

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Sara Fox

212.636.2680

sfox@christies.com

NOBLE HORSES AND SPORTING DOGS AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK

Sporting Art

December 8, 2005

New York — Christie's New York's *Sporting Art* auction on December 8 features a selection of exceptional portraits, hunting and racing paintings, in addition to twenty-three important English equine sculptures and the important private collection of paintings by Edmund Henry Osthaus, the pre-eminent American sporting-dog artist.

The auction provides exciting new potential for collectors' continuing demand for paintings by Sir Alfred James Munnings. The market's keen interest in this artist was confirmed by the resounding



success of the *Sporting Art* sale at Christie's King Street, London in May where, amongst other strong prices for works by the leading 20th century equestrian painter, his *Portrait of Ruth Brady on Bugle Call* fetched \$2.7 million. The star among this sale's works by Munnings is *Portrait of a Gentleman*, which was painted circa 1940, at the height of his equestrian portrait painting career, and demonstrates the artist's confident and fluid brushstrokes typical of portraits from this period (estimate: \$500,000-700,000). The ultimate study of the elegance of a bygone age, this portrait depicts a gentleman in tails riding a bay horse in profile. His challenging gaze is fixed on the viewer

and his arm is extended while he is holding a top-hat, as though greeting someone beyond the canvas frame. *Portrait of a Gentleman* is consigned from the Estate of Guy Fairfax Cary, Jr., Newport,

Christie's

20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

phone 212.636.2680 fax 212.636.4951

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Rhode Island, and it resided with the family for several generations. Other exciting examples by Munnings include a highly finished oil sketch *A Huntsman and Horses at Zenmor*, 1918 and an exquisite watercolor, *The Little Watering*, 1910 (both estimated at: \$200,000-300,000).

From the distinguished John W. Kluge Morven Collection are two works by John Frederick Herring, Senior, a stunning portrait *Colonel Peel's bay filly, Vulture, with jockey up, on Newmarket Heath*, 1838 and *The Bay Filly Vespa with her owner Sir Mark Wood, Bt. and her trainer*, 1833 (both estimated at: \$250,000-350,000). The fine detail and precision of these portraits exemplify Herring's best work. Henry Bernard Chalon's impressive large scale work, *Portrait of the Bower family with their hunters*, is the leading hunting picture in the collection (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). A Private English Collection of twenty-three important equine sculptures is highlighted by the monumental *Steeplechase* by the leading equine sculptor, Isidore Jules Bonheur (estimate: \$150,000-250,000).

Sporting-dog paintings



Eighteen paintings by Edmund Henry Osthaus offer something for every sporting-dog enthusiast and collector, representing a breadth of subject matter — portraits, hunting scenes and autumn landscapes — in both watercolors and oils, with price points starting at \$10,000. Osthaus' *Hunting in an upland landscape* is a large scale oil painting which showcases the artist's skill as both a portrait painter and landscape artist in this classic Western landscape with a hunter and two pointers (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Another marvelous oil painting from the collection is *Waiting for master* which depicts four dogs at the kennel (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).

The sale also includes works by other leading sporting dog artists including an exceptional painting by Maud Earl, *Three dogs standing on a barge* (\$50,000-70,000), and a large-scale work by James Hardy Junior *Loading Up* (\$100,000-150,000) which illustrates a highland landscape, gun dogs and a game keeper.

Osthaus Biography

Though German by birth, the 25 year-old Edmund Henry Osthaus followed his family to Oshkosh, Wisconsin in the 1880's after completing a prestigious appointment at the Academy at Düsseldorf. He quickly found success in America and held a position as head instructor at the Toledo Academy of Fine Art, established his own studio, and was a member and president of the Tile Club that founded the Toledo Museum of Art. Osthaus gained national recognition when his portraits commissioned for the National Field Trail Championship winners were used for the DuPont

Powder Company's advertisements for smokeless gunpowder. Osthaus' paintings were favored by many prominent families including the Vanderbilts, Morgans, and Grover Cleveland.

Auction: *Sporting Art*

December 8 at 10am

Viewing: Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza

December 3-7

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *Sporting 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.

