

CHRISTIE'S

PRIVATE SALES

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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS ILLUSTRATING AMERICA: NORMAN ROCKWELL AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES



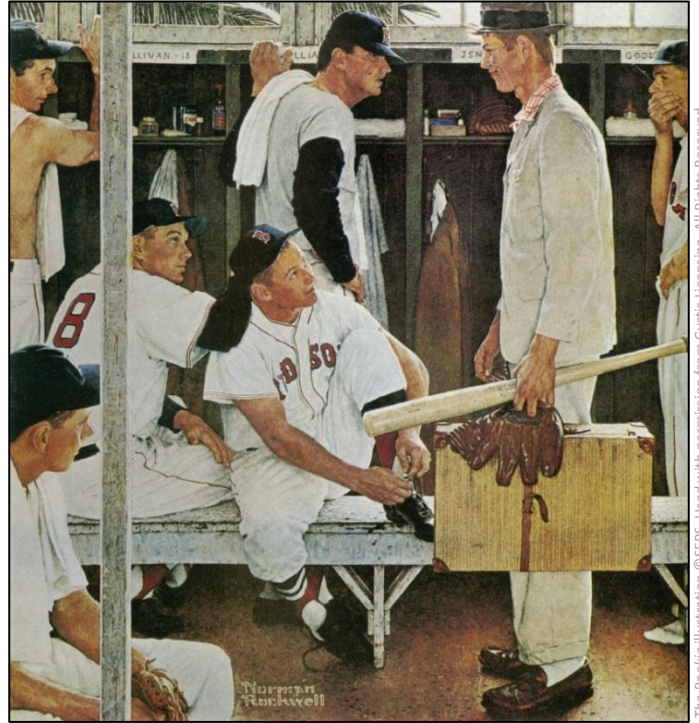
Norman Rockwell
Charwomen
oil on canvas; painted in 1946

New York – Christie's Private Sales is pleased to present *Illustrating America: Norman Rockwell and His Contemporaries*, an exhibition comprised of works both on loan and available for private sale that will take place from November 30 through December 20 in Christie's New York Galleries. Christie's first exhibition devoted solely to the art of American Illustration, the exhibition will feature approximately 50 works by iconic artists such as Norman Rockwell, Joseph Christian Leyendecker and Jessie Willcox Smith, among others. **Elizabeth Beaman, Senior Specialist of American Paintings at Christie's**, notes, "Anchored by such iconic and rarely seen *The Saturday Evening Post* covers as Rockwell's *Charwomen in Theater* (1946), *Armchair General* (1944), and *The Rookie* (1957), this exciting exhibition will be a survey of American illustrators active in the 20th century who shaped our imagination and forged a sense of national identity through their art."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)

Throughout the 20th century, Norman Rockwell was witness to such artistic movements as Impressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, and more. Despite these developments in the milieu of art history, Rockwell chose to pursue a career as an illustrator, producing more than 800 magazine covers, in all. As America's preeminent illustrator, he became as ubiquitous to the American public as the images he created. The paintings included in this Christie's exhibition wonderfully capture Rockwell's unique ability to tell an entire narrative through a single image. *The Rookie (Red Sox Locker Room)* (illustrated right) is set in the Boston Red Sox locker room during spring training; an awkward newcomer is juxtaposed with the confident stances of the seasoned players, including baseball great and American hero Ted Williams, making the rookie's anxiety all the more apparent and endearing. While Rockwell is perhaps best-known for his very charming and particularly humorous covers, *Armchair General (Man Charting War Maneuvers)* (illustrated below) reminds us of the intellectual and intelligent artist well aware of his impact through the power of his imagery. The work depicts an elderly man,



Norman Rockwell
The Rookie (Red Sox Locker Room)
oil on canvas; painted in 1957



Norman Rockwell
Armchair General (Man Charting War Maneuvers)
oil on canvas; painted in 1944

unable to serve but perhaps a veteran of World War I, listening to the news and charting the trajectory of the troops on maps of Europe. The three star flag and accompanying three photos of his sons demonstrate that he is not only an engaged citizen, relating a quieter story of American patriotism and heroism, but a nervous parent awaiting news.

In *Charwomen* (illustrated page 1), Rockwell depicts two elderly women in the Majestic Theater on Broadway. While the job of a charwoman may not have been the most glamorous, Rockwell does not portray the women in a pitiful light. Instead, in true Rockwell fashion, the work is imbued with undercurrents of sweet innocence and simplicity. In the midst of their shift, the women have granted themselves a moment of brief respite from the monotony of their labors to enjoy the Playbill programs that have been left behind by past theatergoers. Their weathered faces soften as they become engrossed in the plot, seemingly transporting them to a world far beyond the confines of the theater.

Joseph Christian Leyendecker (1874-1951)

J.C. Leyendecker's work, like Norman Rockwell's, is synonymous with the famed publication *The Saturday Evening Post*. Leyendecker completed over three hundred covers for the publication, as well as important and iconic advertising campaigns for *Arrow Collar* and *Kuppenheimer*. Rockwell was greatly influenced by Leyendecker's work, which can be particularly seen in his early works. *Illustrating America* at Christie's will feature several major *The Saturday Evening Post* covers by Leyendecker, including *Independence Day* ("When, in the Course of Human Events") (illustrated right). The patriotic painting, which depicts a 19th century orator, was used as the cover illustration of the July 4, 1908 issue and was accompanied by the first line of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to his many Independence Day covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*, J.C. Leyendecker completed a breadth of other holiday covers, many of which contrasted the seasonal experiences of the rich-and-poor and old-and-young; *Tipping the Porter* (illustrated page 3), the cover illustration of the December 18, 1937 issue, is a quintessential example of the subject.



Joseph Christian Leyendecker
Independence Day
("When, in the Course of Human Events...")
oil on canvas; painted circa 1908

Jessie Willcox Smith (1863-1935)

Jessie Willcox Smith, who also features prominently in the exhibition, studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, as well as under the tutelage of Howard Pyle, the famous illustrator who also taught N.C. Wyeth. Smith illustrated the timeless classics Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* and Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*, but she made her mark illustrating well known children's books such as *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1905). In addition to her book illustrations, Smith's works were often featured in *Good Housekeeping Magazine*; *Curly Locks* (illustrated right) is one such example that will be included in this exhibition. *Curly Locks* was featured in the January 1914 issue of *Good Housekeeping*, as well as in Smith's 1914 publication *The Jessie Willcox Smith Mother Goose*, in which it accompanied a nursery rhyme by the same title.



Jessie Willcox Smith
Curly Locks
charcoal, watercolor and oil on board; painted circa 1914

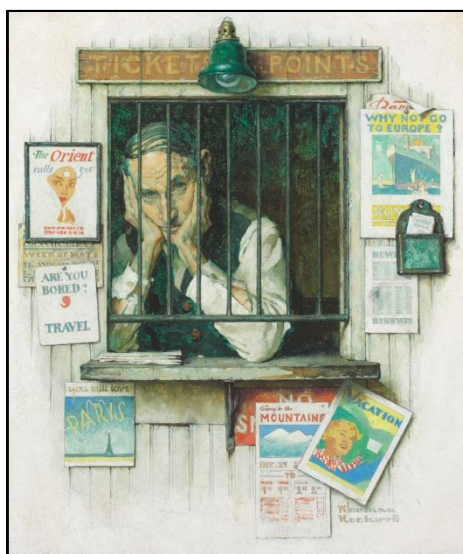
Original Nursery Rhyme
*Curly-locks, Curly-locks, Wilt thou be mine? Thou shalt not wash the dishes,
nor yet feed the swine; but sit on a cushion, and sew a fine seam, and feed
upon strawberries, sugar, and cream.*

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Norman Rockwell
The Waiting Room
oil on canvas; painted in 1937

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Norman Rockwell
The Ticket Seller
oil on canvas; painted in 1937

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Joseph Christian Leyendecker
Tipping the Porter
oil on canvas; painted circa 1937

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ILLUSTRATING AMERICA: NORMAN ROCKWELL AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

November 30 – December 20, 2013
Christie's Private Sales Galleries
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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, reached a total of £2.4 billion/\$3.68 billion in global auction and private sales in the first six months of 2013. In 2012, global auction and private sales totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion, marking the highest annual revenue ever reached by Christie's. 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, jewelry, photography, 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 an emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewelry. Global private sales totaled £465 million/\$711 million in the first half year of 2013, an increase of 13% from the same period last year, breaking the sales record of half year private sales for Christie's and the art market for three consecutive years.

Christie's has a global presence of 53 offices in 32 countries and 11 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. Christie's has recently led in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and The United Arab Emirates, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives held 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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Images available on request

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