

Press Release

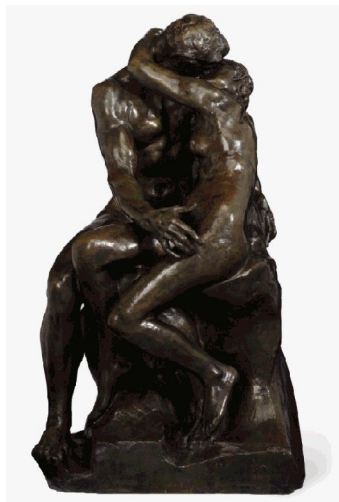
CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

13 October 2009

Contact: Erin McAndrew 212.636.2680 emcandrew@christies.com

**PICASSO, DEGAS, RODIN, MATISSE AND PISSARRO TO HIGHLIGHT
CHRISTIE'S IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART EVENING SALE
IN NEW YORK THIS NOVEMBER**



Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale

November 3, 2009

New York – Rare and important works by Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Auguste Rodin, Henri Matisse, and Piet Mondrian are among the highlights of Christie's upcoming *Evening Sale* of Impressionist and Modern Art on November 3. Forty exceptional works will be offered, including paintings, drawings, and sculpture. The sale is expected to achieve in excess of \$68 million.

Highlights of the sale include:

- *Tête de femme*, 1943 by **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973), a vivid portrait of Dora Maar painted during the darkest days of WWII in Paris (estimate: \$7-10 million).

Christie's
20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020
phone 212.636.2680 fax 212.636.4951
www.christies.com

- *Danseuses*, 1896, by **Edgar Degas** (1834-1917), a lush pastel drawing of two dancers at rest, one of Degas' most sought-after subjects (estimate: \$7-9 million).
- *Vétiveau, effet de soleil*, 1901, by **Claude Monet** (1840-1926), from an important series of views Monet completed of this picturesque village on the Seine (estimate: \$5-7 million).
- *Le Pont du chemin de fer, Pontoise, circa 1873*, by **Camille Pissarro** (1830-1903), a luminous and classically composed landscape that captures the essence of early Impressionism (estimate: \$3.5-4.5 million).
- *Le Baiser (The Kiss)* by **Auguste Rodin** (1840-1917), an exceedingly rare lifetime cast of one of Rodin's most celebrated subjects (estimate: \$1.5-2 million).
- *Rosace*, 1954, by **Henri Matisse** (1869-1954), the artist's final major commission; a paper cut-out used as inspiration for a stained-glass window created in memory of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (estimate: \$3-4 million).
- *Composition II, with Red*, 1926 by **Piet Mondrian** (1872-1944), one of only two surviving paintings from a pivotal series of works known as the "Dresden Paintings" (estimate: \$4.5-6.5 million).

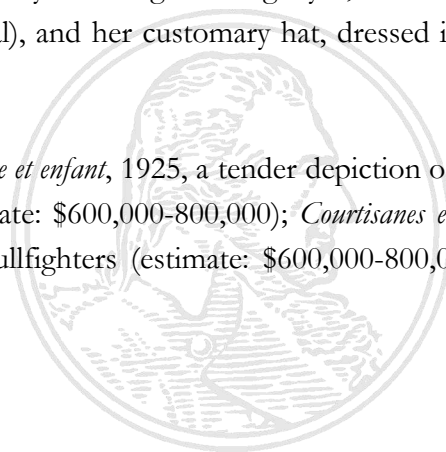
Conor Jordan, Head of Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's New York comments:

"Following the market-leading success of our Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale in May, we have again assembled an exciting roster of rare and important works, including a number of paintings offered fresh to the market from prominent private collections. Of particular interest to collectors will be a trio of exceptional Impressionist pictures by Monet, Pissarro, and Degas and an exceedingly rare cast of Rodin's most famous sculpture, The Kiss. A strong line-up of Modern works is led by Picasso's bristling portrait of Dora Maar with its blood-red background, and Matisse's Rosace, a massive work on paper that was to become his final masterpiece."

***Tête de Femme* by Pablo Picasso**

Among the most anticipated works to be offered this season is Picasso's vibrant *Tête de Femme* from 1943, a wartime portrait of the artist's muse and mistress Dora Maar (pictured page one, right). Painted in October 1943 during a period of continued hardship and deprivation in Paris, the portrait is remarkable for its bright, saturated colors and celebratory air -- an effect quite different from the mostly somber-hued portraits by Picasso from the same period. Dora Maar is discernible in the simplified and disjointed face in the painting by her large staring eyes, trademark raven hair (represented here as an elongated dark blue oval), and her customary hat, dressed in this depiction with three flower-like pins and a trailing ribbon.

Additional Picasso works in the sale include *Mère et enfant*, 1925, a tender depiction of the artist's son Paulo and his first wife Olga Khoklova, (estimate: \$600,000-800,000); *Courtisanes et toreros*, 1959, a humorous pen and ink drawing of off-duty bullfighters (estimate: \$600,000-800,000); and *Visage*



féminin, profil from 1960, a late-career portrait of Jacqueline Roque painted a year before her marriage to Picasso (estimate: \$600,000-900,000).

***Le Pont de chemin de fer, Pontoise* by Camille Pissarro**



Of the many notable paintings that Pissarro made in and around Pontoise in the years 1872 and 1873, *Le Pont de chemin de fer, Pontoise* (pictured at left), remains a stand-out. Paintings of this period have been called the most purely Impressionist of Pissarro's entire *oeuvre*, and here the artist used mixtures of pure color to achieve a carefully composed landscape with luxurious qualities of light. Pissarro's chosen view takes in the river Oise, as seen from just below the town of Pontoise, with the railway bridge visible in the near

foreground. Rather than painting the modern railway as an imposition upon the quaint and verdant landscape, Pissarro has subtly integrated the iron bridge and its traffic into the surroundings, so that it becomes a landscape feature seen fully within the context of the enduring natural world.

***Danseuses* by Edgar Degas**

The sale's cover lot is *Danseuses*, 1896, a richly-textured pastel drawing from Degas' highly-coveted series of drawings on this theme (pictured on page one, left). Degas returned to depictions of ballet dancers during the later years of his career, never tiring of the different poses and interactions created by the female figures. Here, he employs a close-up and tightly cropped view of two dancers at rest, one stretching while the other leans heavily against a wall. The drawing is remarkable for the expressive vigor in the artist's lines and the sheer brilliance of his densely-layered colors. By this point in his career, Degas has largely dispensed with his early penchant for specificity and detail in favor of the looser, more expressive style employed here.

***Vétheuil, effet de soleil* by Claude Monet**

Rounding out the exceptional offerings of Impressionist works in the sale is Monet's *Vétheuil, effet de soleil*. This sun-drenched view of the picturesque village of Vétheuil was painted in 1901, when Monet was refining the distinctive serial approach that would yield some of his most celebrated late-career works, including the water garden paintings at Giverny. All fifteen of the Vétheuil paintings, including the present work, take in the same view from across the Seine, varying only in lighting effects and weather conditions. *Vétheuil, effet de soleil* was one of a number of works from the series that was purchased by Galerie Durand-Ruel in 1902, where it remained until its sale to a private collector in 1949. Seven of the 15 views in the Vétheuil series are now housed in major museum

collections around the world, including the Musée D'Orsay and the Pushkin Museum.

Modern Highlights



Two magnificent Modern works not seen in public for over four decades are offered from the estate of Jack J. Dreyfus, Jr., founder of the highly successful brokerage firm Dreyfus & Co. *Rosace* by Henri Matisse is a paper cut-out in the form of a symmetrical, stylized rose (pictured at left) that served as the maquette for a stained glass window commissioned in memory of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller for the Union Church in Pocantico Hills, NY. The massive, seven-foot wide design is a perfect illustration of the innovative paper cut-out process that was Matisse's creative passion

during his last years. Sadly, *Rosace* would become Matisse's own swan song. On the day he wrote a letter confirming the completion of the maquette, Matisse suffered a stroke and died just two days later. After his death, the gouache, pencil and paper collage was laid down on canvas to be preserved for posterity.

Also from the Dreyfus Estate is Wassily Kandinsky's *Winkelschwung* ("Angular Swing") from 1929 (estimate: \$1.5-2.5 million), a vibrant work that bears the influence of the artist's teaching residency at the legendary Bauhaus. Populated with geometric shapes, lines, and points arrayed along an obtuse angle, the painting may be read as a landscape of buildings and tree forms, or as an interpretation of the Bauhaus campus itself.

***Composition II, with Red, 1926* by Piet Mondrian**

Composition II, with Red, 1926 (pictured at right) by Piet Mondrian is a highly minimal painting from a pivotal year in the artist's career during which he broke with the de Stijl movement and embraced his own individualistic style. Consisting solely of four straight lines and one primary color on a white background, *Composition II, with Red* is from an important group of four paintings often referred to as the "Dresden Paintings". The only other work from this outstanding group that is still known to exist is *Composition IV, with Red*, now in the permanent collection of the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum in Krefeld.



Sculpture Highlights

Few 19th century sculptures are more instantly recognizable than Rodin's *Le Baiser* (*The Kiss*), a romantic depiction of an embracing couple inspired by a tale of forbidden love from Dante's

Inferno (pictured page one, center). Christie's is pleased to offer an extremely rare bronze cast of the sculpture, one of only five created during the artist's lifetime from the plaster model of the sculpture known as the Milwaukee version. In these versions only, the male figure's right hand is lifted slightly from the thigh of his lover so that it appears to hover tentatively, a poignant gesture that Rodin called "more respectful". Owned by Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge until 1975, this elegant, 34-inch tall bronze has been in a private collection in New York for nearly 35 years.

Rounding out the sculptural highlights in the sale are Alberto Giacometti's *Femme Debout*, (estimate: \$1.4-1.8 million) from a series of thin, elongated standing female figures the artist conceived in 1960-61; Edgar Degas' *Grand Arabesque* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), an elegant bronze of a young female dancer in mid-pose, extending her body from fingertips to toes; and Rodin's *Néréides* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), a depiction in bronze of three intertwined sea nymphs.

Auction: Impressionist and Modern Evening Sale

November 3, 2009 at 7pm

Viewing: Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza

October 30 – November 3, 2009

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as 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 450 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 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

###

Images available on request

The complete e-catalogue will be available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's app for iPhone

