

For Immediate Release

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IMPRESSIVE SINGLE OWNER COLLECTION OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK

January 12, 2006

**Important American Indian Art from a Private Western Collection
American Indian Art**

New York— Christie's sale of *Important American Indian Art from a Private Western Collection* will offer over 200 lots of American Indian art and artifacts on January 12 in New York. Carefully assembled over 30 years, the collection is replete with Southwestern and Plains material and includes a diverse offering of baskets, pottery, weavings, beadwork, and kachina dolls. The single owner sale, combined with the various owner sale also scheduled for January 12, is expected to realize in excess of \$2 million — potentially making it the biggest day of sales ever for the department.

Leading the sale of the Private Western Collection is a group of five shields, four from the Plains and one from the Southwest, marking the first time such a large collection of shields has been offered on the market at once. Most of the shields are constructed of buffalo hide and have covers with wonderfully painted images, including one with a grizzly bear, one with a charging buffalo and another with celestial symbols and avian figures. These symbols held special meaning for the original bearers; they are symbols sometimes obtained through vision quests, dreams or by transfer from another person (estimates ranging from \$18,000-80,000).





Another highlight of the sale is a classic Navajo man's wearing blanket, second phase chief's pattern, circa 1860 (estimate: \$75,000-95,000). Navajo wearing blankets are prized by collectors and are admired for the simple linear patterns that evoke a modern minimalist sensibility (illustrated left).

A vast selection of decorated shirts and robes are available in impeccable condition. A Crow beaded hide war shirt is elaborately made, with all the bells and whistles (estimate: \$40,000-60,000). A Crow painted buffalo hide robe depicts eleven major battles scenes in explicit detail (estimate: \$30,000 – 50,000). And rounding out the group is a Jicarilla Apache boy's pony beaded buffalo hide shirt, which is stitched with symbols indicating horse tracks and is a superb one of its kind (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

Ornate examples of baskets and pottery are available with examples including a large 24 inch diameter Cochiti jar with floral motifs (estimate: \$15,000-25,000), a contemporary and highly prized redware jar by San Ildefonso potter Tony Da (estimate: \$10,000-15,000), and several Anasazi black-on-white jars with clever and decorative motifs (estimates ranging from \$1,000-6,000). Over a dozen kachina dolls are present from the Hopi and Zuni with estimates ranging from \$800 - 20,000.

Various Owner Sale:

Highlights include a number of lots from the Erie County Historical Society, including Apache baskets, Zuni ollas, San Ildefonso pottery, and Plains moccasins. Four large Santa Clara blackware jars by renown potter Margaret Tafoya (estimates ranging from \$6,000 – 15,000) and a pair of well-published Punuk carved ivory goggles (estimate: \$70,000 – 90,000) are some of the other items sure to bring great prices.

Auction: *Important American Indian Art from a Private Western Collection* January 12 at 10am

Auction: *American Indian Art* January 12 at 2pm

Viewing: Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza January 7-11

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of American Indian 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.

