

For Immediate Release

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**MASTERPIECES BY RUFINO TAMAYO, REMEDIOS VARO AND
FERNANDO BOTERO LEAD CHRISTIE'S LATIN AMERICAN SALE**

**Latin American Sale
19 - 20 November 2007**

New York – Christie's will present its most valuable Latin American Sale, expected to realize in excess of \$22 million, on November 19 and 20 in New York. Leading the November 19 evening sale is Rufino Tamayo's important masterpiece, *Trovador*, which reflects his signature style of semi-abstracted forms and mastery of color (estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000), and a very rare appearance on the market of a work by Remedios Varo, *Exploración de las fuentes del río Orinoco* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). With over 300 lots, the two day auction offers works by the most important Latin American artists such as Fernando Botero, Joaquín Torres García, Diego Rivera, Matta, Wifredo Lam, and Claudio Bravo.



Tamayo's *Trovador* (Troubadour), executed in 1945, is perhaps the least studied of the artist's great paintings. Combining ideal subject matter of the guitarist with the artist's signature brilliant palette and scale, this iconic work is the most important easel painting by Tamayo to come up at auction in more than a decade. *Trovador* has the potential to break the current world auction record for Tamayo, which was set at Christie's in 1993 with the 1955 painting, *America (Mural)*.

Surrealist Remedios Varo's beautiful and delicate painting, *Exploración de las Fuentes del río Orinoco*, is one of the most

important works by the artist to ever be offered at auction (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Painted in 1959, at the height of her career, the painting portrays the artist's familiar themes of journey and discovery, inflected with Varo's trademark whimsical and humorous details. Showing a woman with a focused gaze navigating a magical vehicle with garment-like details down the foggy Orinoco River in Venezuela, the painting has a haunting and mystical aura which references Varo's feelings of transition and separation. Immersed in the émigré community in Mexico City in the 1940s, the most influential of Varo's cross-cultural surroundings proved to be the friendship she developed with the Surrealist Leonora Carrington.



Leading a wonderful group of works by Botero is *El domingo por la tarde*, painted early in the artist's



career in 1967. From his picnic series, this work portrays a well dressed family with two small children picnicking in the mountains with a military guardian — the rotund subjects arranged as a still life of fruit (estimate: \$1,400,000-1,800,000). *The Bedroom* is a portrait of a corpulent woman dressed in lingerie, beckoning the viewer into her confined space (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). Among the various sculptures by Botero, *Pedro on a Horse* shows a child on a toy horse, and suggests the influence of Degas with his use of synthetic hair on the horse's mane and the leather reins (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).

Alfredo Ramos Martínez's *Las floreras* (The Flower Vendors), 1933 is a wonderful example of the artist's California style which employs geometric and hieratic figures, purity of line, a reduced palette and narrative strength (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). The canvas is divided - earth and sky - and the women are beautifully silhouetted with curvilinear lines. Stooping under the weight of their baskets filled with flowers they are a powerful visualization of womanhood itself: women/flowers and bearers of life.

Cuban artists are represented in the sale with Amelia Peláez — the exquisite gouache on paper, *Un Jardín*, employs her signature



jewel-like colors and references to domestic life and nature (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Other important works in the sale from Rufino Tamayo include *Bañistas*, a compactly composed group of bathers showing influence of Picasso's Neoclassical period (estimate: \$700,000-900,000), and *Diálogo*, a painting in a somber grey palette showing two figures in front of a painting with a guitar, suggesting an allegory of the arts (estimate: \$600,000-800,000).

A grouping of abstractions is highlighted with Joaquín Torres García's *Estructura con formas trabadas*, painted in 1933 (estimate: \$400,000-600,000) from a Distinguished European Collection. This work reflects his abrupt shift from symbols within structures to abstractions and shows the influence of Tihuanacu textiles and Nazca ceramics with the bold colors and lines. Abstractions by Argentinian artists include works by Alfredo Hlito, Juan Melé, Rogelio Polesello, Antonio Asis, and Alicia Penalba.

Vibrant contemporary works include Roberto Aizenberg's *Torre*, which is rooted in his study of architecture (estimate: \$40,000-50,000); Tomás Sánchez's, *Al sur del Calvario*, showing a landscape painting of vast landfill which recedes into the horizon (estimate: \$140,000-180,000); and Guillermo Kuitca's *Untitled (L.A.)* is an abstracted large scale map of Los Angeles as seen through a smoggy veil (estimate: \$100,000-150,000).

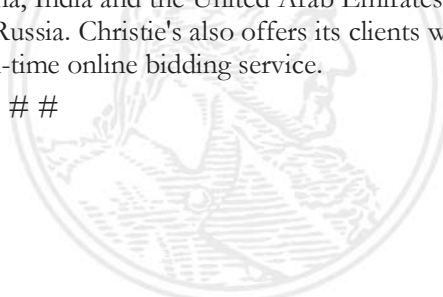
Auction:	<i>Latin American Sale - Evening Session</i>	November 19 at 6:30pm
	<i>Latin American Sale - Day Session</i>	November 20 at 10am

Viewing:	Christie's Rockefeller Galleries, New York	November 16-19
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About Christie's

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More information about Christie's sale of *Latin American Sale* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

