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CHRISTIE'S TO VIEW MASTERPIECES IN PASHKOV HOUSE, MOSCOW IN OCTOBER 2007

- **Christie's to stage first exhibition in newly restored Pashkov House**
- **Exhibition to include exceptional masterpieces including works by Amedeo Modigliani, Andy Warhol, Sir Peter Paul Rubens, Natalia Goncharova and Fabergé**

Moscow – Christie's, the world's leading art business, is delighted to announce an exhibition of exceptional works of art which will take place at The Russian State Library, Pashkov House from 18 to 20 October 2007. As Russia becomes an increasingly influential international centre for art and culture, Christie's continues to invest in the region. Following on from exhibitions in Moscow and Samara in 2006, and the more recent exhibition of Vasilii Vereshchagin's *Solomon's Wall* at The State Tretyakov Gallery in 2007, the first ever viewing of the work in Russia, Christie's exhibition at Pashkov House will include a selection of exceptional works of art including works by Amedeo Modigliani, Andy Warhol, Natalia Goncharova, Sir Peter Paul Rubens and Fabergé, among others.

Edward Dolman, CEO of Christie's: *"Christie's are honored to present this exhibition of masterpieces of Impressionist, Modern, Post-War, Contemporary, Asian and Russian Art as well as Old Master paintings in the magnificent renovated rooms of Pashkov House, one of the city's most important cultural symbols. The scale and grandeur of this building helped to define the level of the works of art by Amedeo Modigliani, Andy Warhol, Sir Peter Paul Rubens, Natalia Goncharova and Fabergé that we are bringing to Moscow. Christie's will showcase the very best works of art that will be offered at our forthcoming international sales this autumn. This exhibition is a result of our cooperation with The Russian State Library and Gazprombank and we are grateful for their support."*

Christie's high profile exhibition will be take place between 18 and 20 October and will showcase highlights from upcoming auctions taking place in London, Hong Kong and New York.



The masterpieces of the **Impressionist and Modern Art** section are led by Amedeo Modigliani's (1884-1920) *Portrait du sculpteur Oscar Miestchaninoff*, 1916, is an elegant character study of a sympathetic friend. Miestchaninoff (1886-1956) was the son of a Jewish shopkeeper from Vitebsk. He briefly studied at the Odessa School of fine Arts and like Modigliani, he arrived in Paris in 1906. Unlike his colleagues, Miestchaninoff achieved a degree of professional success in the artistic circles of Montparnasse. Modigliani portrayed his friend on two occasions; in this painting from 1916 and in a delicate drawing of 1918. The 1916 portrait has an awkward grace and composure. In a pose that recalls Ingres's

Monsieur Bertin (Musée du Louvre, Paris) and its contemporary incarnation in Picasso's *Portrait of Gertrude Stein* (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), Modigliani depicts his subject seated, his hands firmly planted on his lap. With the artist's characteristic economy of means, he has succeeded in producing an image of considerable psychological depth (estimate: \$18-25 million).

Liz by Andy Warhol (1928-1987) will highlight the selection of **Post War and Contemporary Art** at Pashkov House (estimate: in excess of \$25 million). Warhol's celebrity portraits depict figures with larger-than-life personal myths who had achieved levels of stardom that the artist himself desperately coveted. He found his perfect subjects in three glamorous and universally admired women. He chose to portray his three semi-goddesses during times of utter distress and beyond. He embarked upon the Marilyn Monroe series shortly after her suicide had been announced. He executed the



Jackie Onassis paintings after her husband, President Kennedy, was assassinated. He idolized and immortalized Elizabeth Taylor at a point in time when a severe illness led many to believe she would not survive. Death and disaster hide behind every extensive display of glitz and glamour – the eternal message. However, the *Liz* portraits take a different stance as they eventually came to depict her recovery. Warhol described, “*I started those a long time ago when she was so sick and everybody said she was going to die. Now I am doing them all over, putting bright colours on her lips and eyes.*” The present painting, one of a series of twelve, is nothing if not

alive – a superbly sophisticated turquoise background mimics and accentuates Liz’s eye shadow while blood-red lips splash verve into the image. In this sensuous fusion of colours, the spectator’s eyes inevitably lock into those of Liz which are of a deep, mesmerizing violet – her famous trademark. *Liz* is expected to realize in the region of \$25 million

Highlighting **Old Master Pictures** at the exhibition is Sir Peter Paul Rubens’ (1577-1640) *Two studies of a young man* which was painted between 1615 and 1617 (estimate: \$8-12 million). The panel (46.5 x 65.5 cm.) is a study for Melchior in *The Adoration of the Magi* at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyon and shows a Levantine head, pictured *en face* and *en profil* respectively. The sitter is unknown but judging by his tanned skin, plain shirt and leather hat, it is thought that he could have been a contract labourer building the extension of the artist’s house in the Wappen, Antwerp. The present picture was rediscovered in 1934 when Mr Douglas Lewis of Merton Park, near Wimbledon in London, brought it to Christie’s having acquired the work in a box of paintings at a local West Country auction. The picture was recognised as a Rubens and was offered at Christie’s on 23 November 1934 where it sold for £1,560. It was acquired soon afterwards by Anton Philips, one of the most prominent entrepreneurs of the 20th century and the co-founder of Royal Philips Electronics, who displayed it as a central work of his private collection at his house *Villa de Laak*. The picture left this sanctuary on very few occasions, and was exhibited at The Musée Royaux des Beaux Artes in 1937 and the landmark Rubens oil sketch exhibition at The Museum Boymans van Beuningen in Rotterdam in 1953.



Picking Apples by **Russian artist** Natalia Goncharova (1881-1962) established a world record price for any female artist at auction this summer when it sold for \$9,801,988 on 18 June at Christie’s in London, and her *Still life with lilacs*, 1905 (estimate: \$1,400,000-1,800,000), an exceptional example of the artist’s early oeuvre, will be on view in Moscow. Before experimenting with Neo-Primitivism in the late 1900s, she executed a number of works in the expressive Impressionist and Post-Impressionist manner. Lilacs, whose white and purple flowers blossom in Russia for a very short period of time, symbolise tender love and the romance of springtime.

Russian Works of Art will be included in the exhibition, led by *The Imperial Imeretinsky Presentation Fabergé Frame* (estimate: \$1,200,000-\$1,800,000). In 1897 His Highness Prince Georges Imeretinsky asked Emperor Nicholas II to be the godfather to his first son Prince Georges. As a christening gift to the newborn, this unusually large red enamel guilloché frame surmounted by an Imperial crown was ordered from the Fabergé workshops in St. Petersburg. Apart from the size and the exquisite Fabergé workmanship, this unique frame includes an exceptionally rare signed and dated photograph of the Emperor Nicholas II and his wife the Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, “Nicholas.Alexandra. 1897”.



Sale Calendar for exhibited highlights

Impressionist and Modern Art	06 November 2007	New York
Post-War and Contemporary Art	13 November 2007	New York
Latin American Art	19 November 2007	New York
Chinese 20 th century Art	25 November 2007	Hong Kong
Russian Art Week	26-29 November 2007	London
Old Master & British Pictures	06 December 2007	London

Notes to Editors:

- Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in new markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service

- Christie's hold the world auction record for any Russian painting sold in a Russian Sale (Somov's *The Rainbow* sold for \$7,327,952 / £3,716,000 at Christie's London June 2007), and for any Russian Work of Art (the 2002 sale of Faberge's Imperial Winter Egg for \$9.5 million).
- The connection between Russia and Christie's extends back to the 18th Century when James Christie, the company founder, helped negotiate Robert Walpole's Collection of Pictures to Catherine the Great of Russia, now the core of the Hermitage Collection.