

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTMAS AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON **A Treasure Trove of Unique and Good Value Presents**

South Kensington – Christmas need not be about bestowing loved ones with yet more gifts of socks, handkerchiefs, perfumes and shop vouchers. The December sales at Christie's South Kensington feature an emporium of unique and accessible gift ideas with estimates from £150. All sales are on view several days prior to the auction to enable shoppers plenty of time to browse and if you can't make the sale in person you can leave a bid in person, online or via the telephone.

For Him...

Choose from over 400 watches at the 2 day auction of **Watches** on **Sunday 11 December** at **11.30 am**, and **Monday 12** at **10.30am**. Including many high quality examples by popular makers such as Omega, Jaeger LeCoultre and IWC, prices start at around £200. For those looking to spend a little more, the sale includes some wonderful and rare Rolex and Patek Philippe watches. Also on **Monday 12 December** is South Kensington's monthly **Fine Wines and Vintage Ports** sale where it is possible to select from a wide range of good value vintage champagnes, Bordeaux and scrumptious Christmas cognacs, brandies and armagnac; estimates start at around £150 for a dozen.

For those who are interested in starting an art collection but are unsure of where to start, Christie's South Kensington's sale of **Old Master Pictures & Drawings** on **Wednesday 7 December 2005** is the ideal place to begin. Christie's experts are always on hand to offer advice and with estimates averaging between £400 to £600, the sale offers the chance to begin a collection or find that elusive present. The paintings are mainly by 17th and 18th century Dutch, Italian and French painters who were working with and producing works in the manner of the great masters of the time. Highlights include works from the circle of Michaelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564) and the Florentine School in the late 16th century (estimate from £400 to £600).

For Her...

The **Fine Jewellery** sale on **Tuesday 6th December** at **10.30am** and **2pm** presents the ideal opportunity to buy stylish and often unique pieces at good value prices. With prices ranging from as little as £250, perfect present ideas for a girlfriend or wife include a heart pendant necklace by Elsa Peretti for Tiffany & Co (estimate: £400-500) and an Edwardian gold, sapphire and diamond bracelet, *circa* 1905 (estimate: £500-700). The sale also features a gorgeous selection of brooches which would lovely on a winter jacket including an Art Deco jade, diamond and onyx

clip brooch, *circa* 1930 (estimate: £300-400) and a late 19th century diamond, yellow sapphire and enamel butterfly brooch by Child & Child (estimate: £5,000-7,000).

A great sale for creative homemakers is South Kensington's **Arts and Crafts** sale on **Thursday 1st December**, at **10.30 am**. Featuring a huge array of beautiful and highly original items from the popular Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20th century; estimates typically start at £300. Choose from a wonderful selection of tableware, textiles, glassware, furniture, sculpture, lights, works of art and much more.

For the Children...

There are perfect opportunities at Christie's South Kensington to acquire something that not only can be enjoyed immediately, but cherished for a lifetime. Cuddly bears are bountiful in South Kensington's popular bi-annual **Teddy Bear** sale on **Tuesday 13 December** at **2pm**. Always a firm favourite and spanning from the early 1900s through to the 1960s, all the major teddy bear makers are represented, including Steiff, Merrythought, Chiltern and Chad Valley. Estimates start from £150.

Another must for children is **Modern First Editions** on **Wednesday 30 November** at **10.30am**. Over 300 lots will be offered including first editions of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (estimate: £500-800) and *James and the Giant Peach*, signed by Roald Dahl (estimate: £1,000-2,000). Also of interest in this sale are a set of 3 collectors' editions of the infamous Harry Potter books (1999); comprising of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* & *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets* (estimate: £700-1,000).

For the Young At Heart...

British and Continental Watercolours and Original Illustrations on **Wednesday 14 December** at **1pm** is an ideal opportunity to pick up an original Christmas gift for the young at heart. This sale regularly features original illustrations from many loved children's books, such as Winnie the Pooh, illustrations by E H Shepherd and Beatrix Potter. Highlights of this particular sale are 45 lots of original illustrations by Louis Wain, famous for his large-eyed cat drawings. Estimates for these and others start at around £200.

More quirky gifts for the older gentleman in your life include a fabulous selection of model trains in **Trains Galore** on **Sunday 18** at **11.30am** and **Monday 19 December** at **10.30am**. Makers include Hornby, Maerklin, Bing, Meccano, Dinky, Bassett-Lowke and the sale is based around two collections from long-standing and renowned collectors who were both keen collectors of Hornby and Meccano products; the majority of lots range from £200 to £1,000.

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

Notes to Editors:

Christmas Auctions at Christie's

Modern First Editions	Wednesday 30 November, 10.30am
Arts and Crafts	Thursday 1 st December, 10.30 am.
Fine Jewellery	Tuesday 6 th December, 10.30am and 2pm
Old Master Pictures & Drawings	Wednesday 7 th December, 10.30am & 2.00pm
Fine Watches & Pocket Watches Part I	Sunday 11 th December, 11.30am
Fine Watches & Pocket Watches Part II	Monday 12 th , 10.30am
Fine Wines and Vintage Ports	Monday 12 th December, 3.00pm
Teddy Bears	Tuesday 13 th December, 2pm
British and Continental Watercolours and Original Illustrations	Wednesday 14 th December, 1 pm
Trains Galore Part I	Sunday 18 th December, 11.30am
Trains Galore Part II	Monday 19 th December, 10.30am

Public Viewing:

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LD
Tel: 020 7930 6074 / www.christies.com

Opening Hours:

Monday - 9am to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Open for Weekend Shopping on Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 4pm

Christie's South Kensington is open seven days a week with regular sales on Sundays. The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. With prices ranging from £200 to over £20,000, the average price at Christie's South Kensington is £1,000. Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection.