

For Immediate Release

October 15, 2004

Contact: Bendetta Roux 212.636.2680 broux@christies.com

ELEGANCE AND DECADENCE: THE 19TH CENTURY

19th Century European Art
October 27, 2004

New York – On October 27, Christie's New York will exhibit in its full glory the diversity in style, subject matter and atmosphere so typical of 19th century Europe. Several schools will be represented, referring to different movements that are regionally grouped or stylistically connected. Internationally renowned names such as Corot, Bouguereau, Lord Leighton and Khnopff will be among the artists offered.

The sale starts with the **Spanish and Italian Schools**, showing a variety of animated Spanish marketplace scenes, such as *Market Square in Front of the Sacristy and Doorway of the Cathedral, Granada* by Edwin Lord Weeks (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and summery Italian vistas. From a European Collection comes *Dirty Feet* (estimate: \$120,000-180,000), a lovely interior scene showing two girls playing with kittens, by Gaetano Chierici.

The serene but colorful beauty of many orientalist paintings has regained the market's attention. In the **Orientalism** section, noteworthy are a splendid sunset view, *Sunset on the Nile, Cairo* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) by Hermann Corrodi and two renderings of orientalist women, one by Fausto Zonaro, painter to the Ottoman court, entitled *Portrait of a Turkish Lady with Bosphorus in the Background* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) and *The Snake Charmer*, a seductive nude by Paul-Désiré Trouillebert (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).

The smoothness and delicacy of **Victorian Pictures** are accentuated in two portraits by John William Godward: *Carina* (estimate: \$150,000-200,000) and *Megilla* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). The master of Victorian painting, Fredric, Lord Leighton is represented with a glorious golden painting,

Odalisque (estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000). This painting is one of Leighton's most sumptuous and elegant works of the 1860s – a subtle melding of the French Academic ideal of beauty and the Romantics' sensitivity to the forces of color and texture.

Scandinavian, Russian and Slavic Schools harbor a melange of different styles and moods, with by-now household names such as Alexej Alexejewitsch Harlamoff and Fritz Thaulow. The typical Scandinavian palette and strong craftsmanship of *A Sicilian Beggar* by Peter Severin Kroyer (estimate: \$150,000-250,000) are remarkable features of this 1901 painting that has an almost haunting presence.

Who but Corot could express in an exquisitely delicate way the slight light nuances produced by different moments of the day? In the section **Barbizon, Realist and French Landscape Paintings** four Corot paintings reflect morning, day, evening and night moods and all are in the typical still Corot atmosphere. Also by Corot is *La petite Séraphine vêtue du gilet de Corot (dans sa chambre à Aleux)* (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), an adorable portrait in subtle gray brown colors heightened by touches of red.

A portrait of a peasant girl with penetrating blue eyes, *Petite fille au bol bleu* by William Adolphe Bouguereau (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) is the highlight of the **French and Belgian Schools** segment. Also noteworthy is a group of works all done by students of Bouguereau, also offered for sale. Two strong paintings by Louis-Gabriel-Eugène Isabey are excellent examples of this artist's versatile talents: *Bateaux échoués (Honfleur, low tide)* (estimate: \$120,000-180,000) gives a serene reflection of boats resting on the low tide, while *L'Embarquement de Louis XIV* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) shows a historical scene under thunder clouds and clad in heavy winds.

La Belle Epoque excels in depicting all the charm and elegance of the turn of the century. Jean Béraud's *La brasserie* (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) offers a café scene, intriguingly rendered with dimly lit sconces reflected in mirrors. The inauguration of the Alexandre III Bridge in Paris is shown in all its festive colors by Pierre-Louis-Léger Vauthier (estimate: \$70,000-90,000) while the same Parisian bridge, together with a London scene and a New York scene, forms an impressive triptych painted by Louis Aston Knight in 1905 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). The rendering of a lady dressed in soft yellow satin by Alfred Stevens (estimate: \$250,000-350,000) is an epitome of bourgeois elegance and delicacy.

The sale concludes with **Dutch and German Schools** offering works by van Schendel, Israels and Verboeckhoven.

Auction: 19th Century European Art

October 27 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

October 22 - 26

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *19th Century European Art* 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.