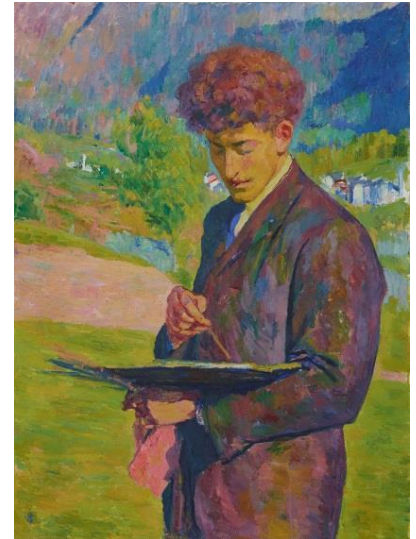


CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | ZURICH | 3 MAY 2016 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 YEARS OF SWISS ART SALES AT CHRISTIE'S



ZURICH – SWISS ART SALE

30 MAY 2016

Zurich – Over the past 25 years, Christie's has held 36 dedicated Swiss Art sales, a category which offers our clients around the globe a glimpse into the alpine world of Switzerland. Today, important works by one of Switzerland's most renowned artists, Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918), such as *Der Traum des Hirten* or *Der Holzfäller*, are part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, respectively. Both paintings were bought at Christie's Zurich in the past 10 years and are part of the 6,200 Swiss works of art which have been offered at Christie's Zurich over the past 25 years.

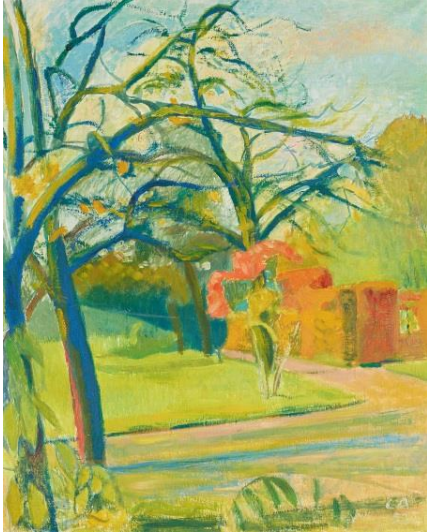
Over the past decades, a significant development in Swiss artist gallery shows and museum retrospectives has taken place around the globe, including Félix Vallotton at the Grand Palais in Paris, Fischli /Weiss at the Salomon Guggenheim Museum in New York or Ferdinand Hodler at the Neue Galerie, also in New York. This has ignited the interest of international collectors and strong examples of Swiss art can be found from The Pushkin Museum in Moscow to a private collection in Dallas, Texas.

The auction on 30 May will offer 96 lots covering the art of all three regions of Switzerland. From the French speaking part of Switzerland the sale will offer *Coucher de soleil à Grâce, ciel orangé et vert*, painted by Félix Vallotton (1865-1925, *illustrated above in the middle*) in 1918, at the height of his artistic career. The painting carries an estimate of CHF1.0-1.5 million. In 1918, Félix Vallotton captured several sunsets on canvas while he was in Grâce in the south of France. In the present painting Vallotton paid particular attention to the scenery around the setting sun. The concave stretch of meadow with its railings and the tree both frame the work and highlight the sun that is about to disappear beneath the horizon. The painting's force of expression is achieved through its powerful use of colour and its strongly defined pictorial areas.

From the Italian part of Switzerland emanates *Il pittore* (*Alberto Giacometti*) painted by Giovanni Giacometti (1868-1933, *illustrated right of page one*) in 1921. This painting depicts Giovanni Giacometti's eldest son, Alberto, at the age of 20, standing in the countryside near Stampa.

Suffering from a severe case of mumps, Alberto stopped attending school in Schiers at the age of 17 and concentrated solely upon his career as an artist. Giovanni was both his teacher and his mentor. Although painted in fresh colours, this seemingly very official portrayal of Alberto as a painter, dressed in his Sunday suit holding the instruments of a painter – brush and palette - can be understood as a sign of his father's great appreciation of Alberto's skills as an artist (estimate: CHF 380,000-500,000).

The German speaking part of the country provides several works of art by Cuno Amiet (1868-1961). Amiet's work, shaped not only by his life in Oshwand but also the changing seasons, perfectly captures the advent of spring, the mood of mid-summer and depicted in *Herbstlandschaft* (1952, *illustrated left*) the arrival of autumn. The artist's use of intense green, red and yellow tones in *Herbstlandschaft* creates an autumnal atmosphere that is underscored by the wind moving through the trees (estimate CHF100,000-150,000).



Another work by the artist, as well as paintings by Wilfrid Moser and Gottfried Honegger, comes from the collection of Guy and Marie-Hélène Weill. Both Swiss born, Guy and Marie-Hélène emigrated to the United States independently in the late 1930s, where they met and married in 1942. The Weill's had a lifelong affinity for fine art. Their unwavering belief in the importance of art transcended history and geographies, from Abstract Expressionism, to Chinese paintings and Southeast Asian sculptures, mixed with Swiss Art.

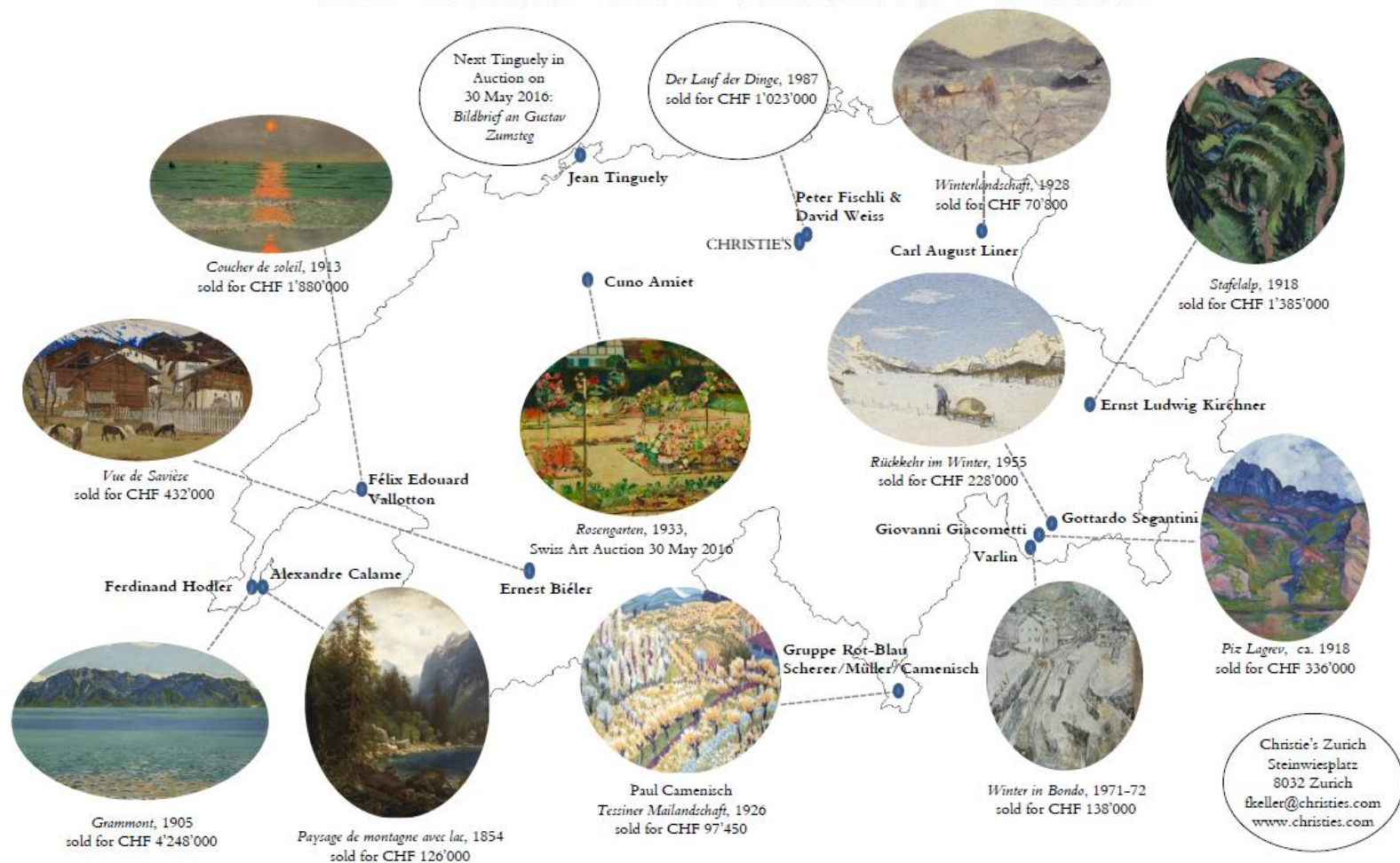
This year's 100th DADA anniversary is also honoured at Christie's by offering a stunning sculpture made by Hans Arp (1886-1966), one of the co-founders of the movement. *Dackelpuppe*, a white marble sculpture made in 1965 (estimate CHF 150,000-200,000, *illustrated left of page*). Upon Arp's death several cut-outs were discovered in the artist's studio which can be divided into two groups: cut-outs that had a particular function in the work process, used as collages or templates for Arp's graphic prints; or those which were part of the artist's 'doll' cut-outs. Arp translated these 'doll' cut-outs into different materials such as marble, wood or even aluminium. All *doll* sculptures have an emphasis on the vertical axis, well defined by wavy lines and parts of the body, such as the head, and/or only the upper or lower body. Although Arp is considered to be an abstract artist, his basic type of *doll* sculptures show the schematic proportions of the human figure.

Auction: **Monday 30 May at 6pm**
Exhibition: Thursday, 26 May 12.00-6.00pm
Friday 27-Sunday 29 May 10.00am to 6.00pm
both at the Grosser Vortragssaal, Kunsthaus Zurich
Preview in Geneva: Friday 13 May to Sunday 15 May from 10.00am to 6.00pm
at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues

PRESS CONTACTS:

Alexandra Kindermann | +41 (0)44 268 10 19 | akindermann@christies.com
Lauren Clarke | +44 20 7389 2664 | laurenclarke@christies.com

Christie's Celebrating 25 Years of Swiss Art Sales



About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2015 that totalled £4.8 billion / \$7.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary. 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 350 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.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 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.

*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.

###

Images available on request
FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

