

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Matthew Paton

020.7389.2965

mpaton@christies.com

IMPORTANT MARITIME ART AT CHRISTIE'S IN OCTOBER 2007



William Anderson (1757-1837)

H.M.S. Victory engaging the Spanish flagship at the battle of Cape St. Vincent, 1797; and

The Spanish prizes entering the Tagus after the battle

Estimate: £70,000-100,000

King Street – Christie's will commemorate 20 years of Maritime sales with the auction of *Important Maritime Art* which will take place on 31 October 2007 at King Street. This auction will offer over 120 works of art by the most notable names in Maritime art including Willem van de Velde the Younger, Jacob Knyff, Thomas Luny and Montague Dawson and will include ship's portraits, depictions of naval battles, topographical views and exceptional models. Individual estimates range from £10,000 to £200,000 and the sale is expected to realise a total in excess of £3 million.

An early highlight of the auction is *The Royal Yacht Cleveland, with Charles II aboard, arriving to inspect the flagship at the Nore* by Jacob Knyff (1638-1681) which survives in exceptional condition and is expected to realise £30,000-50,000. *Cleveland* was built in 1671 and was the favourite yacht of Charles II, who named the vessel after one of his most famous mistresses, Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland.

A selection of paintings depicting historic battles will be offered at the auction. Highlighting this section is *H.M.S. Victory engaging the Spanish flagship at the Battle of Cape St. Vincent, 1797; and The Spanish prizes entering the Tagus after the battle* by William Anderson (1757-1837) which are offered together with an estimate of £70,000-100,000. Another impressive pair is *The British Fleet in action at Trafalgar, with Nelson's Victory heavily engaged; and After the close of the action* by Lieutenant Robert Strickland Thomas, R.N. (1787-1853) which is believed to have been commissioned by Sir William Hargood, a hero of Trafalgar, and which has an estimate of £50,000-80,000.

The selection of 20th century pictures is highlighted by six works by Montague Dawson, F.R.S.A., R.S.M.A. (1895-1973), including *The 1970 Americas Cup Series: A downwind led, Intrepid leading Gretel (II)* which is expected to realise £150,000-250,000. Contemporary artists will also be represented in the sale, including David Brackham (b.1932), Jamie Medlin (b.1970) and Richard Firth (b.1971).

The highlight of the maritime models to be offered at the auction is a Prisoner of War model of *H.M.S. Prince of Wales*, made from bone and baleen and previously in the ownership of King Leopold III of Belgium. Crafted in intricate detail by French prisoners incarcerated in England *circa* 1800, it is expected to realise £150,000-250,000.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com

Notes to editors:

Auction – Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT

Wednesday 31 October at 11am

Viewing – Christie's, King Street

Sunday 28 October	2pm to 5pm
Monday 29 October	9am to 4.30pm
Tuesday 30 October	9am to 8pm

About Christie's

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