

For Immediate Release

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TENDER SOROLLA FAMILY PORTRAIT TOUCHES CHRISTIE'S Superb Spanish and French works lead 19th Century Art in November

19th Century European Art including Spanish Paintings
18 November 2004

London - A Sorolla family portrait is among a group of impressive Spanish works to star alongside superb French Symbolist works in Christie's second annual sale of *19th Century European Art, including Spanish Paintings*. Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida's tender family portrait *El Beso* and Gustave Moreau's *La Chimère* are each estimated to realize £700,000-1,000,000 in the sale at King Street on 18 November 2004.

Spanish Art

The Spanish Art section of the sale is led by a tender family portrait by Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, *El Beso*, was painted in 1899 during the rapidly-developing period in the artist's career in which he was awarded several medals. Family life was important to Sorolla, who had been orphaned as a child. Letters between the artist and his wife show him torn between his need to travel to exhibitions and paint, and his desire to be with his family. *El Beso* is a portrait of his daughter Elena kissing a bronze bust of her mother. Sorolla painted many family works, but it was this work which he kept until his death.

Other highlights by Sorolla include the evocative work, *Esperando*, painted in 1888 (estimate: £600,000-800,000), a seascape *En la playa de Valencia* (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and a portrait of a man going about his daily life, *Viejo Castellano Sirviendose Vino* (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Two other portraits, one by Ignacio Zuloaga, *Retrato de Senora Corcuera* (estimate: £150,000-200,000) and the other by Julio Romero de Torres, *Carmen y Fuensanta*, (estimate: £250,000-350,000) are further Spanish highlights.

French and Belgian Art

In the French and Belgian category, the sale boasts two superb paintings by Gustave Moreau, the sensual *La Chimère*, painted in 1866, (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000) and *La Licorne*, (estimate: £350,000-550,000). Moreau was fascinated by the mythical figure of the

Chimera, a female monster which symbolized illusory hope. He painted the subject several times. In this version of *La Chimère* the artist represents an enamoured woman suspended from the neck of a winged centaur in a moralizing allegory of carnal love.

German and Austrian Art

In the German and Austrian section, Carl Spitzweg's humorous caricature of everyday life *Der Bettelmusikant*, (estimate: £150,000-200,000) stars alongside two paintings by Eugene de Blaas, *The Suitor* (£120,000-180,000) and *The Flower Girl* (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The sale concludes with a superb selection of Scandinavian works and an Orientalist section in which a key highlight is Edwin Lord Weeks' painting *Indian Horsemen at the Gateway of Alahou-din, Old Delhi* (estimate: £70,000-100,000).

Italian Art

A previously-unpublished work by Francesco Hayez, *Valenza Gradenigo davanti agli Inquisitori*, (estimate: £90,000-120,000) leads a strong Italian presence in the sale alongside Vincenzo Irolli's depiction of a young woman holding a basket, *The market girl*, (estimate: £60,000-80,000).

Scandinavian Art

The Scandinavian section of the sale is led by Danish artist Johan Laurentz Jensen, with his oil on canvas, *Exotic Blooms in a Grecian Urn with fruit on a marble ledge* (estimate: £60,000-80,000). Painted in 1838, this work demonstrates Jensen's botanical expertise, which earned him the title of 'the father of Danish flower painting'.

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Public viewing times:

Sunday 14 November	2.00pm-5.00pm
Monday 15 November	9.00am-8.00pm
Tuesday 16 November	9.00am-8.30pm
Wednesday 17 November	9.00am-4.30pm

Press Event

You are invited to attend a special press tour of the pre-sale exhibition on Tuesday 16 November at 11am. Please call 020 7389 2664 to RSVP.