

For Immediate Release

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REVEALING, INTRIGUING & SCHOLARLY OFFERINGS AT CHRISTIE'S OLD MASTER PICTURES SALE IN NEW YORK

Old Master Pictures January 26, 2005

New York – Christie's New York Spring 2005 sale of Old Master Pictures takes place on Wednesday January 26 at Rockefeller Center and features over 220 lots - the auction is expected to realize in excess of \$20 million. Split over a morning and an afternoon session, the sale contains three old master collections sourced from the United States and from Europe – and also includes significant 18th Century *vedute* paintings by Francesco Guardi and Giovanni Paolo Panini.

The Denys Sutton Collection

Denys Sutton, editor of Apollo Magazine for a quarter of a century, was a man of wide knowledge and many interests. Taking over the magazine editorship in 1962, Sutton succeeded in giving the long-established magazine a new role as an elegant and serious counterpoint to the Burlington Magazine. Sutton was a prolific journalist, regularly writing for the Financial Times, the Daily Telegraph and Country Life – and curated many memorable exhibitions, including *France in the Eighteenth Century* at the Royal Academy in 1968. He passed away in 1971, and Christie's offers works from the Sutton Collection during a series of 2005 auctions – beginning with a selection of his Old Master Paintings and Drawings in January.

11 Sutton pictures are offered, of which the most important is *The Penitent Mary Magdalen* by Filippino Lippi, a beautifully preserved and hauntingly poetic work by one of the greatest painters of late quattrocento Florence (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) – this picture was one of the less familiar stars of the recent exhibition of Botticelli and Lippi at Florence. Other early Florentine works

include a characteristic portable tabernacle by Agnolo Gaddi, *The Madonna of Humility with Saint Catherine and Saint John the Baptist* (estimate: \$250,000-350,000), and a *Crucifixion* by the son of Giotto, Francesco di Giotto di Bondone (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).

Other works include a *Sacra Conversazione* in a landscape by Venetian cinquecento master Bonifazio Veronese (estimate: \$200,000-300,000); and a *bozzetto* for a villa ceiling decorated by Carlo Carlone in 1745/46 represents the settecento (estimate: \$150,000-200,000).

Property of the Hispanic Society of America

The Hispanic Society of America, founded in 1904, has evolved into one of the world's premier centers for Hispanic research. Situated in upper Manhattan, the Society was created by Archer Milton Huntington, one of America's most privileged heirs, who passed up a lucrative career in the family business for the singular pursuit of acquiring art. He began the Society with 23 paintings, of which most were 16th and 17th century Spanish portraits – and his intimate knowledge and commitment to Spanish art and culture distinguished him from his fellow art collectors.

Christie's offers four works, including three pictures acquired for the Society recently reattributed to Italian and French masters. *Portrait of an Olivetan father, member of the Pueroni family* by Luigi Miradori (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) was acquired by Huntington in 1911; in 1912, he purchased *Portrait of the art dealer François Langlois*, by an anonymous Northern painter in Rome, circa 1630 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000); and a pair of saints, *A male saint; and Saint Agnes* which have recently been attributed to leading early Renaissance master, Spinello Aretino (estimate: \$60,000-80,000).

Property from The Estate of Robert David Lion Gardiner

The Gardiner family owns Gardiner's Island, one of the largest private islands in the world, located on the eastern part of Long Island. Lion Gardiner first purchased the land in 1639 from the Algonquian Indians and the Gardiners were among the wealthiest and most prominent families on Long Island during the pre- and post-Revolutionary periods. Property from the Estate of Robert David Lion Gardiner, a 16th generation scion of one of the most important New York families and custodian of four centuries of collecting, will be offered at Christie's in New York during a series of auctions in early 2005.

Old master pictures from this estate included in this auction include *Bathsheba* by Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini, one of the 18th century's most successful history painters (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) and *Figures bathing and frolicking at a pool* by Jean-Baptiste Pater (estimate: \$150,000-200,000).

An 18th Century Venetian Masterpiece by Francesco Guardi – and other sale highlights

An exceptionally fine and important Venetian view representing *Venice: Church of Santa Maria Zobenigo* by Francesco Guardi is estimated at \$2,000,000-3,000,000.

The sale also features an excellent selection of early Renaissance Italian paintings and Italian and Dutch 17th century still lifes; a highly impressive group of French 17th and 18th century works includes paintings by Poussin, Vallayer-Coster, *The Cart of Roses* by Fragonard (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000), and Nicolas Lancret's *Fête Champetre* (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). Amongst the Dutch school, an extraordinary *Winter Landscape* by Aert van der Neer (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) has not been seen in public since the 1920s.

Auction: Old Master Pictures
January 26, 2005 at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center
January 21 – 25

More information about Christie's sale of *Old Master Pictures* 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.

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