

# CHRISTIE'S

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## Christie's Inaugural *British Impressionist Evening Sale*

Led by Sir George Clausen,

John Singer Sargent and Sir Alfred James Munnings

22 November 2017



Sir George Clausen, R.A., R.W.S. (1852-1944)

*Evening Song*

oil on canvas, 38 ½ x 48 ¾ in. (97.8 x 122.9 cm.)

Estimate: £1,200,000 - 1,800,000

**LONDON** – Christie's inaugural *British Impressionism Evening Sale* on 22 November 2017 will present a strong selection of work from leading artists working in Britain from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, who were inspired by French Impressionism and plein-air painting. In the spirit of their Pre-Raphaelite predecessors, they were reacting against what went before, and these artists brought fresh air, light and a new fluidity into the Victorian age. Like their fellow artists in France and North America, such as Monet, Pissarro and John Singer Sargent, this varied group of artists abandoned the formal and highly-structured training of the prevailing schools and academies, and sought a new, more relaxed form of painting using rapid, broken brushstrokes to capture the nuances of light and shade. They sought inspiration across the channel in the rural artists' colonies such as Grez-sur-Loing and Pont Aven, where they painted everyday life en plein air. The sale will be led by *Evening Song* by Sir George Clausen (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000), who along with fellow artist John Lavery, visited Grez and encountered the inspirational teachings of

Jules Bastien-Lepage. Additional highlights of the sale include *Girl reading by a stream* by John Singer Sargent (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) and *The White Canoe* by Sir Alfred James Munnings (estimate: £500,000-700,000). The evening sale will be followed by the *British Impressionism Day Sale* on 23 November. The works will be on view and open to the public from 18 November.

The sale complements Tate Britain's current exhibition, *Impressionists in London*, which highlights the French Impressionist painters who came to the capital to escape the Franco-Prussian War and explore the possibilities offered by the fastest-growing and wealthiest city of the period. Despite hostility from critics, their pictures of London and its environs introduced a new generation of artists in Britain to contemporary subject matter, and most importantly their emphasis on the transient effects of light.

To view a guide to British Impressionists, please click [here](#).

To view the sale catalogue, please click [here](#).

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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.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*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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