

For Immediate Release

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THREE EXCEPTIONAL SINGLE-OWNER COLLECTIONS STAR IN CHRISTIE'S BRITISH ART WEEK IN NOVEMBER



Dante Gabriel Rossetti
Desdemona's Death Song
Estimate: £200,000-300,000



John Robert Cozens
Cetara, Gulf of Salerno
Estimate: £120,000-180,000



Dora Carrington
White flowers in a two-handled vase Estimate: £40,000-60,000

BRITISH ART WEEK at CHRISTIE'S LONDON, 18-24 November 2004

Property from the London Residence of the Late Sir Paul Getty, K.B.E

Property from The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

Property from the Collection of the late Deane F. Johnson, sold to benefit The Johnson Charitable Remainder Unitrust & The Deane F. Johnson Alzheimer's Research Foundation

VICTORIAN MASTERPIECES FROM THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE SIR PAUL GETTY, K.B.E. and IMPORTANT PORTRAITS IN EVENING SALE

Important British Art Evening Sale

including Property From the London Residence of the Late Sir Paul Getty, K.B.E

Wednesday 24 November 2004

Eighteen Victorian paintings and works on paper from the private residence of the late Sir Paul Getty, K.B.E, lead Christie's *Important British Art Evening Sale* on 24 November. Highlights include three works by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, which reflect the diversity of the artist. A black chalk drawing of *Desdemona's Death-Song* (estimate: £200,000-300,000) depicts Desdemona attended by her maid Emilia preparing for bed, as she sings the "willow song" only to be murdered by her husband, Othello, in a fit of jealousy. *The Annunciation* (estimate: £100,000-150,000), was bought by

Rossetti's friend and fellow artist G.P. Boyce. *Lizzie Siddal* of 1854, is a particularly subtle drawing of his muse, and eventually his wife, Lizzie Siddal (estimate: £40,000-60,000).

Further highlights from the residence include several works by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, including *The Passing of Venus* (estimate: £250,000-350,000), an allegory of love bristling with mediaeval and Renaissance allusions, and a highly finished pen drawing of the popular parable *The Wise and Foolish Virgin*, 1859 (estimate: £200,000-300,000). A large pastel study for *The Dream of Lancelot* (estimate: £150,000-200,000) is a highly personal work in which the artist re-expressed the Arthurian legend. Ford Madox Brown's *The Last of England* (estimate: £200,000-300,000), is a masterpiece from this mentor of the Pre-Raphaelites depicting an American traveller and his wife leaving England's shores. William Powell Frith's oil depicts *The Private View* at the Royal Academy (estimate: £100,000-150,000) in which Oscar Wilde holds centre stage, discoursing to a group of female admirers, and other distinguished contemporaries including Leighton, Gladstone, Browning and Lily Langtry. *See full press release.*

Among the early highlights in the Important British Art sale is George Romney's magnificent full-length portrait of *Colonel James Hartley* (Estimate: £250,000-400,000), one of the heroes of the British military campaign against the Mahrattas in India. A portrait of *Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk*, circa 1565, which was one of the highlights of the *Elizabeth* exhibition at Greenwich in 2003, is estimated at £150,000-250,000. A cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, the 4th Duke was one of the most powerful noblemen in the kingdom and played a central role in Elizabethan politics. Eventually losing the Queen's favour, by attempting to marry Mary Queen of Scots, he was beheaded for his alleged role in the celebrated Ridolfi plot. An exceptionally beautiful double portrait of *Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland and her son, Lord Charles Fitzroy as the Madonna and Child* by Sir Peter Lely is one of the most important images of the mistress of Charles II who wielded such enormous power at court (estimate: £150,000-250,000).

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMSBURY WORKS LEAD 20TH CENTURY SALE WITH SEMINAL SPORTING LOWRY

20th Century British & Irish Art, including

Property from The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

Friday 19 November 2004

The most significant group of paintings by the Bloomsbury circle to come to auction are among works from The Reader's Digest Association, Inc's corporate collection to be sold in the *20th Century British & Irish Art sale* on 19 November 2004. One of the first and finest corporate art collections to be established in the world, the collection was begun in the 1940s by Lila Acheson Wallace, who co-founded the Reader's Digest with her husband DeWitt. Vanessa Bell's work of 1940, *The Dining Room Window, Charleston* (estimate: £30,000-50,000), depicts an intimate family scene with Duncan Grant seated at a table with their daughter, Angelica, pausing in quiet contemplation before her marriage to David Garnett. Several views in and around the gardens at Charleston Farmhouse, the

old Sussex country house decorated and transformed by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, feature in the collection, including *The Apple Tree*, by Vanessa Bell (estimate: £12,000-18,000) and *The Barn at Charleston* by Duncan Grant (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

A rare flower still life *White flowers in a two-handled vase*, by Dora Carrington, circa 1925, (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and a countryside view *September in Sussex* dating from 1937, (estimate: £5,000-8,000) painted by Roger Fry, are further highlights. The Collection also includes 30 works by other 20th Century British artists including Ivon Hitchens, Henry Moore, Lucien Pissarro, Sir Stanley Spencer, Walter Richard Sickert and Robert Polhill Bevan. *See full press release.*

A two-part painting of a sporting scene by Laurence Stephen Lowry, considered by the artist to be one of his best works, is a further highlight of the sale. The seminal work *A Cricket Match and A Cricket Sight-Board* is estimated to realize £300,000-500,000. Lowry states that he had “great difficulty” in resolving the lower part of the crowd in the painting. The artist decided to make two separate pictures, the lower painting he considered to be one of his “most successful crowd scenes”. Crowds fascinated Lowry, particularly the psychology of fans and the paradox of feeling alone in a big group. Lowry’s love of cricket and football is also documented in a number of his works. A



Laurence Stephen Lowry

A Cricket Match and a Cricket Sight-Board

Estimate: £300,000-500,000.

sense of detachment is clearly conveyed in the lower portion of the painting in which a small group of fans crowd round the sight board, while the majority look out of the picture towards the viewer, emphasising their isolation. In the upper painting, a great sweep of figures is taking a keen interest in the sporting action on the pitch. Although enjoying a day out, the spectators are not entirely escaping from their working lives. Smoking factories and industrial sprawl are clearly present, framing the sporting composition. The sale includes over 20 further works by Lowry from private collections including *Coming from the Match* (£250,000-350,000) and *Street scene in the snow* (£200,000-300,000).

Other contemporary works in the sale include Peter Lanyon’s *Judy* (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and Patrick Heron’s *Orange Horizon* (estimate: £15,000-25,000). Keen interest is expected following June’s highly successful sale in which Christie’s achieved the highest sale total for the category and world auction records for five artists including Lanyon. Other highlights include work by Ivon Hitchens and Henry Moore, Newlyn artists Elisabeth Adela Stanhope Forbes and Frank Bramley. A strong Post-War group includes *Julia IV* by Frank Auerbach (£30,000-50,000) and *Ceres’ Fan* by Bridget Riley (£80,000-120,000) and, building on the increasing interest in 20th century sculpture, works by Dame Elisabeth Frink, Sir Anthony Caro, Dame Barbara Hepworth, Kenneth Armitage Reg Butler and Bernard Meadows are featured in the sculpture section.

EXCEPTIONAL WATERCOLOURS BY LEADING EARLY ARTISTS

British Art on Paper

**Including Property from the Collection of the late Deane F. Johnson,
sold to benefit The Johnson Charitable Remainder Unitrust & The Deane F. Johnson
Alzheimer's Research Foundation**

Thursday 18 November 2004

An important group of 20 watercolours from the Collection of the late Deane F. Johnson leads Christie's sale of *British Art on Paper* on 18 November, comprising exceptional works by the leading early British watercolourists of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including John Robert Cozens, Thomas Gainsborough, and Richard Parkes Bonington. Deane F Johnson was an eminent American lawyer who was a successful film producer, philanthropist and environmentalist, rancher and gardener, as well as a connoisseur and collector.

An outstanding work by John Robert Cozens *Cetara, Gulf of Salerno*, (estimate: £120,000-180,000) is the centrepiece of the group. The subtle tones of the work evoke a serene and romantic mood. This work, and others in the Deane F Johnson collection, were purchased at the renowned sale of the Newall Collection at Christie's in 1979, formed in the most part in the 1920s to 1940s by Norman Newall, who inherited a small collection from his grandfather Robert Stirling Newall, a friend and patron of the Victorian artist Alfred William Hunt. A further highlight of the collection is a chalk drawing *Wooded river landscape with figures in a boat* by Thomas Gainsborough (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Two works by Richard Parkes Bonington *A Cavalier and his Lady on a Terrace* of 1826 (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and *Old Man and Child* of 1827 (estimate: £25,000-35,000) were also exhibited in the 1992 Bonington exhibition at New Haven and Paris. *See full press release.*

BRITISH PICTURES 1500-1850

Tuesday 23 November 2004

The sale of *British Pictures 1500-1850* brings together a fascinating and diverse group of works. Among a selection of topographical pictures of London is *View of Chelsea Farm with the Thames and Battersea Bridge*, (estimate: £25,000-40,000), by Hendrik Frans de Cort, of 1790. A very rare late 17th Century *View of Gloucester*, (estimate: £40,000-60,000), by Johannes Vorsterman, is a beautifully detailed depiction of the city and its rural surrounds. A stylish portrait by William Tate, of the Liverpool brewer *Daniel Daulby and his wife in the grounds of their estate*, (estimate: £40,000-60,000), is an intriguing work influenced by the artist's close friend and mentor, Joseph Wright of Derby. Other highlights include four pictures from the collection of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, notably an important portrait by Benjamin West, P.R.A., of *Dr Richard Price*, (estimate: £30,000-40,000). Price was one of the most important figures in the philosophical and moralist circles in London in the late 18th century and a staunch supporter of the American War of Independence. He was awarded American citizenship and is portrayed holding a letter written by Benjamin Franklin from Philadelphia.

VICTORIAN PICTURES

Tuesday 23 November 2004

A street scene by John Atkinson Grimshaw is a highlights of the *Victorian Pictures* sale. A gentleman tips his hat to a passing lady in *A Salutation*, estimated to realize £80,000-120,000. Two works by William Powell Frith from American private collections, *The New Model* (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and *Awaiting Tea* (£10,000-15,000) have not been seen in Britain for several decades. William Stott of Oldham is represented by *Idlers* (estimate: £40,000-60,000), which was exhibited at Gallery Oldham in the recent retrospective of the artist's life. Other highlights include two works by Charles Spencelayh, *The Winter Traveller* (estimate: £18,000-25,000) and *The Dear Lot* (estimate: £40,000-60,000), a humorous depiction of an elderly gentlemen admiring his costly purchase of a female nude by an old master painter. Victorian classicists are represented with works by G. F. Watts, *Ariadne*, (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and J.W. Godward, *Matrona Superba*, (£60,000-80,000).

Two works by Laura Alma-Tadema, wife of the celebrated classicist, Sir Laurence Alma-Tadema, are offered with interesting provenance. One belonged to Henry Gurdon Marquand, the New York financier who endowed the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and bequeathed several of their most important works. The second belonged to Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, son of the novelist Charles Dickens, and has passed by descent within his family. The provenance attests to the close friendships enjoyed by the literary and artistic worlds of Victorian London. Each carry an estimate of £20-30,000. The sale will also include a selection of landscapes, still lifes, and animal pictures including an arresting portrait of a border collie, *Waiting for Master* by Edwin Douglas (estimate: £15,000-20,000) and will concludes with a view of Eton by George Vicat Cole (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Sales

18 November
19 November

British Art on Paper
20th Century British & Irish Art, including Property from
The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

23 November
23 November
24 November

British Pictures 1500-1850
Victorian Pictures
Important British Art Evening Sale, including Property From The
London Residence of the Late Sir Paul Getty, KBE.

Lectures

16 November 7pm
22 November 7pm

The Big House: The Story of an English Country House and
its Family, by Christopher Simon Sykes, photographer and author .
Pre Raphaelite Masterpieces: Drawings and Pictures from the
Collection of the late Sir Paul Getty K.B.E. and other highlights of
The Important British Art Sale by Stephen Wildman, Curator of the
Ruskin Library, University of Lancaster.

Seat reservations:

+ 44 (0) 20 7389 2978 or email lgandy@christies.com

Previews Highlights on view at Christie's New York, 22-26 October (enquiries: +1 212 636 2084) and Mere Golf and Country Club, Cheshire, 10th November, 2-5.30pm.

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Images available on request