

For Immediate Release
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Christie's Salon d'Art

Hotel Gritti Palace, Venice

7 – 9 June 2007

Open to the public: 10am – 8:30pm

CHRISTIE'S TO SHOWCASE SUMMER SALES MASTERPIECES IN ITS THIRD SALON D'ART AT THE VENICE BIENNALE

London - Christie's, the world's leading fine art business, will be hosting its third Salon d'Art during the Venice Biennale, which will be open to the general public from 7-9 June at the enchanting Hotel Gritti Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel. The specially curated exhibition will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to view masterpieces from Christie's *Old Master Pictures*, *Impressionist and Modern*, and *Post-War and Contemporary Art* sales before they go under the hammer in late June and early July in London.

“We are delighted to be returning to Venice with Christie's Salon d'Art in what is now becoming a traditional arts event during the Venice Biennale. Six years ago Christie's first pioneered staging exhibitions in Venice alongside the Biennale, showcasing stunning vistas of Venice by Old Master painters together with spectacular Modern and Impressionist masterpieces and Post-war and Contemporary art. Christie's is committed to bringing its most important international highlights on view to its clients around the globe, and the Venice Biennale offers a unique opportunity to participate in one of the major artistic platforms in the world.” commented **Jussi Pykkänen, President of Christie's Europe**.

Highlights from the Christie's forthcoming sale of *Important Old Master Pictures* on 5 July in London include a superb pair of Venetian views by **Francesco Guardi** (Venice 1712-1793) depicting the city's most famous square, *Piazzetta San Marco looking East* and the *Piazzetta San Marco looking South* (estimate for the pair: £800,000-1,000,000).

The *Impressionist and Modern* sale section of the exhibition is led by a work by **Claude Monet**, *Waterloo Bridge, temps couvert* (estimate: £6,000,000-7,000,000), which will be offered at the London sales scheduled for 18-19 June. Other works from this category on view include a watercolor on paper by **Egon Schiele**, *Liegender weiblicher Akt*, (estimate: £600,000-700,000) a painting by **Pablo Picasso**, *Nu Assis (Dora Maar)* (estimate: £1,500,000-1,750,000), and a work by **René Magritte**, *Le sabbat*, (estimate: £2,000,000-2,500,000).

Christies is also privileged to showcase selected property from the **Estate of Pierre Noel Matisse**.

The grandson of Henri Matisse and younger son of the dealer Pierre Matisse and Alexina (Teeny)

Duchamp, Pierre Noel Matisse inherited a rich trove of family pictures, objects and sculpture. Included in this collection are Paintings, Drawings, Sculptures and Prints by Matisse, original textiles used by Matisse as inspiration and a representative group of works by artists who were represented by Pierre Matisse, including Klein, Giacometti and Miro. The exhibition encapsulates the artistic movements in Paris over the course of the past century through this one singular family collection.

Among the major post war and contemporary works featured are the superb highlights from the forthcoming sale of, in particular paintings by Britain's most eminent Post-War artists, **Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon**. The section of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* on 20 & 21 June 2007 exhibit is led by the most important painting by Lucian Freud ever to appear at auction, *Bruce Bernard*, 1992, which is expected to set a new world auction record for the artist (estimate: £4,500,000-5,500,000). The work comes from the *Elaine and Melvin Merians Collection*, which includes a range of 21 major works by the so-called School of London artists, which all appear at auction for the first time. Two other significant works from this group are Francis Bacon's *Two Men Working in a Field*, 1971 (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000), and *Landscape with Car*, 1945-46. (estimate: £4,000,000-6,000,000).

Also on display from the sales of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* are works from *The Ernesto Esposito Collection*. A world renowned art collector and a visionary shoe designer who has worked with the fashion houses of Marc Jacobs, Chloé and Louis Vuitton, Mr Esposito was a close personal friend of Andy Warhol and the last person to be painted by the artist. Comprising 12 works spanning five decades from the 1960s to the present day, the selection includes well-known artists such as Andy Warhol, Peter Doig, Keith Haring and Mel Ramos. A highlight from this collection is **Andy Warhol's** (1928-1987), *Vesuvius*, 1985 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). Living in Naples, Italy with Mount Vesuvius nearby, the work is a fitting testament to the close personal friendship Mr Esposito had with Andy Warhol.

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Notes to Editors

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

The Luxury Collection, part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Hotel Gritti Palace has stood at the centre of Venetian life since the 15th century and is today proud to be a member of The Luxury Collection. Once again this year the Hotel Gritti Palace will be home to the Christie's Salon d'Art and this historic, famous building will provide the perfect setting to display the precious works of art. The established collaboration between The Luxury Collection and Christie's to further the appreciation and enjoyment of art and culture around the world, is also supported by similar collaborations across Europe with other Starwood Hotels such as Rome's St Regis Grand, the Hotel Imperial, Vienna and Hotel Alfonso XIII, Seville which will host Christie's preview of Spanish Art prior to the Madrid sale in October 2007.

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