

For Immediate Release

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RESTITUTED SISLEY PAINTING TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN NEW YORK

**Impressionist and Modern Art
November 3, 2004**

New York – *Soleil de Printemps – Le Loing* by Alfred Sisley, restituted to Baron Pierre du Gunzburg and his Family, the Heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hirsch, will be one of the highlights of Christie's evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* in New York on November 3. The painting is expected to realize in the region of \$2,000,000-3,000,000.

Noteworthy not only due to the splendid, reflective rendering of a spring day in Moret-sur-Loing, touched by a subtlety so characteristic of Sisley's work at its height, *Soleil de printemps – Le Loing* (estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000) also tells a story of perseverance and frustration, coincidence and luck. Initially in the collection of Louis Hirsch of Banque Louis Hirsch in Paris, the painting was seized by the German Army in 1942. Almost half a century later the work appeared in a Japanese exhibition catalogue. After years of research and negotiations conducted by Baron de Gunzburg, the painting was finally handed over to the French Embassy in Tokyo and in 2004, *Soleil de Printemps – Le Loing* was restituted to Baron Pierre de Gunzburg and his family - the heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hirsch. Painted in 1892, at a time when Sisley was intensely fascinated with the effects of fleeting light and influenced by Monet's Rouen Cathedral series, *Soleil de Printemps – Le Loing* shows two rows of trees that recede toward the center of the canvas, as if to join the elegant woman who is gazing at the water. The clarity of azure skies, the gentle breeze along the riverbank, the resplendent light and the fresh bloom of a spring day are all achieved through brushstrokes of dazzling colors.

Auction: Impressionist and Modern Art

November 3 at 7 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

October 29 – November 3

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Images available on request

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