

CHRISTIE'S

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A REDISCOVERED MASTERPIECE JEAN-ANTOINE WATTEAU'S *LE PELERINAGE A L'ILE DE CYTHERE*

LIVE AUCTION: 25 January 2023



ANTOINE WATTEAU (VALENCIENNES 1684-1721 NOGENTE-SUR-MARNE)
Le Pèlerinage à l'île de Cythère
oil on canvas
38 1/8 x 45 5/8 in. (97 x 116 cm.)
\$2,500,000-3,500,000

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 à l'île 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](#)**.

PRESS CONTACT: Edward Lewine | elewine@christies.com | 212 636 2680

Image for press use available [HERE](#) under Watteau.

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