

CHRISTIE'S

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PABLO PICASSO'S 1954 PORTRAIT OF MUSE, JACQUELINE ROQUE, TO HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S NOVEMBER EVENING SALE OF IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART

To be Sold in New York, 13 November 2017



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), *Femme accroupie (Jacqueline)*, Painted on 8 October 1954
Oil on canvas, 57 1/2 x 44 7/8 in. | Estimate: \$20-30 million
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New York – Christie's will offer Pablo Picasso's *Femme accroupie (Jacqueline)*, painted on October 8, 1954 as a central highlight of its Evening Sale of Impressionist and Modern Art on 13 November in New York. Marking its first time at auction, *Femme accroupie (Jacqueline)* comes from a private collection, and is estimated to sell for \$20-30 million. The work will be on public view at Christie's London from 16 - 19 September, and at Christie's Hong Kong from 28 September - 3 October.

Christie's Global President, Jussi Pytkkanen, remarked, "*Jacqueline was a beautiful woman and one of Picasso's most elegant muses. This painting of Jacqueline hung in Picasso's private collection for many years and has rarely been seen in public since 1954. It is a museum quality*

painting on the grand scale which will capture the imagination of the global art market when it is offered at Christie's New York this November."

The brilliant primary colors in *Femme accroupie (Jacqueline)* illustrate a sunny day in the South of France during early autumn, 1954. Picasso and Jacqueline Roque, his ultimate paramour and eventual second wife, had begun living together in the Midi and would soon return to Paris to reside in the artist's studio. The present painting is one of three large-easel-format canvases that Picasso painted on October 8th, in a flourish of portraits that celebrate the artist's new mistress, declaring her newly established pride of place in the artist's life and work.

In each of the three October paintings, Jacqueline is seated on the floor; in a compact, crouching pose, clasping her knees. From an open window behind her, golden light fills the room. The space is likely a corner of Picasso's studio on the rue du Fournas in Vallauris, in a building that had previously housed a perfume factory, the scents from which still graced the air.

Jessica Fertig, Senior Vice President, Head of Evening Sale, Christie's New York, continued, *"We are thrilled to be bringing to market for the first time this powerful portrait of Picasso's great love Jacqueline. Picasso delighted in capturing Jacqueline's beautiful features, here rendered with a wonderfully thick impasto. Picasso embarked on his late, great period, which his biographer John Richardson succinctly defined and characterized as "l'époque Jacqueline"—It is Jacqueline's image that dominates Picasso's work from 1954 until his death, longer than any of the women who preceded her."*

The color forms in *Femme accroupie (Jacqueline)* reflect Picasso's admiration for Matisse's distinctive cut outs. Less than a month after completing the present portrait, Matisse, who was the only living artist whom Picasso recognized as his peer, passed away. A month after that Picasso commenced work on his painted variations, which would finally number fifteen in all, on Delacroix's two versions of *Les femmes d'Alger*. The series was ostensibly his tribute to the Delacroix-inspired odalisques of Matisse, to honor the memory of his longtime rival, but also an admired friend. The *Femmes d'Alger* paintings are also a declaration of affection for Jacqueline.

An homage to Delacroix had been on Picasso's mind for more than a decade, and the advent of Jacqueline, just as importantly as the idea of a tribute to Matisse, induced Picasso to undertake his own series of odalisques. Picasso had become intrigued at Jacqueline's resemblance to the odalisque crouching at lower right in the Louvre version of Delacroix's harem scene, whose face is seen in left profile.

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Public Exhibition:

London, 16-19, September
Hong Kong, 28 September-3 October
Additional Dates to be announced

Auction:

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale
13 November 2017
New York

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 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.

Alongside regular sales online, 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.*

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Images available on request

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