

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S EVENING SALE OF IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART
TOTALS \$117 MILLION**

New World Auction Records Established for Modigliani, Léger, and Moore

New York, NY – Christie's highly successful sale of Impressionist & Modern art tonight at Rockefeller Center totaled \$117,011,300 and established new world auction records for Amedeo Modigliani, Fernand Léger, and Henry Moore. Tonight's sale was 81% sold by lot and 94% sold by value. Successful buyers this evening were 66% American, 28% European, 3% Asian, and 3% other.

Eighteen works of art achieved prices over \$1 million in tonight's sale, with 29 of the 35 lots selling above or within their pre-sale estimates.

"Tonight's sale was among the best I've seen in several years," said Christopher Burge, Honorary Chairman of Christie's Americas and the evening's auctioneer. "Overall the market is strong both in terms of vendors and the buying audience. Léger's La femme en rouge et vert was one of the most exciting works I've had the privilege to sell in my auction career. It has a fascinating history and is a truly transcendental work of art."

The top lot of the evening was Amedeo Modigliani's Nu couché (sur le côté gauche), an exquisite full-length nude that sold for \$26,887,500, far surpassing the previous record price of \$16,777,500. Modigliani ranks among the greatest painters of the female nude in the 20th century, and those that he painted between 1916 and 1920, fewer than 30 in all, are the most celebrated pictures in the artist's oeuvre.

Fernand Léger's La femme en rouge et vert, a Cubist masterpiece painted in Paris in 1914, fetched \$22,407,500, a new world record for the artist. The painting was looted by the German Occupational Army during the course of World War II, and at the war's close was entrusted to the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris. In 1999, the Office of Documentation at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, discovered in German archives an extraordinary document detailing the inventory of 110 works of art seized from the private apartment and gallery of Paul Rosenberg. This discovery led to the recent restitution of La femme en rouge et vert to the heirs of Paul and Léonce Rosenberg. The previous world auction record for Léger was established at Christie's in 2001 when Le moteur, from the collection of René Gaffé, realized \$16,726,000.

Three superb works by Vincent van Gogh achieved excellent prices this evening. L'Allée des Alyscamps, a magnificent canvas depicting an ancient Roman cemetery, sold for \$11,767,500, while the rare and extraordinarily vibrant watercolor, Le Pont de Langlois à Arles, fetched \$8,295,500. Nature morte, branche d'amandier, a small gemlike canvas and the sale's cover lot, fetched \$4,375,500.

Henry Moore's monumental Three Piece Reclining Figure: Draped, conceived in 1975 and cast during the artist's lifetime, rose above its pre-sale estimate of \$4,000,000–5,000,000 to achieve a new world auction record price of \$6,167,500, and the highest price for any sculpture by a British artist. A bronze with brown patina approximately 14 feet in length, Three Piece Reclining Figure: Draped is a highly inventive example from a series begun in the 1960s by the artist, who was fascinated during this time by the possibilities of separating the elements of a reclining figure.

A number of other works of art realized excellent prices this evening, including Gustave Caillebotte's Chemin montant, a superb work depicting a fashionable couple strolling along a verdant path that sold for \$6,727,500, the second highest price for the artist at auction.

Christie's fall sales of Impressionist and Modern art continue tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

Christie's sales of Post-War and Contemporary art at Rockefeller Center will be held on November 11 and 12.

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*Images available on request
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