

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

April 24, 2009

Contact: Erin McAndrew 212.636.2680 emcandrew@christies.com

**WORKS BY LEGER, CHAGALL, BONNARD AND KANDINSKY  
HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART  
WORKS ON PAPER AND DAY SALES ON MAY 7**



**Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper  
Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale  
May 7, 2009**

**New York** – Fernand Léger, Marc Chagall, Pierre Bonnard and Wassily Kandinsky are among the artists to be featured at Christie's *Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper* and *Day* sales on Thursday, May 7. With nearly 200 works in prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$700,000, the two sales are expected to realize a combined total in excess of \$16 million. The auctions follow Christie's *Evening Sale* of Impressionist and Modern Art, to be held on Wednesday, May 6.

Christie's  
20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020  
phone 212.636.2680 fax 212.636.4951  
www.christies.com

## Day Sale

Leading the *Day Sale* is *Le cinq de trèfle* from 1947 by Léger (pictured, page one - estimate: \$500,000-700,000), a vibrant still life painted in the year after the close of World War II and the artist's return to his native France. Executed in bright primary hues, the composition brings together everyday domestic objects – dice, cards and counters – with an array of plants, flowers and odd, biomorphic forms that hints at Léger's continued fascination with Surrealism. *Le cinq de trèfle* is offered from the Hauert Family Collection, which has owned the painting for 38 years. The late Roger Hauert was both legal counsel and friend to several celebrated artists, including Georges Braque, André Derain, and Léger himself. The upcoming sale marks the painting's first appearance at public auction.



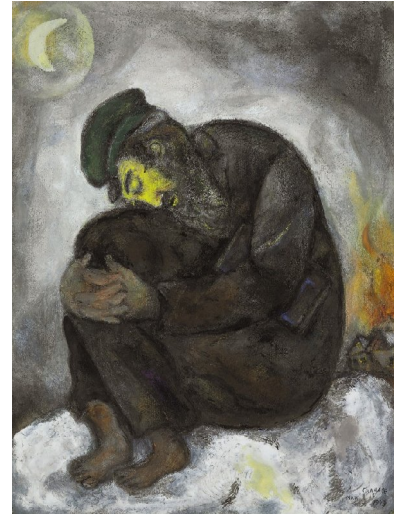
Among the additional highlights of the *Day Sale* is Pierre Bonnard's *Anemones* from 1917 (pictured at left - estimate: \$400,000-600,000), an exquisite floral still life that was previously in the collection of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1964-1999. An earlier Bonnard landscape *Poules blanches au bord de l'eau* from circa 1915 (estimate: \$150,000-200,000) comes from the estate of Fred S. Strauss, a well-known American businessman and philanthropist who acquired the work in 1966. Both paintings date from Bonnard's early days in idyllic Veronnet, a small village overlooking the Seine that was only a short walk from Claude Monet's home in Giverny. A second highlight from the Strauss estate is Monet's *L'Eglise de Vétheuil* from 1881 (estimate: \$400,000-600,000), an exceptional Impressionist landscape that depicts the riverside hamlet of Vétheuil and its landmark 12th century church.

Kandinsky's *Kochel-Gabriele Münter* from 1902 (estimate: \$300,000-400,000) and *Kallmunz-Vilsgasse I (Rosa Landschaft)* from 1903 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) are two exceptional works originally owned by Gabriele Münter, the artist's young lover and student who later became a celebrated artist in her own right. Painted with a palette knife in simple thick strokes, *Kallmunz-Vilsgasse I (Rosa Landschaft)* is a *plein air* work that captures the picturesque medieval village where Kandinsky and Münter lived and painted together in the months leading up to their engagement. Both paintings are fresh to the market, having been held in a private collection since the 1960's.

Among the sculpture highlights of the *Day Sale* are a number of large-scale surrealist bronzes by Joan Miró: *Personnage*, conceived in 1978 and cast in 1985 (estimate: \$300,000-500,000); *Projet pour un monument*, conceived in 1971 (estimate: \$250,000-350,000); *Tête et oiseau*, conceived in 1981 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000); and *Figure*, conceived in 1976 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000).

## Works on Paper

Earlier in the day, the *Works on Paper Sale* will present 67 lots in total, including important works from Marc Chagall and Egon Schiele. Chagall's *Talmudiste Endormi* from 1943 (pictured at right - estimate: \$400,000-600,000) references the artist's Hassidic Jewish upbringing and his own exile from his native Belarus. The image of a lone bearded man attired in the long dark coat and cap is a recurrent presence in Chagall's paintings and factors prominently in his earlier master work *Solitude* from 1933, now housed in the Tel Aviv Museum. Here, the bearded man is portrayed as barefoot and huddled against a vast snowy terrain, his native village far in the distance behind him. The work is one of four by Chagall in the morning session; others include *La dernière vision de Moïse* (estimate: \$70,000-\$100,000); *Bouquet offert à la femme au profil bleue* (estimate: \$70,000-\$100,000); and *Peintre et l'Opéra de Paris* (estimate: \$60,000-\$80,000).



A 1928 drawing by Egon Schiele, *Mutter und kind* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) is from the Serge and Vally Sabarsky Collection, the source of three major Schiele drawings included in the *Evening Sale* on May 6. With *Mutter und kind*, the artist uses an unusual vantage point to capture his two subjects in a complicated tableau: the mother, faceless and shown from the back, appears to lunge forward to engulf the child's small body with her own. Executed in the last year of the artist's short life, the drawing is remarkable for its elegant and restrained draughtmanship. Earlier in the sale is a second Schiele drawing, *Sitzendes Mädchen mit but, onanierend* from 1913-1914, which bears the second image *Madchenakt* on the verso (estimate: \$150,000-200,000).

*E-catalogues for the Impressionist and Modern Evening, Works on Paper, and Day Sales  
now available online at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

|                 |                                                |                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Auction:</b> | <b>Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper</b> | <b>May 7 at 10am</b> |
|                 | <b>Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale</b>   | <b>May 7 at 2pm</b>  |
| <b>Viewing:</b> | <b>Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza</b>        | <b>May 1-6</b>       |

## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 70 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London,

New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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

# # #

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

