Scotland. A photograph sent to Christie's in New York by an American client alerted specialists to the exciting possibility that this work, which was exhibited at The Royal Scottish Academy in 1859, may have resurfaced. It is unknown how or when the painting traveled to the United States. It is expected to realise £100,000-150,000. Charles Lees' most famous work is *The Golfers*, which was acquired by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in a private treaty deal negotiated by Christie's in 2002. A student of Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823), he was one of the first members to be elected to the Royal Scottish Academy where he showed over 82 portraits during his lifetime, as well as exhibiting at the Royal Academy in London between 1841 and 1857. While he made most of his living as a portraitist, painting many of the aristocracy, landowners and academics of Edinburgh, he is best regarded for his sporting landscape pictures. The present work shows Duddingston Loch, scene of Raeburn's iconic *Skating Minister*, and depicts a flurry of activity set against the glowing amber light of winter. Two skaters collide in the centre of the picture, narrowly avoiding a seated gentleman and looked on by a girl with a basket of biscuits and fruit.



The auction will also offer one of the most important selections of Colourist paintings to come to the market in recent years. The Colourists were a group of four Scottish artists who traveled frequently to France during the early years of the 20th century where they were heavily influenced by French Post-Impressionist movements. They are recognized as having introduced 'modern' painting to Scotland, and played a substantial role in the development of the British art scene in the first half of the 20th century. The outstanding selection of still-life and landscape pictures to be offered in October illustrates the development of the Colourist movement and includes a

number of works painted in France, including *A Street in Cassis* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) illustrated left and the landscape *Sunlit Street, Royan* (estimate: £60,000-80,000), both by Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. (1871-1935). These works

highlight the French influences that were absorbed by the Colourists with their vibrant, loose brushstrokes and energetic colours and are offered from the Collection of Peter Ross along with three other works by the artist; *Luxembourg Gardens* (estimate: £50,000-80,000), *Cassis* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and the still-life *Roses* (estimate: £150,000-250,000). Peploe is best known for his still-life pictures and this sale will offer some exceptional market-fresh examples of these works, including the masterpiece *Roses in a vase against an Orange background* painted during the 1920s, which is expected to realise £300,000-400,000 *illustrated left*. The unusual *Still Life of Chrysanthemums against black* and *Still life with fruit against a blue background*, both have an estimate of £150,000-250,000.



Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell (1883–1937) is represented by the striking landscape of the West coast of Scotland *Iona*, which is expected to realise £30,000-50,000, while *The Pink House* by J.D. Fergusson, who lived in France for much of his life and was a member of the artist café society in Monparnasse in the early 20th century with Léger, Modigliani and Picasso, has an estimate of £20,000-30,000. George Leslie Hunter (1879-1931) moved to California with his parents in 1892 and spent many of his younger years in Los Angeles and San Francisco. A friend of American authors Will Irwin, Bret Harte and Jack London, for whom he illustrated a book, Hunter was to hold his first one-man show at the Mark Hopkins Institute in San Francisco in 1906 but on the eve of the opening, the great earthquake destroyed both the gallery and all his work. In 1916 he exhibited with the Glasgow art dealer Alexander Reid with great success, and he went on to exhibit with the other three Colourists in London and Paris during the 1920s. *Still life with apples* (estimate: £50,000-80,000) to be offered in October is a striking picture which illustrates the influence of Cézanne in both structure and colour, as well as reflecting Hunter's appreciation of Dutch and French still-life painting of the 17th and 18th centuries *illustrated right*.



Further highlights include *Rosshyn Castle* by Jacob More (1740-1793) which carries an estimate of £30,000-50,000 and *A walk in the snow* by Joseph Farquharson (1846-1935) which is expected to realise £60,000-80,000. Also included in the sale is a range of paintings by more contemporary Scottish artists including Elizabeth Blackadder, Alberto Morrocco, Anne Redpath and Jack Vettriano.

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- *The Scottish Sale* will be on view at the following locations:

Christie's Paris	11 September to 12 September
Christie's King Street, London	29 September to 3 October
The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh	22 October to 25 October

- Christie's *British Art Week* in June 2006 realised £32.8 million (\$60.4 million) from five auctions dedicated entirely to British art and furniture. This represents the highest ever total for a week of British Art sales at Christie's. The highlight of the week was *The Blue Rigi* by J.M.W. Turner which sold for £5.8 million, a world record price for a British work on paper.