

For Immediate Release

15 October 2009

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***LE QUAI MALAQUAIS ET L'INSTITUT* BY CAMILLE PISSARRO
TO HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S NOVEMBER 3 EVENING SALE OF
IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART IN NEW YORK**



***Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale*
3 November 2009**

New York - Christie's is pleased to announce *Le Quai Malaquais et l'Institut*, 1903 by Camille Pissarro (estimate: \$1.5-2.5 million), an important work that has been restituted to a member of the Fischer estate after its confiscation over 70 years ago, will be offered for sale this November. The painting was to have been featured at Christie's Impressionist and Modern *Evening Sale* in London on June 23, 2009, but was withdrawn at the request of the heirs of the Fischer estate. Christie's is delighted now to be in a position to present this exceptional painting as a highlight of its November 3 *Evening Sale* in New York.

Gisela Bermann Fischer, daughter of Gottfried Bermann Fischer and granddaughter of Samuel Fischer, founder of the legendary German publishing house S. Fischer Verlag, searched for over 12 years for this lost Pissarro painting. The search concluded in the summer of 2008 when *Le Quai Malaquais et l'Institut* was located in a bank vault in Zurich. After a long process, it was restituted to Ms. Fischer as one of the heirs to the Fischer estate. The painting is now being offered for sale by Gisela Bermann Fischer and Itai Shoffman, great grandson of Samuel Fischer.

Samuel Fischer had initially purchased the painting from the art dealer Paul Cassirer in 1907. The last time the then-nine year old Gisela Bermann Fischer had seen the painting was in March 1938, in her parents' house, located at Wattmangasse 11 in Vienna. The night before Austria's *Anschluss*, the family fled their residence in Vienna, leaving behind an important art collection that included the Pissarro painting. The collection was confiscated by the National Socialists and *Le Quai Malaquais* was sold at the Dorotheum in Vienna in 1940. As a result of its having been hidden in a bank vault for over half a century, the painting remains in excellent condition to this day.

Painted in 1903, *Le Quai Malaquais et l'Institut* is part of Camille Pissarro's (1830-1903) fourth and final series of views of Paris. It was only ten years earlier, in 1893, that he had first tackled the subject of Paris, the bustling cosmopolitan hub of so much life in France. Once he started, Pissarro returned several times, renting a different apartment each time for the specific view and outlook it provided of the city. From April to May 1903, Pissarro painted from Room 32 on the third floor of the Hotel du Quai Voltaire, at 19 quai Voltaire in the 7th arrondissement. The view that the room afforded, looking both up and down the Seine, yielded a superb series of works depicting the Pont-Royal, the Louvre, and the Quai Malaquais. This would remain the artist's only series painted from the Left Bank of the river Seine.

Inspired by the emerging spring season in April and May, these works are filled with a sense of hope, of renewal, of new leaves and new life, as is clearly the case in *Le Quai Malaquais et l'Institut*, where the trees are draped in budding foliage thin enough that the Pont du Carrousel and even the Pont des Arts are visible spanning the river in the background. To the right of Le Quai Malaquais is the street itself, with carriages and pedestrians giving a sense of urban activity. The lush paint surface lends great detail and movement to the clouds, and is thrust into greater relief by the contrast with other areas of the picture where the artist has deliberately left the primed canvas in reserve, introducing a fantastic play of textures.

Le Quai Malaquais et l'Institut will be on view October 30 through November 3 at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries as part of the overall preview exhibition for the *Evening Sale of Impressionist and Modern Art*.

Auction:*Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale*

November 3, 2009 at 7pm

Viewing:

New York - Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

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

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Images are available upon request

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