New York – Christie’s is thrilled to announce an important event: The rediscovery of a major addition to the small canon of paintings by the French master, Antoine Watteau. *Le Pèlerinage a l’Ile de Cythère* is larger in scale than most of Watteau’s paintings, audacious in its sweeping and panoramic conception of landscape, and bold in its quick and fluent brushwork. The painting provides a crucial, previously unknown stage in the creation of the artist’s most celebrated masterpiece, *The Embarkation to Cythera* in the Louvre Museum in Paris and will be offered as part of Christie’s Old Masters sale on 25 January in New York.

The picture in question was catalogued in detail in a number of 18th-century collections and sales clearly identified as a work by Watteau by people who were contemporaries or near contemporaries of the artist. During the 19th century, the attribution was lost. Now, the picture has been reattributed to Watteau. The contemporaneous attributions to Watteau are further supported by recent and extensive scientific examination, which has revealed, among other details, that the painting was created using Watteau’s distinctive methods using materials consistent in age and type with his work.
The present painting will be included in the forthcoming catalogue raisonné of Watteau’s paintings by Alan Wintermute.

For more information on the picture please see an extensive Lot Essay in Christie’s catalogue online.

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Image for press use available HERE under Watteau.

About Christie’s

Founded in 1766, Christie’s is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie’s offers a full portfolio of global services to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie’s has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship international sales hubs in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie’s auctions span more than 80 art and luxury categories, at price points ranging from $200 to over $100 million. In recent years, Christie’s has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci’s Salvator Mundi, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons’ Rabbit, 2019).

Christie’s Private Sales offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie’s specialists at a client’s individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie’s include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple’s Everydays, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie’s also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie’s is dedicated to advancing responsible culture throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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The COVID-related re-opening status of our global locations is available here

*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

*Estimates do not include buyer’s premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer’s premium and are reported net of applicable fees.

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Images available on request

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