

For Immediate Release

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PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF JACQUES GOUDSTIKKER TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JULY



Gerrit Berckheyde (1638-1698)

The Plaats, the Hague, with an elegant hawking party

Estimate: £300,000-400,000

Important Old Master and British Pictures
Including Property from the Collection of Jacques Goudstikker
5 and 6 July 2007, King Street

London – The second sale of works from the Collection of Jacques Goudstikker will be offered at the auction of *Important Old Master and British Pictures* on 5 July 2007 at Christie's London. Following on from Part One which took place on 19 April in New York and totaled \$9,741,200, the collection is arguably the most important collection of Old Master pictures ever restituted and offers an overview of Dutch Old Master pictures from the 15th to 19th centuries, together with excellent examples from 16th century Germany, early Italian and 18th century French works. Part Three of the Goudstikker Collection will be offered at the auction of *Old Master Pictures* at Christie's Amsterdam on 14 November 2007.

The auction on 5 July will offer 35 lots from the collection of Jacques Goudstikker highlighted by an altarpiece by The Master of the Pauw and Zas Altarpiece, *circa* 1520, one of only two surviving works from

the Carthusian monastery of Nieuwlicht outside of Utrecht, the other being Jan van Eyck's *Virgin with Saints and Donor* (Frick Collection, New York) (estimate: £1,000,000 to £1,500,000). *The Plaats, the Hague, with an elegant hawking party* by Gerrit Berckheyde (1638-1698) is one of the most accomplished of a number of views of the city that the artist painted during the 1680s. The background of the picture shows a coach entering the outer courtyard from the left, with a group of figures on horseback in the foreground. The picture highlights the artist's exceptional ability in the subtle use of light and shade and is expected to realise £200,000-£400,000.

Further highlights include *A stormy landscape with a lightning bolt over the Haarlemer Meer* by Jan Josefsz. van Goyen (1596-1656) which is estimated to realise £200,000-£300,000. This atmospheric work depicts vessels caught in the rolling waves of a storm with a jagged lightning bolt tearing through the sky. A beautiful still life by Jeremias van Winghe (1578-1645), which shows a roemer on a stand with sweetmeats in a tazza and langoustines on a charger, is expected to realise £150,000-£250,000. The Collection will also offer works by David Teniers II (1610-1690), Jacob van Ruisdael (1628/9-1682) and Pietro Longhi (1700/2-1785) among others.

The Family and Restitution

These paintings formed part of Jacques Goudstikker's extensive collection of Old Master art that was looted by officers of Nazi Germany during its occupation of the Netherlands in the early 1940s. Mr. Goudstikker, his wife Desi and his only son Edo fled Holland on May 14, 1940, when Nazi troops invaded. He was forced to leave behind his business and 1,400 art works, but did take with him a black notebook that meticulously recorded over 1,000 of his pictures. This notebook has proved essential in the search for his lost stock decades later.

The family boarded a boat ultimately bound for the United States but Jacques Goudstikker tragically died in an accident while onboard. Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering looted the Goudstikker gallery with the assistance of his agent, Alois Miedl, and took the best of the collection back to Germany. Miedl managed his own 'art dealership' on the Goudstikker gallery's premises through the war years. About 280 paintings from the Goudstikker collection were returned by the Allies to the Dutch authorities after the war, but rather than restitute the paintings to the family, as the Allies had anticipated, the Dutch authorities retained them, over the family's protests, and incorporated them into the Dutch national collection.

In 1998, the Goudstikker heirs began a protracted legal battle to win back the pictures. In February 2006 the Dutch Government, based on the advice of its Restitutions Committee, resolved the largest outstanding claim to Nazi-looted art in the Netherlands by restituting 200 works to Marei von Saher and her daughters, the heirs of Jacques Goudstikker.

Further highlights from the auction of *Important Old Master and British Pictures*

A masterpiece by Raffaello Sanzio, called Raphael (1483-1520) will also be offered at the auction of *Important Old Master and British Pictures* on 5 July 2007 in London. One of only a handful of paintings by the artist to remain in private hands, the work portrays Lorenzo de' Medici, Duke of Urbino and ruler of Florence from 1513 to 1519, and has not been seen in public for over 40 years. The most important Renaissance portrait to

be offered at auction for a generation, and the most important work by the artist to be offered at auction in recent decades, it is expected to realise £10,000,000 to £15,000,000.

The auction will also offer a masterpiece by the Baroque master **Domenico Zampieri, Il Domenichino** (1581-1641). *The Pietà*, which was exhibited at the recent exhibition *Domenichino 1581-1641* at the Palazzo Venezia, Rome from October 1996 to January 1997, is expected to realise £2,500,000 to £3,500,000. Leading the selection of important British pictures is a masterpiece by **Sir Peter Lely** (1618-1680) traditionally considered to depict a favoured mistress of King Charles II, and thought to have been a work owned by the King and kept in the Royal bedchamber at the Palace of Whitehall. *Portrait of a young lady and child as Venus and Cupid* by Sir Peter Lely, the finest painter of the Restoration and official artist to Charles II, is being offered at the auction by the Trustees of the Denys Eyre Bower Bequest and is expected to realise £1,500,000-£2,000,000 (see separate release). Another highlight of the sale is the swagger *Portrait of Philip Gell* (1723-1795) by **Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A.** (1723-1792) which carries an estimate of £1,500,000-£2,500,000.

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Images available on request
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Notes to Editors:

- *Important Old Master and British Pictures* will be on public view at Christie's, King Street, from 30 June to 5 July 2007. See www.christies.com for further details.
- Christie's *International Old Master Department* realised an annual sales total of £146 million / \$264.3 million / €213.2 million in 2006. This built on the success of 2005 and reaffirms Christie's position as market leaders in both the Old Master Picture and Old Master Drawing categories, increasing market share against the nearest competitors to 54.5% for the Old Master Category as a whole.
- Christie's has an unrivalled expertise in the field of Old Master Pictures, and hold major auctions of Important Old Masters twice a year in both London and New York. Christie's also hold regular sales of Old Master Pictures in the more regional markets of France, Italy, Holland, Spain and Christie's South Kensington.
- In July 2007 Christie's will host a week of auctions dedicated to classical collecting categories and including an impressive selection of old master paintings and drawings, European furniture, sculpture, tapestries and important clocks. All works of art will be on public view before going under the hammer between 3 and 6 July. See www.christies.com for further details.