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A CELEBRATION: THE STUDIO OF ALBERTO MORROCCO AND BINROCK HOUSE, DUNDEE

- Extensive collection of works of art offered for sale by the Morrocco family
 - Auction to be held at Christie's South Kensington on 11 July 2012
- Highlights exhibition to take place at Mansfield Traquair, Edinburgh on 20-21 June
 - Quarterly 20th Century British Art sale follows on 12 July 2012



Alberto Morrocco (1917-1998) in his studio at Binrock House, Dundee

© Chris Close

London – Christie's is pleased to announce the forthcoming auction, *A Celebration: The Studio of Alberto Morrocco and Binrock House, Dundee*, which will be held at Christie's South Kensington saleroom on Wednesday, 11 July 2012. Highlights from the Collection will be on view to the public at Mansfield Traquair, Edinburgh on 20-21 June 2012 prior to the full-sale exhibition at Christie's from 7 July 2012.

The sale will offer over 180 lots at auction for the very first time from the private collection of the Morrocco family. Led by an exceptional selection of rare and beautiful works by British artist Alberto

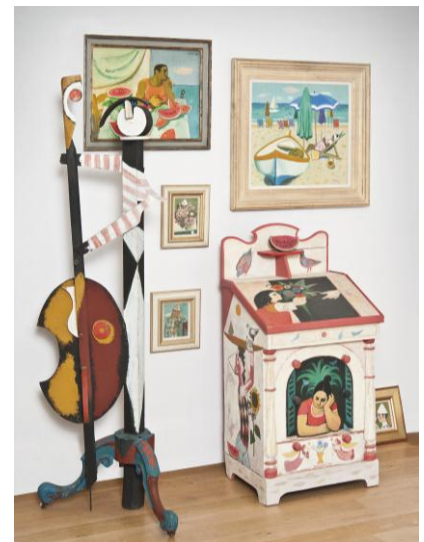
Morrocco, the auction will also comprise furniture and ephemera from the artist's private studio in his Scottish home, Binrock House, Dundee including his easels and palettes. The Collection includes a broad spectrum of price points, with estimates from £800 through to £70,000; it is expected to realize a total in excess of £740,000 and is offered for sale by Leon, Laurie and Annalisa – the sons and daughter of Alberto. The auction precedes the saleroom's quarterly *20th Century British Art* auction which will take place the following day, on Thursday, 12 July 2012.

Leon Morrocco commented, *"My brother, sister and I have so many vivid and often wonderfully eccentric memories of our father. We each played our part in his artistic career, posing for hours on end and beach combing with him as children, and even inadvertently lending our toys as his inspiration. He never stopped drawing or creating, even at the dinner table he'd mould objects from bread or the red wax around the Edam cheese. Having remained as a practically untouched shrine to his life and his work, it is time for Binrock House to be filled with new memories, and so we look forward to sharing our father's extensive oeuvre with the world through Christie's dedicated auction in July. We are very proud of all he achieved throughout his long career, and hope that his memory will live on through his joyous works."*



One of the most popular Scottish artists of the 20th century, Alberto Morrocco's bold and decorative paintings are loved by many collectors and interior designers the world over. He painted constantly and collated an incredible oeuvre of work spanning his days at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen as a fourteen year old prodigy, through thirty years as an inspirational teacher and Head of the School of Painting at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee, until his death in 1998. His paintings have been said to "reflect a life of accomplishment and a personality that combined the best characteristics of his Italian ancestry and his Scottish upbringing" and draw upon multiple high-profile artistic influences, ranging from Pierre Bonnard and Alberto Giacometti through to Pablo Picasso.

Alberto Morrocco is known mostly for his striking brightly-coloured landscapes and simple, direct portraiture which make up the majority of the auction. However, a selection of works on paper also feature, as well as lesser-known and rare relief sculptures which were retained by the family after being exhibited at The Compass Gallery in 1969. Practically untouched since he last painted, Alberto's studio remained filled with unfinished works, artistic aids and props, as well as complete paintings, easels, brushes and tools. Many items from around Binrock House can be clearly seen within his most famous works, and a variety is offered for sale alongside the works themselves, including several charming pieces of painted furniture such as the painted writing desk 'Omaggio a Cocomero' from 1980 *illustrated right* (estimate: £2,000-3,000).



HIGHLIGHTS

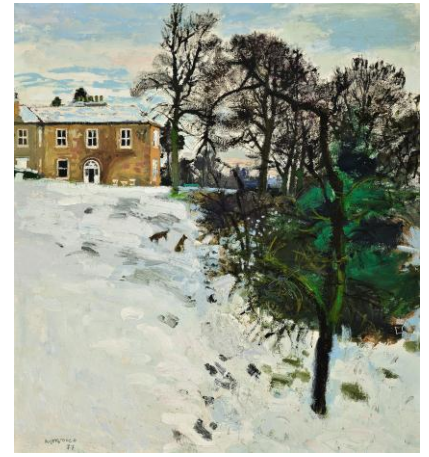
Highlights range from several self-portraits, for which Morrocco is most well-known, through to personal works of his wife, family and home in Dundee, as well as numerous still life and landscape works. Leading the sale is *Bathers Fondachello*, painted in 1967 (estimate: £50,000-70,000) with many paintings offered under £5,000, such as a later work, *Clown with Pigeon and Maracca*, executed in 1996 (estimate: £4,000-6,000). Please find a selection of highlights, including these two examples, illustrated below.



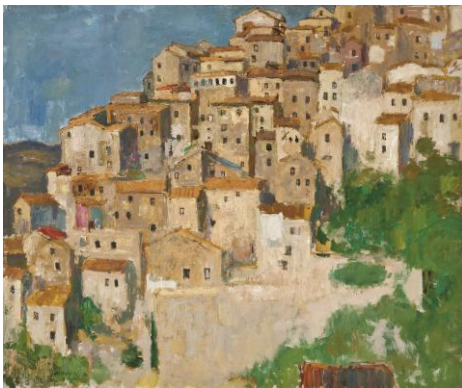
Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Bathers Fondachello, 1967
 oil on canvas
 92 x 64.1/2 in. (233.7 x 163.8 cm.)
 Estimate: £50,000-70,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
 An abstract four-panel double-sided screen
 oil on canvas panels, mounted as a screen
 Each panel -- 65 x 15 in. (165 x 38 cm.)
 Estimate: £8,000-12,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Binrock in the Snow
 oil on board
 39.3/4 x 36 in. (101 x 91.4 cm.)
 Estimate: £15,000-25,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Anticoli, Corrado, Italy
 oil on canvas
 25 x 30 in. (63.5 x 76.2 cm.)
 Estimate: £10,000-15,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Melon Seller
 oil on paper, laid on card
 18.1/2 x 23.1/2 in. (47 x 59.7 cm.)
 Estimate: £6,000-8,000



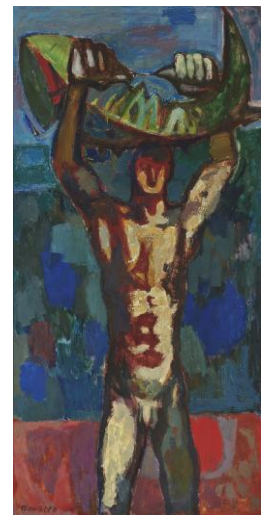
Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Figures reclining at dusk, 1967
 pencil, gouache and pastel
 27.1/4 x 32.1/4 in. (69.3 x 82 cm.)
 Estimate: £3,000-5,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Vera with a Fan, 1971
 oil on canvas
 54 x 34.1/2 in. (137.2 x 87.6 cm.)
 Estimate: £15,000-25,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Woman with Melon
 mixed media
 33.1/2 in. (85 cm.) high; 26 in. (66 cm.) wide
 Estimate: £4,000-6,000



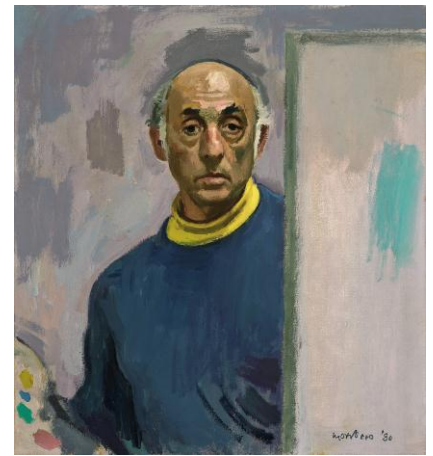
Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Sicilian Fisherman, painted circa 1960
 oil on board
 96 x 48 in. (243.8 x 121.9 cm.)
 Estimate: £40,000-60,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Clown with Pigeon and Maraca, 1996
 oil on board
 7.1/4 x 5.3/4 in. (18.4 x 14.6 cm.)
 Estimate: £4,000-6,000



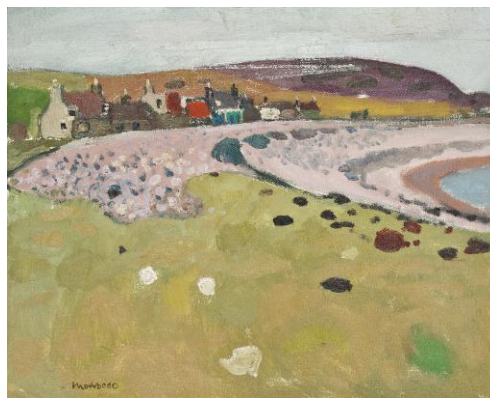
Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Studio Window, Anticoli
 oil on board
 63 x 63.3/4 in. (160 x 161.9 cm.)
 Estimate: £30,000-50,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Self-Portrait, 1980
 oil on canvas
 28.1/4 x 26 in. (71.8 x 66 cm.)
 Estimate: £5,000-8,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Still Life with Marrow
 oil on canvas
 35.3/4 x 35.3/4 in. (91 x 91 cm.)
 Estimate: £20,000-30,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Aberdeen, the Bay at Gourdon
 oil on canvas
 16.1/4 x 23 in. (42 x 58.4 cm.)
 Estimate: £7,000-10,000



Alberto Morrocco, R.S.A., R.S.W. (1917-1998)
Aberdeen Docks
 oil on canvas
 32.1/2 x 36.1/2 in. (82.6 x 92.7 cm.)
 Estimate: £5,000-8,000

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High resolution images and further information available upon request
 Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app
[Click to view Christie's 20th Century British Art Department Online Page](#)

Notes to Editors:

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS:

Highlights – Mansfield Traquair, 2 St Mary's Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SU

Wednesday, 20 June: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Thursday, 21 June: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Full View - Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

Saturday, 7 July: 11.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday, 8 July: 11.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, 9 July: 9.00am – 7.30pm

Tuesday, 10 July: 9.00am – 5.00pm

AUCTION: *A Celebration: The Studio of Alberto Morrocco and Binrock House, Dundee*

11 July 2012 at 10.30am



ECATALOGUE: The full catalogue will be available to view online from June 2012 at

www.christies.com/calendar

Alberto Morrocco (1917-1998)

- The world record price for a work by Alberto Morrocco was achieved when *Grande Natura Morta Napolitana* sold for £98,400 at a Scottish auction in 2006.
- Alberto's work can be seen on permanent display at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the City Art Centre, Edinburgh, as well as being in many other collections both public and private, notably the Fleming Collection, London. His public works include murals for St Columba's Church, Glenrothes and the Liff Hospital, Dundee.
- During his lifetime, Alberto received praise and recognition for his works and was awarded the San Vito Prize in Rome in 1959, honorary degrees from Aberdeen and Dundee Universities during the 1980's, and in 1993, he was awarded an OBE.

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £300. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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