

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK
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CHRISTIE'S FEATURES RARE 15TH CENTURY MASTERPIECE ATTRIBUTED TO ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FLEMISH ARTISTS OF THE RENAISSANCE

- LEAD HIGHLIGHT OF APRIL 27TH OLD MASTER PAINTINGS SALE IN NEW YORK, WITH A DISTINGUISHED PROVENANCE
- NOT SEEN AT AUCTION SINCE THE MID-19TH CENTURY, AMONG THE FEW WORKS OF ITS KIND LEFT IN PRIVATE HANDS



Attributed to Hugo van der Goes (Ghent, c. 1440-1482 Rode Klooster, near Brussels)

The Virgin and Child with Saints Thomas, John the Baptist, Jerome and Louis
oil on panel

43.5/8 x 49.1/4 in. (110.8 x 125.2 cm.)

Estimate: \$3,000,000-5,000,000

New York – Christie's announces that a rare 15th century Flemish masterpiece, *The Virgin and Child with Saints Thomas, John the Baptist, Jerome and Louis*, attributed to the great Netherlandish painter Hugo van der Goes, will highlight the Old Master Paintings sale on April 27 in New York. This rare survival is one of the most important 15th century Flemish paintings left in private hands and, remarkably, includes one of only a few examples of preparatory

underdrawing on a Renaissance painting openly visible to the naked eye. In the early 18th century, the painted figures of the Virgin and Child as well as the body of Saint John the Baptist were removed, and the painting was transformed into a representation of *The Marriage of Henry VII to Elizabeth of York*. The painting was restored to its present form in the late 20th century, and has been on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1998. With a distinguished provenance dating back to the early 18th century, the painting is estimated at \$3-5 million.

TIMELINE

- **Late 15th century:** The altarpiece was likely painted for an English patron with French sympathies, (the inclusion of St. Louis of Toulouse is a clue), and would have been installed in a church.
- At some point in the **early 18th century**, the Virgin and Child in the center of the composition and the figure of Saint John the Baptist were carefully stripped away and repainted with an architectural view of a church interior. At the same time the four saints (from left to right: Saint Thomas, John the Baptist, Jerome and Louis) were modified to become participants in a new scene representing the Marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York.
- **1977-87:** When the painting was conserved these alterations were removed, revealing the artist's original composition. At that time, the art historian Claus Grimm identified this altarpiece as an early work by the great Netherlandish master, Hugo van der Goes. This attribution has now been endorsed by scholar Peter van den Brink.

PROVENANCE

In the 18th century, the painting was in the collection of Henrietta Louisa, Countess of Pomfret at Easton Neston, Northamptonshire. It was acquired in the estate sale of Lord Pomfret in 1754 by the famous writer and connoisseur, Horace Walpole, who kept the painting at Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, England. It next entered the Dent collection, at Sudley Castle in Gloucestershire, England, remaining there until it was acquired through an Old Master Paintings dealer by a private American collector, who loaned it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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Public Exhibition:

Saturday, 22 April
Sunday, 23 April
Monday, 24 April
Tuesday, 26 April

Auction:

Old Master Paintings, Part I
Thursday, April 27
10 a.m.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2016 that totalled £4 billion / \$5.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 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 in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

Images available on request

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