For Immediate Release
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RECORD BREAKING SALE OF 20TH CENTURY BRITISH ART REALISES £12.5 MILLION ($23.6 million/€18.3 million) AND SMASHES 8 ARTIST RECORDS

- Christie's Sale Realizes Highest Ever Total in the 20th Century British Art Field – for the 5th successive time

- Lowry's *A River Bank* sells for £1.4 million – the second highest ever price for the artist

- World Auction Records Established for David Bomberg, William Scott, John Piper, David Nash, Barry Flanagan, Robert Adams, William Turnbull and Elisabeth Frink (for a work on paper)

London – Today's sale of *20th Century British Art* realised £12,485,040 / $23,559,270 / €18,340,524, the highest ever total for the category anywhere, and set 8 world record prices for artists including David Bomberg, William Scott, John Piper and David Nash.

Highlights at today's auction included '*A River Bank*' by L.S. Lowry (1887-1976), which sold for £1,408,000, the second highest price for the artist at auction, and *Cuenca from Mount Socorro* by David Bomberg (1890-1957) which realised £1,016,000, breaking the world record price for a work by the artist set at Christie's in June of this year.

The last six auctions of this category at Christie's (including today) have been the most successful sales of 20th century British art ever held and have realised a collective total of £51,546,512, continuing the company's 10 year stronghold on the market share for the category.

Rachel Hidderley, Director and Head of the 20th Century British Art Department, and Jonathan Horwich, Deputy Chairman of Christie's:

"*With today's record-breaking results, Christie's continue to lead the market in 20th century British art. The last six auctions held over the last 3 years at Christie's have been the most successful sales of 20th century British Art ever held as the appeal of this category continues to grown and gain international recognition. In total, these six auctions have realised over £50 million.*"

"*We have presented this category in a way which gives the opportunity for leading British artists like Bomberg, Scott and Lowry to be appreciated by new collectors from around the world and as a result, there was a notable presence of international clients bidding at today's sale. Once again, major examples of the work of L.S. Lowry came to Christie's, with all 13 works by the artist selling for a total of £3,914,800, and we are delighted to have set new records for 8 artists including David Bomberg, Barry Flanagan, William Scott, John Piper and David Nash.*"

Highlights of the sale included:

- *A River Bank*, painted in 1947, which was offered at auction by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council who bought the work from the Lefevre Gallery, London in April 1951 for £175. Depicting an industrial townscape in the style for which Lowry is best recognized, this was one of the finest works by the artist ever to appear at auction and sold to a UK Private collector for £1,408,000, the second highest ever price for the artist at auction. In total, the auction offered 13 works by L.S. Lowry, all of which sold for a collective total of £3,914,800.

- *Cuenca from Mount Socorro* by David Bomberg which was painted in 1934 during one of the artist's frequent tours of Spain. Bomberg would explore the Spanish countryside on a donkey, finding suitable vantage points from which to study and paint the mountain towns, and the present example realised £1,016,000, a world record price for the artist at auction.

- *Blue Still Life* by William Scott R.A. (1913-1989) which was exhibited at Scott's 1972 Retrospective at the Tate and which was bought by for £590,400, a world record price for the artist at auction.

- The sculpture section of the sale was 100% sold. Highlights included the energetic *Nijinski Hare* by Barry Flanagan (b.1941) which was sold to for £624,000, a world record price for the artist at auction, and *Three Forms (Zennor Carn)* by Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) which realised £276,000.

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

Notes to editors:

- The auction of *20th Century British Art* was part of *British Art Week Autumn,* a series of sales and events dedicated to British art and furniture taking place at Christie's from 15 to 23 November 2006 and expected to realise over £25 million.

- *British Art Week* in June 2006 realised £32.8 million, the highest ever total for a week of British art sales at Christie's

- The remaining sales of *British Art Week Autumn* are:

Wednesday, 22 November	*British Pictures 1500-1850*
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Thursday, 23 November	*Important English Furniture*