

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S 2011 SALES TOTAL £3.6 BILLION / \$5.7 BILLION

Encouraging Growth with Continued Demand across Geographies and Categories

Private Sales Increase 44% (£) to £502 million

Significant Increase via Online with 77% increase in Unique Visitors to Website

Christie's LIVE drew 25% increase in bids / 29% of all bidders transact online

London – Christie's announces 2011 sales of £3.6 billion / \$5.7 billion, up 9% by £ (14% by \$) compared with 2010 (*figures include buyer's premium*). This includes private sales of £502 million / \$808.6 million, an increase of 44% by £ (50% by \$) on 2010.

"Christie's ability to curate and offer sales of art to a growing audience has led to continued demand across geographies, collecting categories and at all levels. This is a very encouraging set of results", said **Steven P. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, Christie's**. "While we are seeing more investors collecting, there are many more collectors who are increasing their investment in their collections as the explosion of interest in art, fuelled by globalization, facilitated by the technology that increases access to information and images, meets the art that is coming to the market."

Post-War and Contemporary led the art categories with auction sales of £735.7 million / \$1.2 billion – an increase of 22% by £ (27% by \$). The second strongest category was Asian Art which increased 13% by £ (17% by \$) and totaled record annual sales of £552.9 million / \$890.1 million. The highest price of the year was paid for Roy Lichtenstein's (1923-1997), *I Can See the Whole Room!...and There's Nobody in it!*, 1961, on 8 November in New York for \$43,202,500 / £26,785,550, a world record price for the artist at auction. In 2011, Christie's sold 719 works at auction for over \$1 million (607 in 2010). Average sold rates (by lot) stayed at 79%, on a par with the previous year. Results also illustrate solid demand at every price level, not just for the most expensive works, with the highest selling rate for works sold between £250,000 and £1 million at 87%. The market at the lower price levels also performed strongly with Christie's in South Kensington saleroom, offering works of art from £1,000, recording its highest annual total for the second successive year (£115.9 million / \$186.6 million).

The international appetite for collecting is also reflected in increased buyer activity in 2011. US and European clients accounted for 77% of sale registrations, with 13% from Greater China, an increase of 2% on 2010. Registered clients from Russia and the CIS increased 15% over the year. New clients represented 12% of the value of global sales.

Christie's continue to invest in online initiatives making the art market increasingly accessible. In 2011, online continued to attract new clients and prompt greater interactive engagement. The website, www.christies.com, welcomed 77% more unique visitors than the previous year. In total 29% of Christie's bidders transacted online (*not including the online-only auction of the Elizabeth Taylor Collection*).

Christie's LIVE™, the interactive online bidding platform, drew 25% more bids than the previous year and with two works of art selling for over \$1 million. As part of the sales series dedicated to the Collection of Elizabeth Taylor, Christie's held the company's first ever Online-Only sale which ran in parallel to the live auctions at Christie's New York. The two-week time-based auction was hugely successful with over \$9.5 million in total sales and bidders from 25 countries around the world who competed for 973 additional items from Miss Taylor's personal collection. In total, more than 57,000 online bids were received, as collectors rapidly drove prices from the \$50 starting point up into the thousands.

"We are operating in an informed market with pricing, curation and presentation key to success", continued Steven P. Murphy. "Christie's goal is to serve its clients. As we continue to see strong auction sales, we are also responding to the wishes of our clients with Private sales growing and accounting for £502 million of our sales total. Collectors also continue to be inspired by the great collections. We saw intense interest in the Gourdon Collection in Paris, the Norton Collection in New York and the Cowdray Collection in London in particular, all attracting a broad audience. The crescendo of the year was the Collection of Elizabeth Taylor which was seen by 58,000 people in an eight-city tour before being sold at auction in New York in December. With bidders from 36 countries, every one of the 1,778 lots found a buyer contributing to total sales of \$157 million.

"As we approach the sales over the next fortnight in London, we are optimistic about the market in 2012. We also remain committed to our role as cultural stewards through our auctions, private sales and exhibitions. Christie's is a unique place where commerce and connoisseurship is the hallmark of the Christie's team and we look forward to an exciting series of upcoming sales, exhibitions and partnerships."

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

International Sale Centres

In 2011 Continental Europe & UK auction sales totaled £1.3 billion (\$2.2 billion), up 21% in £ on 2010; the Americas totaled £1.2 billion (\$1.9 billion), down 6% in £ and 3% in \$; and Asia & Middle East totaled £530.6 million (\$854.3 million), up 6% in £. The full breakdown of sales is as follows:

Europe	£1.3 billion / \$2.2 billion	(+21% in £, +25% in \$)
London King Street	£871.6 million / \$1.4 billion	(+20% in £, +25% in \$)
London South Kensington	£115.9 million / \$186.6 million	(+11% in £, +16% in \$)
Paris	£172.6 million / \$277.9 million	(+18% in £, +23% in \$)
Switzerland	£139 million / \$223.7 million	(+58% in £, +64% in \$)
Amsterdam	£34.3 million / \$55.2 million	(+1% in £, +5% in \$)
Italy	£23.9 million / \$38.4 million	(+24% in £, +29% in \$)
Americas	£1.2 billion / \$1.9 billion	(-6% in £, -3% in \$)
Asia with Middle East	£530.6 million / \$854.3 million	(+6% in £, +11% in \$)
Hong Kong	£519.1 million / \$835.7 million	(+11% in £, +16% in \$)
Dubai	£11.6 million / \$18.6 million	(-65% in £, -64% in \$)

Top International Departments – Auction Sales for Full Year 2011

A breakdown of key auction categories is as follows:

Post-War & Contemporary Art	£735.7 million / \$1.2 billion	(£: +22% / \$: +27%)
Asian Art	£552.9 million / \$890.1 million	(£: +13% / \$: +17%)
Impressionist & Modern Art	£548.6 million / \$883.3 million	(£: -28% / \$: -26%)
Jewellery	£372.7 million / \$600.1 million	(£: +35% / \$: +41%)
European Furniture and Decorative Arts	£174.5 million / \$281 million	(£: +11% / \$: +16%)
Old Masters & 19th Century Art	£159.5 million / \$256.8 million	(£: +6% / \$: +10%)
Watches	£71.8 million / \$115.6 million	(£: +21% / \$: +26%)
British & Irish Art (not incl. Old Masters)	£66.4 million / \$106.9 million	(£: +77% / \$: +84%)
20th Century Decorative Arts	£65.6 million / \$105.6 million	(£: +98% / \$: +106%)
Wine	£56.5 million / \$90.9 million	(£: +23% / \$: +28%)

Top 10 Prices:

The top 10 lots sold at auction at Christie's in 2011 were:

- 1) \$43,202,500** **Roy Lichtenstein** (1923-1997), *I Can See the Whole Room!...and There's Nobody in it!*, 1961
(£26,785,550) 8 November, New York
- 2) \$38,442,500** **Andy Warhol** (1928-1987), *Self-Portrait*, 1963-1964
(£23,449,925) 11 May, New York
- 3) \$35,906,000** **George Stubbs, A.R.A.** (1724-1806), *Gimcrack on Newmarket Heath*
(£22,441,250) 5 July, London
- 4) \$33,682,500** **Mark Rothko** (1903-1970), *Untitled No. 17*, 1961
(£20,546,325) 11 May, New York
- 5) \$29,133,148** **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973), *Femme assise, robe bleue*, 1939
(£17,961,250) 21 June, London
- 6) \$28,666,155** **Francis Bacon** (1909-1992), *Study for a Portrait*, 1953
(£17,961,250) 28 June, London
- 7) \$27,522,500** **Andy Warhol** (1928-1987), *Self-Portrait*, 1986
(£16,788,725) 11 May, New York
- 8) \$25,282,500** **Francis Bacon** (1909-1992), *Three Studies for Self-Portrait*, 1974
(£15,422,325) 11 May, New York
- 9) \$22,482,500** **Claude Monet** (1840-1926), *Les Peupliers*, 1891
(£13,489,500) 4 May, New York
- 10) \$22,482,500** **Maurice de Vlaminck** (1876-1958), *Paysage de banlieue*, 1905
(£13,489,500) 4 May, New York

Regional Summaries

Europe

Christie's London

Christie's newly renovated headquarters realised sales of £871.6 million / \$1.4 billion (+20% in £, +25% in \$). The top lot of the year was *Gimcrack on Newmarket Heath with a Trainer, a Stable-Lad, and a Jockey* by George Stubbs, A.R.A. (1724-1806) which realised £22.4 million / \$35.9 million – the highest ever price for an Old Master Painting sold at Christie's. The auction of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* in June realised £78.8 million / \$125.8 million, the 2nd highest total for the category at Christie's in London. The top lot was *Study for a Portrait*, 1953, by Francis Bacon which sold for £18 million / \$28.7 million. The evening auction of *Impressionist and Modern Art* in June recorded some of the strongest selling rates for the category and realised £140 million / \$227.1 million, led by Pablo Picasso's *Femme assise, robe bleue* which sold for £18 million / \$29.1 million against an estimate of £4 million to £8 million.

The auctions of *20th Century British Art* in May and November were headlined by L.S. Lowry. At the May auction, *The Football Match*, 1949, realised £5.6 million / \$9.2 million, a record price for the artist and a price that was matched at the category's inaugural evening auction in November with *Piccadilly Circus, London*, 1960 which was offered from *The Lord Forte Collection of Works by L.S. Lowry*. *The Exceptional Sale* in July offered a select group of 50 lots representing the very best European Furniture and Decorative Art. This pioneering sale format, first presented by Christie's in 2008, saw 2 lots sell for over £5 million and far exceeded pre-sale estimates realizing £28.8 million / \$45.9 million. In September, the sale at Cowdray Park, West Sussex, realised £7.9 million / \$12.6 million. Presenting the traditional country house sale in the 21st century, a team of 9 auctioneers sold 1,122 lots in an auction that lasted nearly 24 hours over the course of 3 days, and which had successful buyers from 34 countries.

Christie's South Kensington realised their highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million (+11% in £, +16% in \$). Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK holding over 100 sales each year and offering more than 20,000 lots with estimates from £300. Highlights of the year included a Roman bronze portrait head of a man, *circa* second quarter of the 3rd century A.D., which achieved £457,250; the auction of *Vintage Film Posters* which saw 61% of lots sold or directly underbid online; and a .38 (special) 'Police Positive' nickel-plated six-shot double-action revolver previously owned by Al Capone which sold to a new client on the internet for £67,250. The top lot of the year for the Popular Culture department was a collection of Stormtrooper costume components, believed to have been made for both of the first two films of the Star Wars trilogy, which realised £205,250.

Christie's Paris

Christie's Paris continues to play an increasingly prominent role in the international art market and realised sales of €198.5 million / £172.6 million / \$277.9 million (+18% in £, +23% in \$) selling 7 works of art for over €2 million. The highlight of the year was the sale of the collection from the Château de Gourdon, one of the finest private collections of early 20th century decorative art and design ever to be offered at auction. The exhibition of the collection at the Palais de Tokyo in March welcomed over 17,000 visitors and the collection, which concluded in June, realised £38.1m / \$61.3m / €43.8 million, establishing 13 artist records. In September, the Fould-Springer collection adorning the Abbey Palace of Royaumont near Chantilly realised €7.6 million, doubling pre-sale expectations. Following the approval of legislation in July 2011 allowing private sales in France, Christie's sold two major works of art from the *Marquet de Vasselot Collection* to the Louvre and one to Musée du Moyen Age - Thermes et Hôtel de Cluny. The auction of the *Marquet de Vasselot Collection* in November, which realised €9.4 million, saw an ivory group of the Madonna and Child sell for €9.4 million / £8 million / \$12.7 million – a record price for any medieval work of art sold at auction. Also in November, three sales dedicated to Photography, including 100 from *Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson*, realised a collective €5.9 million / £5 million / \$8 million. The sale to benefit Domaine des Hospices de Beaune in November realised €5,402,333. In December, building on recent successes, Aline Sylla-Walbaum was appointed as Managing Director, Christie's France.

Christie's Switzerland

Christie's auctions in Switzerland realised £139 million / \$223.7 million / SFr 200.1 million (+58% in £, +64% in \$) driven by a strong international demand for exceptional jewels and watches. In Geneva in May a 1942 steel watch by Rolex fetched more than \$1M and an antique Imperial Mughal spinel necklace realised more than \$5 million. While strong prices were seen for 'blue chip' diamonds and coloured diamonds, a 130 ct. Burmese sapphire stole the show selling for \$7.1 million. A rare and possibly unique white gold cushion-shaped chronograph wristwatch by Patek Philippe, manufactured in 1928, fetched US\$3,636,140 - a world record price for any simple chrono-graph wristwatch at auction. The autumn week of sales set world record prices for any grey diamond and for a Patek Philippe perpetual calendar wristwatch ref. 3448, among others. Buyers in 2011 came from China, India, the United States and more than 30 other countries, confirming Geneva's outreach as a dynamic and specialised auction centre. The dedicated auctions of *Swiss Art* in Zurich in March and December produced solid results and attracted both Swiss and international buyers.

Christie's Amsterdam

Christie's Amsterdam saw solid demand and realised £34.3 million / \$55.2 million / €39.5 million (+1% in £, +5% in \$). The top lot of the year was *Mother and Children* by Hendra Gunawan (1918-1983) which realised €613,000 / \$838,073 – a record price for the artist, its pendant fetching €505,000 / \$691,547. Other notable moments included the widely publicized auction of interior designer Jan des Bouvrie's private collection and a Lalique watch surpassing its estimate tenfold and selling for €127,000 / \$173,723. A magnum Romanée-Conti Grand Cru 1990 sold for €19,550 / \$26,308 and a world auction record was realised for Brazilian artist Arthur Luiz Piza, whose work closely relates to Zero art which remains in high demand (€133,000 / \$177,834). The 2011 season was concluded by a very successful Noble House sale, which sold above 80% by lot and value and which was led by a pair of Isaack Luttichuys (1634-1696) portraits which doubled their estimate and sold for €205,000 / \$267,791.

Christie's Italy

Totaling £23.9 million / \$38.4 million / €27.5m million (+24% in £, +29% in \$), Christie's auctions sales in Milan confirmed the leadership of the company in Italy. At the November jewellery sale, a natural pearl necklace sold for more than €970,000, a record price for any jewel sold at auction in Italy. The most valuable work of Post-War & Contemporary Art was *Concetto spaziale* by Lucio Fontana which sold in May for €731,000. The top Old Master Painting was an extraordinary 18th century view of Naples from the Vesuvio by Antonio Joli which sold for €605,600 in May.

Americas:

Christie's New York

Christie's Americas ended 2011 with the record-breaking sales of *The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor* in December, bringing the region's annual sales total to £1.2 billion / \$1.9 billion. As one of the most widely-anticipated auctions of the year, all attention turned to New York for the four-day marathon of sales December 13 -17, which featured the film star's iconic collections of fine jewelry, fashion, decorative arts and film memorabilia. The sales totaled more than \$156.8 million (£100.3 million) and set new records for the most valuable sale of jewelry in auction history, and the most valuable private collection of fashion ever sold at auction. The stellar results set the pace for continuing sales of fine art from Miss Taylor's personal collection, to be offered February 7 and 8 at Christie's London.

As in 2010, the year proved a vibrant one for major private estate collection sales at Christie's New York. Aside from The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor, Christie's offered property from the collection of Los Angeles collector and software entrepreneur Peter Norton; Hollywood film industry moguls Lew and Edie Wasserman; pioneering contemporary art collectors Anton and Annick Herbert; and the late business executive John W. Kluge, who has pledged the proceeds of the ongoing sales from his vast collection as a \$400 million gift to Columbia University in New York.

In all, seven of the top ten works sold at Christie's in 2011 were sold from the auction house's New York saleroom, including the top lot of the year, Roy Lichtenstein's 1961 pop masterpiece, *I Can See the Whole Room!...and There's Nobody in it!*. The work, a star lot of Christie's November Evening Sale of *Post-War & Contemporary Art*, set a new auction record for the artist at \$43,202,500 (£26,785,550).

Christies Asia & Middle East:

Christie's Hong Kong

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of auctions in Hong Kong, Christie's sales realised £519.1 million / \$835.7 million (+11% in £, +16% in \$). This represents the highest annual total for the region. The integration of *Southeast Asian Art* into *Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art* sales in the Autumn was a milestone of the year. Also in the Autumn sales, *Fine Chinese Classical and Modern Paintings* continued to perform with strong results. The highlight was a scroll painting, *Lotus* by Cui Ruzhuo (b.1944) which sold for HK\$123,860,000/US\$15,891,238, a record for the artist. The single-owner sale of *Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, (Inspired Connoisseurship: Property from a European Collection)* was 100% sold, underscoring the enduring appeal for works of exceptional rarity and distinguished provenance. *Magnificent Jewels* was led by a perfect pair of round D flawless diamonds of 35.77 and 35.61 carats, which sold for US\$230,000 per carat, or a total of US\$16.4 million (HK\$127,880,000), the most expensive price for colourless diamonds in Asia. *The Singing Bird Pistols* fetched HK\$45,460,000 (US\$5,841,610) at the *Important Watches* sale in May, not only indicating the tremendous interests of antique watches made for the Chinese market, but also setting the most valuable piece achieved for an horological item sold at auction in Asia. Both *Finest & Rarest Wines: Rarities from the Cellar of Château Latour* in May and *Fine and Rare Wines: The Property of a Gentleman* in November were 100% sold. These results once again demonstrated the vigour of the Asia market and Hong Kong as a key wine auction centre.

Christie's Middle East

Auctions in Dubai realised £11.6 million / \$18.6 million. Since Christie's held its first sale in Dubai in 2006, the art market has transformed from a local to an international force with significant diversity in terms of both consigning and buying. April 2011 marked our 10th sale season in Dubai and in this period of time the auctions of art have realised over \$215 million and established 320 new world auction records for Middle Eastern artists. The 10th sale season was marked by an extraordinary charity sale for *Edge of Arabia* which totaled over \$1 million against a pre-sale estimate of \$100,000. The highlight of the six lot charity sale was Abdunnasser Gharem's *The Message/Messenger*, which realised \$842,000 and made him the most valuable living artist from the Gulf.

In October, Christie's introduced a new 2-part sale format to align the sale of Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art with our general format for this category. *Part I* offered classical 20th century art from the region and *Part II* the following day concentrated on contemporary art. All 3 art sales in 2011 sold over 80% by lot as this vibrant market continues to develop.

International Department Highlights:

Christie's global auctions of **Post-War and Contemporary Art** realised £735.7 million / \$1.2 billion (£: +22% / \$: +27%) – the second highest annual total for the category. In 2011 Christie's achieved 3 of the top 5 prices and sold 101 works for over \$1 million. The Evening auctions in London and New York drew global bidding and saw notably high selling rates (92%) with more than half the sold lots realizing prices above their high estimates. World record prices were achieved for a number of prominent artists including Roy Lichtenstein, Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Jenny Saville, Martial Raysse, Miquel Barcelò, Juan Muñoz, Ron Mueck and Paula Rego. The record price for a photograph was broken twice in 2011, first with Cindy Sherman's *Untitled*, 1981, in May, and then by Andreas Gursky's *Rhein II*, 1999, which sold for \$4.3 million in November. Private collections drew fierce interest in 2011 including those of Peter Norton, Kay Saatchi and Annick and Anton Herbert.

Asian Art sales realised £552.9 million (US\$890.1 million) in 2011, an increase of 13% in £ over 2010. In New York, Christie's led the Asian Art market with an annual total of \$192.2 million / £119.4 million. The series of Chinese art auctions in New York realized the second highest ever total, culminating in full-year results more than 40% above those achieved in 2010. Christie's London sales achieved £62.8 million (US\$101.2 million), a 38% increase from 2010. Christie's Hong Kong sales achieved £359.6 million (US\$579 million). Records included Tyeb Mehta's *Bulls*, a new world auction record for the artist; *Barbarians Come to Trade*, a pair of six-panel screens, a world auction record for Japanese painting; an exceptionally rare *qingbai* seated figure of guanyin, a world auction record for *Qingbai* porcelain; *Lotus*, a set of modern scrolls by Cui Ruzhuo which set the world auction record for the artist; a new Asian 20th Century artist record by Zenzaburo Kojima's *Nude Reclining on Yellow Chair*; and many records for Asian contemporary artists such as Aya Takano, Indieguerillas, Fernando Zobel, Bencab, Masaaki Miyasako, Jang Jae Rok, and Balaji Ponna.

Christie's global auctions of **Impressionist & Modern Art** realised £548.6 million / \$883.3 million, driven by a surge of interest among collectors worldwide for Surrealist paintings, modern sculpture, and colorists works. Works by blue-chip artists like Pablo Picasso and Claude Monet were among the top lots of the year, including Picasso's *Femme assise, robe bleue* from 1939, which sold for £17.9 million (US\$29.1 million) at Christie's London in June – one of four works by the great modern master that achieved prices over the \$10 million mark at Christie's in 2011.

Also among the top prices in this category was Monet's *Les Peupliers*, which sold for \$ 22.5 million, and Maurice de Vlaminck's *Paysage de banlieue* of 1905, which also realized \$ 22.5 million, and set a new auction record for a work by the artist. Christie's also handled the sales of significant Surrealist works in 2011 and fetched exceptional prices for paintings by Max Ernst, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux and Giorgio DeChirico, among others. As collector interest in this category continues to spread globally, Christie's will continue to lead the market for Surrealist works with its dedicated sale in this category held bi-annually in London, and in New York as part of its major May and November auction series.

2011 was a milestone year for Christie's **Jewellery and Watches** departments with combined sales of £444.5 million (\$715.7 million), up 40% over 2010, or 12% without the \$144 million Elizabeth Taylor sale. With a market share of 62% versus the leading competitor, the results confirmed Christie's leadership in the world of jewellery and watches for the 18th year in a row.

The diamond market was extremely strong in 2011. A perfect heart shaped diamond of 56.15cts sold for \$ 10.9 million in Geneva and a pair of cushion cut diamonds of 23cts each were sold for \$9.3 million in Hong Kong in May. The famous Taylor diamond of 33.19cts sold for \$8.8 million on December in New York. It had been purchased by Richard Burton in 1968 for \$ 300,000 which corresponds to \$1.8 million today. Colored diamonds also fared well with a pear shaped diamond of 32.77cts realizing \$6.6 million in New York.

Record prices were also obtained for colored stones. In New York, a Burma ruby of 8.62cts sold for \$4.2 million (\$513,000 per ct) and an emerald of 23.46cts was sold for \$6.6 million (\$280,000 per ct). In Geneva, a Burma sapphire of 130.5cts sold for \$7.1 million (\$55,000 per ct). Pearls were also very much in demand. The famous 16th century Peregrina sold for \$11.8 million in New York in December. A necklace which Christie's had sold in New York in 1981 for \$72,000 was sold again in Geneva in November for \$790,000.

America, Asia and Europe achieved their strongest totals to date, with respective sales of \$234 million, \$172 million and \$199.4 million. Hong Kong's major bi-annual jewelry sales exceeded US\$80 million each thus becoming one of the most important jewellery centres alongside Geneva and New York.

Similarly, Christie's global sale totals for watches continued their steady ascent to surpass the \$100 million mark for the first time and confirmed Christie's leadership in the category for the 8th year in a row. The most expensive watch object of the year was a pair of 19th century singing bird pistols attributed to Frères Rochat, which fetched US\$5.8 million at Christie's Hong Kong. In Geneva in May, a rare Patek Philippe single button chronograph from 1928 went for \$3.6 million.

Upcoming Highlights:

Christie's looks forward to presenting a full year of inspiring sales and exhibitions in 2012, including:

- Following the great success of the *Edge of Arabia* charity auction in Dubai on 19th April, 2011, which far surpassed the aim of raising \$150,000/AED550,000 fetching over \$1 Million/AED3.7 Million, Christie's is delighted to continue its support for Edge of Arabia in 2012. Christie's will aid their new venture; an exhibition entitled *Edge of Arabia Jeddah: We Need to Talk* curated by Mohammed Hafiz and co-curated by Edge of Arabia founder Stephen Stapleton. *We Need to Talk* opened its doors on the 19th January in Jeddah.
- Christie's will present the remaining portion of 38 works from The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor between February 7 and 8 – led by *Vue de l'Asile de la Chapelle de Saint-Rémy*, 1889, by Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) (estimate: £5-7million) in the London series of major bi-annual *Impressionist and Modern Art* sale.
- In London on 15 February, Christie's are delighted to offer for sale a portion of another extraordinary private collection, presented with the title 'A Way of Thinking'. A unique assembly of works collected over the course of three decades and mainly acquired through inaugural gallery exhibitions, it contains exceptional and perfectly preserved works by artists that have since become milestones in the passage of contemporary art.
- On March 20, Christie's New York Asian Week commences with The Doris Wiener Collection from the renowned gallerist and collector. This sale is composed of over 400 lots of exceptional sculpture and paintings from Gandhara, the Himalayas, India and Southeast Asia. In addition to Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, there are two single owner sales -- *Auspicious Treasures for Scholars and Emperors: Selections from the Robert H. Blumenfield Collection* and *Luminous Perfection: Fine Chinese Mirrors from the Robert H. Ellsworth*. Both sales come from passionate scholars and legendary figures in the field of Asian art.

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 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, Zürich, 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. 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.*

Notes to Editors:

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**In order to account for exchange rate fluctuations during the course of 2011, please note that all cumulative sales figures are reported in £, \$, € and CHF, using a Sales Weighted Average (SWA) of 1:1.61 (\$), 1:1.15 (€) and 1:1.44 (CHF). The prices of individual lots for 2011 are reported as when sold.*