

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S TO PRESENT AN IMPORTANT AUCTION OF ORIENTALIST MASTERPIECES IN LONDON IN NOVEMBER

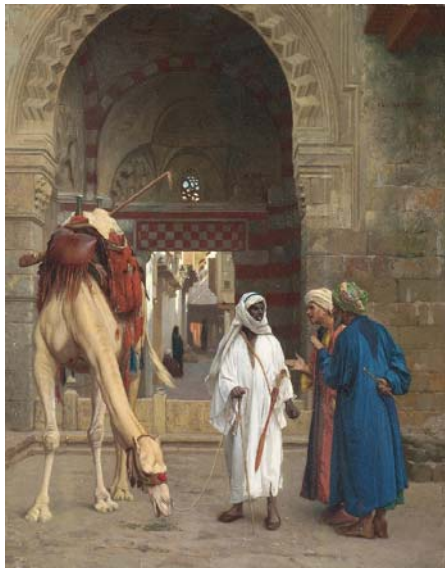


Orientalist Masterpieces including an Important Private Collection **25 November 2009**

London – Christie's will offer a tightly curated auction of 24 Orientalist masterpieces on 25 November 2009 in London. An important Private Collection of 9 works will form the core of the sale and includes four works by Jean-Léon Gérôme and three exceptional watercolours by John Frederick Lewis. These works will be complemented by important masterpieces of the highest standard from other sources including *A square by the New Mosque in Istanbul* by Karl Paul Thiemistocles von Eckenbrecher which was painted by the artist for the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873, and *Souk el Khemis* by Jacques Majorelle which is illustrated on the front cover of the exhibition catalogue of the artist's important Retrospective at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nancy and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris in 1999-2000. The sale is expected to realise in the region of £8 million.

The market for Orientalist Art has shown significant growth over the last few years as global interest in this field continues to grow. International auction sales of Orientalist art at Christie's realised £10.9 million in 2005, £16 million in 2006, and at the auction in London in July 2008, the sale realised £18.1 million – the highest total realised by an auction in this category. Last year the extremely successful exhibition *The Lure of the East* was shown at Yale Center for British Art, New Haven; Tate Britain, London; Pera Museum, Istanbul; and Sharjah Museum. In 2010, an exhibition dedicated to the work of Jean-Léon Gérôme, one of Orientalist art's leading figures, will be shown at The Getty Museum of Art, The Baltimore Museum of Art and the Musée D'Orsay.

Etienne Hellman, International Director for Orientalist Art at Christie's and Alexandra McMorro, Director and Head of Orientalist Art at Christie's London: *"Over the last decade, and the last 5 years in particular, the international appetite for Orientalist art has grown considerably. In November we will offer a highly curated auction which will bring together 24 museum quality works sourced from around the world and which will present extraordinary opportunities to international collectors and institutions in what will be a landmark sale for the category.."*



An important Private Collection of 9 works will form the core of the sale and includes four works by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824-1904). Probably the most celebrated artist associated with the Orientalist movement, Gérôme employed a highly finished and academic style in his painting. Inspired with and based on his frequent visits to Asia Minor, he would paint from sketches and photographs usually having staged scenes in his studio which would be filled with artifacts collected on his travels. The top lot of the auction is the artist's *Man with a waterpipe and dog* (estimate: £800,000 to £1,200,000) (*illustrated top of page 1*). Another highlight is *Dispute d'Arabes* which is expected to realise £200,000 to £300,000 (*illustrated left*).

The greatest British Orientalist painter was John Frederick Lewis (1805-1876). An exceptionally talented watercolourist, he first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1821 when he was just 16 and he was awarded membership of the prestigious Old Watercolour Society 6 years later. The Important Private Collection includes three watercolour masterpieces by Lewis led by *The Midday Meal, Cairo* which is expected to realise £700,000 to £1,000,000. In June 2005 at Christie's in London, the artist's corresponding oil painting of the subject sold for £2,472,000.



Further highlights in the sale include *Souk el Khemis* by Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962) which is illustrated on the front cover of the exhibition catalogue of the artist's important Retrospective at



the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nancy and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris in 1999-2000 (estimate: £700,000 to £1,000,000); and *A square by the New Mosque in Istanbul* by Themistokles von Eckenbrecher (1842-1921) which was painted by the artist for the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 and which carries an estimate of £300,000 to £500,000 (*illustrated left*).

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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