

*For Immediate Release*

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Contact: *Benedetta Roux*

*212.636.2680*

[broux@christies.com](mailto:broux@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO OFFER SINGLE OWNER COLLECTION  
OF WORKS ON PAPER BY JOHANN HEINRICH WILHELM TISCHBEIN**

*\* "Mit Tischbein, der so einen herrlichen Blick in Natur als Kunst hat, diese Reise zu machen, ist für mich von der größten Wichtigkeit"*  
*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Italienische Reise, Den 21. Februar 1787*

*Works on Paper by J.H.W. Tischbein*

*January 22, 2003*

*New York – On January 22, immediately following the sale of Important Old Master and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Drawings, Christie's New York will offer the single owner collection of works by the precursor of German Romanticism, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein (1751-1829). This sale is a memorable event for Christie's and the auction market since it is exceptional to have such a large collection of works by the same hand up for sale. More than 700 drawings will be offered, with single estimates ranging between \$1,000 and \$30,000, while the entire collection is expected to reach close to \$600,000.*

*Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein (1751-1829)*

*Crediting Goethe with today's appreciation of Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein might be too bold an act, but it is beyond dispute that the friendship between writer and painter impacted Tischbein's legacy. For one, there is the famous painting entitled Goethe in the Roman Campagna, a monumental work that provided Goethe with a 'face' for generations to come. The poet is portrayed sitting on ruinous walls, wearing a white habit and a broad-brimmed hat and staring into the far distance. Tischbein and Goethe's close friendship dated from the mid-1780s when both artists traveled in Italy and Tischbein created the iconic Goethe painting. Their friendship remained firm until Tischbein's death in 1829.*

### *The Collection*

*Many of the drawings in the sale relate to Goethe and reflect the influence of Romanticism in Germany in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In a movement away from the ideals and ideas of the 'Enlightenment' era, intellectuals and artists put a greater emphasis on the contemplation and study of Nature, addressing Man in subjective rather than general terms. Tischbein's younger contemporary, Caspar David Friedrich, was another passionate disciple and his renderings of desolate landscapes, often just showing one solitary tree or free-standing stones, as a symbol of Man's isolation and loneliness, are reminiscent of some of Tischbein's work.*

*A large group of the drawings offered are directly related to Tischbein's connection with Goethe. Most notable are the drawings connected to Goethe's poem cycle Tischbein's Idyllen, a collaborative work combining words and pictures. Tischbein produced 17 watercolors and sent them off to Goethe in Weimar who wrote verses to accompany the drawings. A second set sent by Tischbein was never paraphrased by verse since Goethe had in the meantime moved on to other projects. The sale includes more than 20 watercolors and chalk drawings of this series.*

*Another segment of the sale is devoted to Tischbein's interpretation of the Têtes de différents animaux, a series of engravings inspired by Tischbein's friend, the physiognomist Johann Kaspar Lavater. Tischbein made about 200 drawings of animals but rather than 'drawing' them, he preferred to 'portray' them, rendering their expressions entirely human.*

*The collection also includes 11 albums containing a combination of watercolors and accompanying texts. Tischbein's avant-garde side is manifested in these drawings. Some show a decidedly surrealist character whereas a series of seven watercolors, depicting heads of classical heroes and drawn as part of an illustrated edition of Homer, clearly prefigure Picasso's work from his classical period.*

*Auction: Works on Paper by J.H.W. Tischbein*

*January 22 at approx. 11.15 a.m.*

*Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center*

*January 18 - 21*

*More information about Christie's sale of Works on Paper by J.H.W. Tischbein can be found on [www.christies.com](http://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](http://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.*

*\* "To undertake this voyage with Tischbein, who has such a beautiful view on Nature in his Art, is of extreme importance to me." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Italian Voyage, 21 February 1787*