

For Immediate Release

**THE ART WORLD UNCOVERED:
ART TRAVEL EXPERIENCES LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE**

Christie's Travel in association with Abercrombie & Kent announces its collection of 2015 tours for art lovers in specialist-led, small-group tours to the heart of Europe, Egypt and China



See world-famous sites like Beijing's Summer Palace (left) and artist Liu Jianhua's studio (right) with Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent

January 14, 2015 – Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, is delighted to introduce a collection of exceptional art journeys combining the talents of the world's leading art business and the international leader in luxury travel. Renowned for their shared passions in creating extraordinary and meaningful experiences for their clients around the world, A&K and Christie's have come together to handpick destinations which are best suited to small, intimate groups of like-minded individuals who love art, culture and travel. From the **Côte D'Azur, Venice, Florence, and London, to Cairo and Beijing**, every itinerary features signature 'insider access' elements to provide special art experiences in an exclusive setting – with behind-the-scenes entrée to the art world, plus personal insights from a Christie's specialist. Each Christie's host has acquired deep expertise in their specialty through a unique combination of academic preparation and real-world experience in the hunt for the world's most sought-after auction items, accumulating vast networks of artists, collectors and curators. The result is a truly distinctive experience for those who are curious and just dipping their toe into the art world, or simply fanatical about art.

The 2015 collection features two options of itineraries to cater for the varying levels of art or cultural engagement desired by the client. The **'Experience Tours'** are itineraries designed to focus on the whole cultural experience of a destination, and appeal to art and culture lovers. Custom-made 'signature moments' are woven into each itinerary to offer one-off art-focused experiences, led by a Christie's specialist in exclusive settings. Aspirational art connoisseurs will find these special experiences the perfect preview for a Collector Tour. For a limited time, the Experience Tour to Egypt is available at a savings of £500 per person, double occupancy, if booked before 28 February, 2015. See details below.

The **'Collector Tours'** are designed for art enthusiasts, aspiring collectors and connoisseurs – those interested in collecting, or those wishing to increase their knowledge in a specific genre of their art or cultural interest. These tours are in-depth and focused on the learning experience, offering rare, insider experiences to the usually inaccessible layers of the art world. Meeting leading artists, collectors and curators of world-class art institutions around the world is integral to these itineraries as is their expert leadership. Throughout each tour, a leading

specialist from Christie's accompanies the group, offering a new or different perspective on their area of expertise in fine or contemporary art, jewellery or design, or the art market and collecting.

Experience Tours:

Florence: The Art and Literature of the Renaissance

Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, on a journey through Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and once the inspiration for masters including Brunelleschi, Bernini and Michelangelo. The city itself is a masterpiece, where history pours from every corner, and the volume of magnificent art and architecture at every turn makes the fashionable city one of the world's finest open-air museums. It is a compact city of cobbled streets and hidden piazzas, which tell a story of historic daily life, and is best explored on foot.

Highlights:

- Christie's specialist Marco Riccomini is on hand with personal insights and expertise on the Pitti Palace
- Private access to the Vasari Corridor
- Go behind the scenes on a private tour of the Giambologna Chapel and watch a small team of art restorers work their magic
- Private view of Michelangelo drawings in Casa Buonarrotti
- Private-room dining at *Alle murate*, a palazzo and museum, home to the earliest known frescoes depicting Dante and Boccaccio

Dates/Pricing: *Florence: The Art and Literature of the Renaissance* tour runs three times: 23-27 April, 15-19 October, 29 October – 2 November, with a price of £2,995 per person, double occupancy.

Venice: From Renaissance to the Biennale

Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, in Venice as we wind through the canals and hidden passages in search of some of the city's most magnificent works of art. Architecture and art are part and parcel of the city's charm, from the Renaissance buildings that flank the grand palazzos to the modern masters such as Picasso and Miró whose work is intricately documented at the Guggenheim. We'll go behind the scenes of some of the city's most exclusive museums and galleries to experience the masterpieces without the crowds.

Highlights:

- Discover Venice's vibrant contemporary art scene at the 56th Art Biennale, the city's renowned arts festival with its tours, laboratories and creative workshops.
- Learn about the history of Palazzo Papadopoli with Countess Bianca Arrivabene, vice chairman of Christie's in Italy, and view the palazzo's impressive frescoes
- Enjoy private access to the secret passageways in the Doge's Palace and the statues that operate St. Mark's Clock Tower
- Explore the islands around Venice, including Murano and Mazzorbo, where we will have lunch and a wine tasting led by a sommelier
- Take a private tour of the Guggenheim Museum

Dates/Pricing: *Venice: From Renaissance to the Biennale* runs three times: 1-5 October, 22-26 October and 29 October – 2 November, and is £3,795 per person, double occupancy.

France: The Art of Southern France

Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, in the South of France as we travel through the lavender fields of Provence and glittering coastline of the Côte d'Azur, punctuated by medieval villages overlooking

the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea. It was the light and landscapes of the region that attracted Matisse, Picasso, Chagall and Renoir to the Riviera, and on this trip we'll take a step back in time to retrace their footsteps and discover the inspiration behind such a significant period in art. The A&K guide James M'Kenzie-Hall will accompany guests throughout the trip, sharing his unrivalled knowledge and expertise on French art, while Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art specialist Antoine Lebouteiller will join us at Saint-Paul-de-Vence to share his insight into the life of Matisse and friends.

Highlights:

- Privately guided tour of the Matisse Museum, which boasts the largest collection of the artist's work in one place
- Enjoy the personal insights and specialist knowledge offered by Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art specialist, Antoine Lebouteiller
- Lunch at La Colombe d'Or in Saint-Paul de Vence, a favourite haunt of Picasso and Matisse, with a Christie's expert
- Champagne and canapés on a private visit to Villa Santo Sospir, 'the tattooed house'
- Wine tasting at Châteauneuf du Pape with a sommelier

Dates/Pricing: *France: The Art of Southern France* runs on 3-7 September and 10 – 14 September 2015 and is priced at £2,995 per person, double occupancy.

Egypt: Pharaohs and Feluccas

Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, in the Land of the Pharaohs as we reveal the secrets of Giza's monolithic pyramids, the treasures housed in the Museum of Antiquities and The Valley of the Kings, as well as iconic temples that stretch along the Nile from Luxor to Aswan. A&K has been offering luxury holidays to Egypt for over 30 years, employing over 400 staff on the ground. Our expert Egyptologists will bring the ancient civilisation back to life, with exclusive insider access to the private tomb opening of Queen Nefertari, a special opening of the pyramid of Cheops and the exclusive charter of the Sun Boat III, the Nile's most luxurious river cruise escorted by two Egyptologists.

Highlights:

- As part of the trip, guests are invited to Christie's London for a champagne reception prior to the tour's start. Meet Laetitia Delaloye, Head of Sale for Antiquities at Christie's London, for a private viewing and explanation of key objects featuring in the upcoming Antiquities Sale
- Private opening of Queen Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens, normally closed to the general public
- Special opening of the great pyramid of Cheops
- Private entry to the pyramids before opening
- Exclusive charter of the Sun Boat III, the Nile's most luxurious river cruise
- Four nights' accommodation at the Four Seasons First Residence

Dates/Pricing: *Egypt: Pharaohs and Feluccas* takes place on 9-17 October, with a bonus Antiquities Sale Preview at Christie's, King Street, London, on 26 September. From £4,495 per person, double occupancy, with an early-bird offer from £3,995 per person, if booked before 28th February.

Collector Tours:

London: The Jewels of London

The Jewels of London from Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, offers a specialist-led, behind-the-scenes insight into some of the most iconic jewels in the world, taking place 1-4 June 2015. This 4-day tour is designed to dazzle and explores London's most important jewels that are both historically significant and world-

renowned. Like all Christie's Collector Tours, this is led by one of the world's most knowledgeable experts, in this case the Senior International Jewellery Director at Christie's, David Warren. The tour is an exceptional collection of sights and experiences to remember, including a private view of the magnificent Crown Jewels at the Tower of London and dinner in the White Tower with the jewellery experts - a rare and regal experience. A private tour of the jewellery collections at the Victoria & Albert Museum and world-famous jewellery ateliers on Bond Street will be among the tour's extraordinary experiences. Guests are invited to a unique dinner at the Christie's boardroom, where the dress code is strictly "no jewels," so that they may be "bejewelled" by exquisite pieces from the upcoming Magnificent Jewels sale.

Highlights:

- A private viewing of the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, where guests will be led to the Jewel House by a Yeoman Warder Beefeater
- Champagne reception and dinner in the White Tower at the Tower of London, overlooking the River Thames
- Private tour of the world's great design and art museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum's jewellery gallery
- Tour of Christie's and private handling session with the International Senior Director of Jewellery, David Warren
- A tour of the most iconic ateliers on London's Bond Street

London: The Jewels of London tour takes place on 1-4 June 2015 and is priced from £3,400 per person, double occupancy.

China: Ancient to Contemporary China

Four cities, ten days: discover the best of Beijing, X'ian, Jingdezhen and Shanghai. Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent, in a fascinating, expert-led journey through the history of China's rich dynastic heritage to the fast-paced contemporary art scene. Nixi Cura, Programme Director of the Arts of China at Christie's Education, offers a personal and in-depth insight into the newest and the oldest Chinese art, including some of the most eminent artists producing world-class contemporary works of art, sold at Christie's auction house today. In the spirit of Christie's Travel's mission to create extraordinary 'signature moments' throughout its Collector Tours, this itinerary is packed with special access to the inaccessible and the undiscovered enclaves of the art world.

Highlights:

- Artist studio visits and a tour of the factory of one of China's leading ceramicists. Guests will have access to impressive museum and private collections.
- Christie's specialist, Nixi Cura, Programme Director at Christie's Education, London, accompanies the tour throughout, offering expert knowledge on all aspects of the art and tour
- Private tour of the Terracotta Army and the Forbidden City, including sections of the exhibition that will be opened especially for the group
- A memorable champagne picnic on the Great Wall of China followed by specialist insight into the 6th Century Ming Tombs and Imperial Mausoleums
- V&A curator-led tour of China's 'Porcelain Capital' with its 1,700-year heritage of pottery production
- Artist studio visit and factory tour to Chinese artists such as Liu Jianhua, whose works are often for sale at Christie's
- Preview of the Contemporary Art Sale at Christie's remarkable art deco saleroom in Shanghai by the waterfront.

China: Ancient to Contemporary China takes place on 23 October – 1 November 2015, and is priced from £8,700 per person, double occupancy.

For more information on individual itineraries, departure dates and prices follow this [link](#).

Brochure available on request.

www.abercrombiekent.co.uk | 0845 485 1518

www.christiestravel.com

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All prices quoted above are based on two people sharing and are excluding international flights and a single supplement. For further information please visit: www.christiestravel.com or www.abercrombiekent.co.uk. For further press information, images or interviews note the following press contacts:

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Notes to editors:

Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent launched in October 2013 as a joint venture between Christie's, the world's leading art business, and the international leader in luxury travel, Abercrombie & Kent. Together they combine the highest levels of expertise to present a collection of original, inspiring art journeys designed that are tailor-made for the culturally curious traveller and the collector. Abercrombie & Kent operates uniquely in over 26 countries globally offering seamless, on-the-ground service along with unrivalled local expertise. Founded on 250 years of art expertise, with knowledge and access to all areas of the art world, Christie's brings to each tour, a level of behind-the-scenes access and learning experiences that cannot be surpassed. Join Christie's Travel, in association with Abercrombie & Kent on Facebook [Christie's Travel](#), Instagram [christiestravel](#) and Twitter [@ChristiesInc](#) www.christiestravel.com

About Abercrombie & Kent:

Abercrombie & Kent pioneered luxury adventure travel with our first African safaris in 1962, and today our award-winning travel services extend around the globe to more than one hundred countries on all seven continents. A&K's custom itineraries and small-group journeys offer one-of-a-kind inspiring experiences, while our 50 on-site offices and 2,500 people on the ground around the globe ensure access to the people and places that make every travel destination unique. Join the world of A&K by following us on Facebook [Abercrombie & Kent](#) and Twitter [@AKTravel UK](#) www.abercrombiekent.com 0845 485 4760

About Christie's:

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totalled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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.

www.christies.com