

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO HOLD LARGEST SPORTING ART SALE
IN FIVE YEARS**

Sporting Art

December 1, 2006

New York – Christie's will be holding the largest *Sporting Art* auction since 2001 in New York on December 1, featuring pivotal works by John Frederick Herring, Sir Alfred Munnings, John Ferneley, Alfred de Dreux and Edmund H. Osthaus. With over 140 lots depicting hunting, racing, and sporting scenes, the sale expects to realize in the region of \$7 -10 million.

The star lot of the sale is John Frederick Herring Snr.'s monumental painting *The Streatlam Stud, Mares and Foals*, which was commissioned by John Bowes of Steatlam Castle in Durham in 1835



(estimate: \$1,500,000-2,000,000, *illustrated left*). Despite its modest size, Streatlam Stud, situated in Northern Yorkshire, produced some of England's greatest race horses of the mid-19th Century. In addition to the exquisite details of the horses, Herring also captures the essence of the Romantic English landscape including a deer park and extended naturalistic vista. At this same period in his career Herring was also diversifying his subject-matter and painted elegant

chivalrous scenes such as *The Baron's Charger* in which he combined highly finished equine portraits with intimate genre scenes (estimate: \$300,000-500,000).

An early work by Sir Alfred Munnings, *Jack Cooke and the Norwich Stagbonds*, demonstrates his early talent as he lived and worked in East Anglia (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Another superb example of his hunting scenes is *The Huntsman* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000, *illustrated below*) showing a huntsman on a bay horse leaping over a fence in a woodland. Painted *circa* 1911-13 when Munnings moved to Cornwall, this work is an exceptionally fine and powerful example of what became one of Munnings' favorite themes in later years. Other works by Munnings include a fabulous group of five studies for his Royal Academy exhibit of 1924, *The 9th Duke of Marlborough and Lord Ivor Spencer-Churchill* (estimates: from \$ 80,000-120,000 to \$200,000-300,000). The four studies of grey hunters and one of Lord Ivor on horseback are exquisitely rendered and show characteristically fluid brushstrokes.



Following on from the spectacular success in last year's sale of works by Edmund H. Osthaus, a magnificent example is offered in this sale, *Hunting in the Fall - Three Pointers* (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). Depicting three pointers on the scent, this is one of his largest and most impressive works, measuring 50 x 90 inches, hailing from a distinguished American collection.

Auction: *Sporting Art*

1 December 2006

Viewing: Christie's New York Galleries

25- 30 November 2006

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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 nearly 1,000 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 90 offices in 30 countries and 16 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. In 2005 Christie's annual global sales increased 38% to \$3.2 billion, the highest total in company history and propelling the auction house into global market leadership.

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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.