

*For Immediate Release*

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**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER FERNAND LEGER'S CUBIST MASTERPIECE  
LA FEMME EN ROUGE ET VERT AS HIGHLIGHT OF FALL 2003 AUCTION  
SEASON**

*Impressionist & Modern Art*

*November 4, 2002*

*New York – Fernand Léger's Cubist masterpiece La femme en rouge et vert, exhibited as an entrusted painting at the Musée National d'Art Moderne (Centre Georges Pompidou) since 1950, will be among the star lots at Christie's evening sale of Impressionist and Modern art in New York on November 4. The estimate is \$10,000,000–15,000,000.*

*La femme en rouge et vert, painted in Paris in 1914, is the final flowering of Léger's groundbreaking series Contrastes de formes, which he started just the year before, on the eve of the first World War. The culmination of the most innovative and visually exciting phase of Léger's career, La femme en rouge et vert sums up his pre-war achievement and prefigures the artist's post-war commitment to subject-matter, which would serve as the foundation of his art for the rest of his life. The appearance of a female subject in the present work is possibly related to the beginning of his relationship with Jeanne Lohy, an 18-year-old Parisian whom he met in 1913 and married six years later. Derived from Cubism and given a distinctly personal spin, the composition's mechanical, rotary forms generate a powerful dynamism while the figurative element, so essential to the tradition of French painting, is reasserted in a realm of near-total abstraction.*

*Renowned art dealer Léonce Rosenberg purchased La femme en rouge et vert from the 1921 Kahnweiler sale at Paris' Hotel Drouot. The painting was looted by the German Occupational Army during the course of World War II and at the close of the War the painting was entrusted to the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris. Here it remained of undetermined provenance until 1999, when the Office of Documentation at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, discovered in German archives an extraordinary document detailing the inventory of 110 works of art seized from the private apartment and gallery of Paul Rosenberg. This discovery led to the recent restitution of the work to the heirs of Paul and Léonce Rosenberg.*

*In addition to La femme en rouge et vert, Christie's evening sale of Impressionist & Modern art will offer a selection of extraordinary works by Vincent van Gogh, Amedeo Modigliani, Gustave Caillebotte, and others.*

*Auction: Impressionist & Modern Art November 4 at 7 p.m.*

*Viewing: Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza October 31 – November 4*

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*Images available on request  
Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*