

For Immediate Release

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MONET'S *PARLEMENT* AND VAN GOGH'S *LE PONT DE TRINQUETAILLE* TO LEAD IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART SALE AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK

Impressionist and Modern Art November 3 & 4, 2004

New York – Christie's fall sales of *Impressionist and Modern Art*, taking place on November 3 and 4 at Rockefeller Center, will again evoke the many atmospheres, styles, palettes and themes characteristic of the intense and often revolutionary artistic endeavors that were started by the Impressionists and carried forward by the early 20th century European artists. Led by historic masterpieces, some of which have not been on the market for decades, the sale will offer several estates and private collections including Property from the Estate of Nathan L. Halpern (separate release available); Property Restituted to Baron Pierre de Gunzburg and his Family, the Heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hirsch (separate release available) and Property from a French Private Collection highlighting *Londres, le Parlement, effet de soleil dans le brouillard*, one of Monet's breathtaking views on the Houses of Parliament clad in London's fog, backlit by orange and red sunlight penetrating the mist.

An anglophile at heart, Claude Monet embarked upon a monumental project when in September 1899, he rented a suite in London's fashionable Savoy Hotel on the North Bank of the Thames with panoramic views of Waterloo Bridge and Charring Cross Bridge. In addition, he also made frequent visits to the balcony of St. Thomas' Hospital, separated from the Houses of Parliament only by the Thames. These two locations became his pied-à-terre from 1899 till 1904 while he worked on the series of ninety-five views of the two famous Bridges and the London parliament. *Londres, le Parlement, effet de soleil dans le brouillard* (estimate: \$12,000,000-18,000,000) is arguably one of the finest paintings of this fabled series and having never been on the open market since it was painted 110 years ago, it comes with a spectacular provenance. The extraordinary light effects offered by London during the winter months - Monet's main reason for undertaking the series - are expressed in all their sublimity, the Houses of Parliament being mere specters in a city that is completely silent

and timeless. Of the three series, Monet was most satisfied with the Houses of Parliament, a feeling that was shared by the public that by 1915 had acquired 17 out of the 19 paintings depicting this institution. Today, 15 out of the 19 belong to museum collections while the present painting is one of only four still in private hands.

Van Gogh's legendary love affair with color and light is beautifully expressed in *Le pont de Trinquetaille* (estimate: \$12,000,000-18,000,000), executed in 1888 and showing the Trinquetaille Bridge which connects Arles with Trinquetaille on the opposite bank of the Rhône River. In 1888, looking for the "Japan of the South," Van Gogh traveled to Provence and settled down in Arles. Freed by the pressures of urban life and mesmerized by the brilliant light and the colorful landscape, the artist started integrating the results of his experimentations and one modern masterwork after another was created. In the present work, described by Van Gogh as "A view of the Rhône in which the sky and the water are the color of absinthe, with a blue bridge and the figures of little black urchins," color has an overall importance and has become one of the main compositional elements, a feature reminiscent of Japanese techniques used by artists such as Hiroshige.

From the same European Collection as the Van Gogh comes Camille Pissarro's *Quatre Saisons* (estimate: \$8,000,000-12,000,000), a rendering of each of the four seasons, all executed in 1872. This cycle of four landscapes marks a critical juncture in Pissarro's oeuvre since it was the first major commission the artist ever received from a collector and it is one of his finest achievements from the early 1870's, arguably the most purely Impressionist period in his career. Painted in Pontoise, except for *L'Hiver* which was done in Louveciennes, the quartet is devoid of any allegorical content, and focuses entirely on the regenerative cycle of nature and life. *Quatre Saisons* was commissioned in 1872 by Achille Arosa, brother of one of the most prominent collectors of Impressionist art, Gustave Arosa, but the cycle was split up twenty years later by Galerie Bernheim. In 1901 the paintings were reunited by dealer Paul Cassirer and they have remained together ever since.

Property from an Important American Collection includes pivotal works from the major 20th century artists Miró, Giacometti, Picasso and Léger. *Mousquetaire à la Pipe* (estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000) painted by Pablo Picasso in 1968, splashes off the canvas in its bright greens and yellows. Nearing the end of his life, Picasso started expressing all the energy, virility and flamboyancy that were slowly disappearing from his life in his paintings. The musketeer theme came about after the artist re-read Dumas' "The Three Musketeers" and was charmed by the figure of the reckless, romantic 17th century cavalier, a theme that had equally appealed to Picasso's great examples Velázquez and Rembrandt. The present work is part of a series that ultimately presented a 'journey into time,' linking Picasso's own lifetime with Dumas' mid nineteenth epoch and the Baroque era of Velázquez and Rembrandt. A splendid Léger, *La Charmeuse d'oiseux*, 1942 (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000) depicts the rooster, the French national emblem and a prominent feature in Léger's work

after his arrival in America in 1940. The charmer is probably Maria Martins, the wife of the Brazilian ambassador to the US during the 1940s, who was a painter in her own right and the first owner of this painting. The Collection further includes *Personnage, oiseau, étoiles* (estimate: \$700,000-900,000) executed by Miró in Palma de Mallorca in 1942; Picasso's *Femme Assise*, 1953 (estimate: \$600,000-800,000), which catches the artist between two liaisons and *Buste sur Socle*, a bronze of Diego Giacometti by his brother, Alberto (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000).

Henryk de Kwiatkowski lived a life that seemingly balanced worldly experience and spiritual sublimity in the most charming of ways. After having fled from war-torn Europe to England in the 1940s, de Kwiatkowski went on to serve under the Viceroy of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and became in heart and spirit a virtuoso of life and a true art connoisseur. The works offered by his Estate include the forceful *Vaches au bord de la mer*, painted by Gauguin in 1886 while the artist was absorbing the rustic views of the coasts of Brittany (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,000,000); Monet's vibrant display of blossoms and foliage, *Massif de chrysanthèmes* (estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000); Edgar Degas' *Danseuses Russes* (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000) and *Nature morte à la cuillère* by George Braque (estimate: \$450,000-650,000).

A powerful and important painting is Paul Cézanne's *Portrait de femme* (estimate: \$9,000,000-12,000,000), painted circa 1900. It is part of an important series of portraits the artist made during the last 15 years of his life, depicting peasants and working class people. The sitter stands out because of her monumental presence and humanity and the painting is closely related to Cézanne's celebrated portraits of his wife, Hortense Fiquet.

Further included in the sale are Pablo Picasso's *Oiseux dans une cage* (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,600,000), a statement by the artist on the Spanish civil war, painted in 1937 and also symbolizing the animosity between Marie Thérèse Walter and Dora Maar, formerly in the collection of the French fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli; Kees van Dongen's decadent and lush *Femme fatale* of 1905 (estimate: \$3,500,000-4,500,000), formerly in the collection of Ingrid Bergman; and two works by Lyonel Feininger, *Benx VI* (estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000) and *Mellingen V* (estimate: \$1,800,000-2,400,000).

Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale and Works on Paper Sale

On November 4, Christie's New York will offer two stand-alone sales: Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper in the morning, followed by the Impressionist and Modern Art day sale in the morning and afternoon. The Works on Paper sale features a pastel by Renoir, an elegant, richly colored, *Femme à la Toque* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) and two strong Picasso drawings *Buste de Femme (Françoise Gilot)* (estimate: \$300,000-400,000) and *Homme et Femme* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). The day sale offers works from several high profile estates such as Property from the

Estate of Maria-Gaetana Matisse, Sold for the Benefit of The Metropolitan Museum including works by Giacometti, Matisse and Miró; Property from the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, Thérèse Bonney Bequest, Sold to Benefit the Acquisitions Fund presenting a Renoir of a sensuous sleeping nude from 1919 and Property from the Estate of Gitta Sherover, Sold to Benefit the Gabriel Sherover Foundation, Jerusalem including works by Arp, Miro and Rodin. Also noteworthy are the bronze *Cavallo* by Marino Marini (estimate: \$300,000-400,000), conceived in 1952 and hand-chiseled by the artist and Moholy-Nagy's *Chicago* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), painted in 1943 when the artist was living in the Windy City and consigned from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Porter Trust Estate. Both sales will include works from the Nathan L. Halpern Collection with artists such as Bonnard, Vuillard, Utrillo, Rouault and Pissarro.

Auction: Impressionist and Modern Art	November 3 at 7 p.m.
Works on Paper	November 4 at 10 a.m.
Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale	November 4 at approx. 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center	October 29 – November 3

More information about Christie's sale of *Impressionist and Modern 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.

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