

For Immediate Release  
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**CHRISTIE'S**

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**CHRISTIE'S EVENING AUCTION OF  
*OLD MASTER & BRITISH PAINTINGS*  
REALISES**

**£24.1 MILLION / \$37.6 MILLION / €28.2 MILLION**

*The Battle between Carnival and Lent* by Pieter Brueghel the Younger sells for world record price of £6.9 million / \$10.7 million / €8 million



**London, 6 December 2011** – Christie's evening auction of *Old Master and British Paintings* realised £24,132,100 / \$37,646,076 / €28,162,161, selling 72% by lot and 79% by value. The top price of the evening was paid for *The Battle between Carnival and Lent* by **Pieter Brueghel II (1564/5-1637/8)** which sold for £6,873,250 / \$10,722,270 / €8,021,083 – a world record price for the artist at auction (estimate: £3.5 million to £4.5 million). 73% of works sold this evening realized a price higher than their pre-sale estimate and record prices at auction were established for Willem van de Velde II, Govaert Flinck, Andrea Soldi and Francesco Zaganelli da Cotignola.

**Richard Knight, International co-Head of Old Masters and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art at Christie's and Paul Raison, Head of Old Masters and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art at Christie's London:** *"We carefully assembled this evening's auction to offer a select number of works that would appeal to collectors. The sale realised strong prices overall, with a number of record prices, including for Pieter Breughel the Younger, Willem van de Velde II and Govaert Flinck, all of which sold far above their pre-sale estimates. A diverse group of bidders this evening included many new clients with most interestingly, a significant number from Asia. Pictures with strong presence performed particularly well, and there is a continuing premium on paintings which offer quality, condition, rarity and provenance. It was exciting to see one of the most valuable lots of the evening, the interior scene by van Ostade, sold to a bidder on the internet."*

### **Highlights of the auction:**

- *The Battle between Carnival and Lent* by **Pieter Brueghel II (1564/5-1637/8)** sold for £6,873,250 / \$10,722,270 / €8,021,083 – **a world record price for the artist at auction** (estimate: £3.5 million to £4.5 million). The subject is one of Pieter Brueghel the Younger's finest reinterpretations of his father's work, which is one of the most recognizable of all the images within the Brueghelian canon. The picture sold this evening is one of five known versions of the present composition by the artist's son, and one of only three considered autograph.
- *Dutch men-o'-war and other shipping in a calm* by **Willem van de Velde II (1633-1707)** realised £5,921,250 / \$9,237,150 / €6,910,099 - **a world record price for the artist at auction** (estimate: £1.5 million to £2.5 million). Offered at auction from a family trust for the first time in over 150 years, it is one of the most outstanding paintings in the artist's oeuvre. It is in exceptionally good condition and has, since it was first documented in 1778 at the Servad sale in Amsterdam, long received unanimous acclaim for its technical excellence and the serene harmony of its composition.
- *An old man at a casement*, 1646, by **Govaert Flinck (1615-1660)** sold for £2,337,250 / \$3,646,110 / €2,727,571 - **a world record price for the artist at auction** (estimate £700,000 to £1,000,000). This rediscovered treasure was once acquired by Catherine the Great of Russia as part of one of the greatest collection-building campaigns in history - the product of which was to become the Imperial and subsequently the State Hermitage Museum. One of Flinck's most powerful paintings, remarkable both for its technical virtuosity and its psychological intensity, it reveals how by the mid-1640s Flinck had emerged as the chief rival to Rembrandt, in whose workshop he had trained between 1633 and 1635.
- *Portrait of Philip Stanhope, 5th Earl of Chesterfield (1755-1815)*, by **Thomas Gainsborough, R.A. (1727-1788)** sold for £2,169,250 / \$3,384,030 / €2,531,515. Depicting Lord Chesterfield relaxing on a country walk, it was painted as a pendant to the more formal portrait of his wife, which was bought by the Getty Museum, in 1959. The picture was presented for sale for the first time in over half a century, having been bought by the late present owner in 1959.

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*Images available on request*

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