

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK  
IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART EVENING SALE  
SETS RECORDS, REALIZES  
\$231,439,500 / £143,492,490 / €164,322,045**



**Henri Matisse, *Nu de dos, 4 état (Back IV)*, 1930** Price realized: \$48,802,500 (£30,257,550/€34,649,775)  
**\*WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR ARTIST\***

**WORLD AUCTION RECORDS SET FOR HENRI MATISSE AT \$48.8 MILLION  
AND JUAN GRIS AT \$28.6 MILLION**

**AN ASTOUNDING 4 LOTS SELL ABOVE \$10 MILLION, 7 LOTS SELL ABOVE  
\$5 MILLION AND 43 LOTS SELL ABOVE \$1 MILLION**

**New York** — The market for blue-chip works and premiere private collections proved strong at Christie's New York *Evening Sale of Impressionist and Modern Art*. The highly anticipated 84-lot sale, dense with works by the great masters of the Impressionist and Modern periods, included top selling works by **Henri Matisse, Juan Gris, Joan Miró** and **Fernand Léger**, among others. The sale realized **\$231,439,500 (£143,492,490/€164,322,045)** and was 80% sold by lot and 88% sold by value.

**Marc Porter, Chairman of Christie's Americas**, commented: "This was a very strong sale, with deep bidding from a diverse group of collectors representing North and South America, Europe and Asia. The runaway success of *Back IV*, a monumental bronze from Matisse's most celebrated series, proved yet again that there is tremendous appetite among collectors for rare and important works from private collections. We are pleased with the results achieved for the three private collections offered in tonight's sale, including the world record-setting *Gris*, a triumvirate of *Légers*, and a fantastic group of *Seurat* drawings."

**Henri Matisse's** monumental sculpture *Nu de dos, 4 état (Back IV)* was the night's top lot, setting a record for the artist at \$48,802,500 (£30,257,550/€34,649,775) — surpassing its top estimate of \$35 million. The occasion marked the first time in history that a work from the artist's celebrated *Back* series has ever come to auction. Other leading lots included **Alberto Giacometti's** *Femme de Venise V*, conceived in 1956 and cast in 1958, which achieved \$10,274,500 (£6,370,190/€7,294,895), three works by **Fernand Léger** from *Property from the Collection of Max Palensky*, including *La Tasse de Thé*, 1921, which realized \$8,146,500 (£5,050,830/€5,784,015), and **Egon Schiele's** *Mann und Frau (Umarmung)*, 1917, which sold for \$7,362,500 (£4,564,750/€5,227,375).



**Juan Gris**, *Violon et guitare*, 1913  
Price realized: \$28,642,500 (£17,758,350/€20,336,175).  
**\*WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR ARTIST\***

This season, Christie's remained the auction house of choice for major private collections, all of which drew strong interest from bidders on auction night. *Property from a Distinguished Private Collection: Four Modern Masterpieces* achieved a total of \$50.1 million, led by *Violon et guitare*, a 1913 Cubist masterpiece by **Juan Gris**. This stellar work achieved a world record price from the master painter, realizing \$28,642,500 (£17,758,350/€20,336,175). Other highlights from that collection included **Joan Miró's** Surrealist landscape, *L'Air*, 1938, which brought in \$10,330,500 (£6,404,910/€7,334,655) and **Pablo Picasso's**, *Tête d'homme*, 1921, which achieved \$6,130,500 (€3,800,910/£4,352,655) and Paul Klee's *Pflanze und Fenster Stilleben* from 1927, achieved the second highest price on record for the artist at \$5,010,500 (£3,106,510/€3,557,455).

From the *Walter and Phyllis Shorenstein Collection*, the 1882 **Gustave Caillebotte** Impressionist masterpiece, *Seine à Argenteuil* realize \$5,122,500 (£3,175,950/€3,636,975). The high-keyed color palette and dynamic compositional structure of the superb yachting scene, captures the essence of Impressionist technique and ranks among the finest of Caillebotte's works. Christie's leads the market for exceptional works by the artist, having set all of the top 16 prices for the artist's work at auction.

A group five works by **Georges Seurat** from a *Distinguished French Collection* included four drawings and the painting *Paysage homme assis (étude pour Un Dimanche d'été à l'île de La Grande Jatte)*, 1884-1885 which realized \$2,098,500 (£1,301,070/€1,489,935). Seurat's drawing, *La Promenade* of 1882 from the same collection realized \$3,330,500 (£2,069,910/€2,364,655) soaring above its pre-sale estimate of \$1,500,000-2,000,000).

Christie's New York *Works on Paper and Day Sale Including Property from the Collection of Max Palevsky* continues November 4, 2010 beginning at 10 am EST.

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 billion. For the first half of 2010, art sales totaled £1.7 billion/\$2.57 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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