

CHRISTIE'S

NEW YORK | 5 OCTOBER 2016 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER IMPORTANT EGYPTIAN MUMMY PORTRAITS IN OCTOBER 2016

PROPERTY RECENTLY RESTITUTED TO THE HEIRS OF
RUDOLF MOSSE

SOLD ON BEHALF OF THE MOSSE FOUNDATION



AN EGYPTIAN ENCAUSTIC ON WOOD MUMMY PORTRAIT
OF A WOMAN
HADRIANIC PERIOD, CIRCA 2ND CENTURY A.D.
Estimate: \$150,000-250,000



AN EGYPTIAN ENCAUSTIC ON WOOD MUMMY PORTRAIT
OF A BEARDED MAN
HADRIANIC PERIOD, CIRCA 2ND CENTURY A.D.
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

New York – On October 25, Christie's sale of *Antiquities* is pleased to present two important Egyptian portraits on behalf of the heirs of Rudolf Mosse. Hauntingly lifelike, these remarkable portraits, an Egyptian encaustic on wood mummy portrait of a woman, Hadrianic period, circa 2nd century AD (estimate: \$150,000-250,000) and an Egyptian encaustic on wood mummy portrait of a bearded man, circa 1st century AD (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), are among the most extraordinary artistic achievements to survive from antiquity.

Egyptian mummy portraits date from the mid-1st to the 3rd century AD, and while they have been found in many sites throughout Egypt, they were discovered most prominently in the Fayum, which provided the generic name for all such painted portraits. These mummy portraits from Roman Egypt are among the most remarkable

survivors from the ancient world, providing insight into Romano-Egyptian burial customs as well as style and fashion trends from the 1st-3rd century A.D.

These works were originally part of the extraordinary collection of Rudolf Mosse (1843 – 1920), the founder of a successful publishing and advertising company in Germany, which included the flagship newspaper *Berliner Tageblatt*. Mosse was a patron of the eminent Egyptologist Karl Brugsch and it seems likely that the mummy portraits were acquired from him. Following his death, the collection was inherited by his daughter Felicia Lachmann-Mosse. Within months of Hitler's rise to power in 1933, the family was forced to flee Germany, and their publishing company, private assets and art collection were expropriated by the Nazi party. The art collection was 'plucked' by prominent Nazi supporters, and subsequently disbursed by auction.

These portraits were acquired in 1934 by Erich Maria Remarque, author of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, and bought in 1979 by the University of Zürich from his widow, the actress Paulette Goddard- Remarque. Research by the University of Zürich led to their repatriation in 2015 to the Mosse Art Restitution Project.

Cataloguing and complete details of the sale is available on www.christies.com.

PRESS CONTACT:

Sung Hee Kim | +1 212 636 2680 | shkim@christies.com

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:

