

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 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 *Important Old Master and British 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 Pyllkänen, President of Christie's Europe**.

Among the works on view is a masterpiece by **Raffaello Sanzio, called Raphael** (1483-1520) to be auctioned during Christie's *Important Old Master and British Pictures* sale 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 between £10,000,000-15,000,000. Further highlights from the forthcoming London sale 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 Art* section of the exhibition is led by a masterpiece by **Claude Monet**, (1840-1926) *Waterloo Bridge, temps couvert*, 1904 (estimate: £6,000,000-8,000,000), which will be offered in the

London evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* on 18 June. Other works from this category on view include a wonderful early landscape by **Alfred Sisley** (1839-1899), *La Route de Marly-le-Roi*, 1875 (estimate: £1,600,000-2,400,000), and, from a Private American Collection *Le Pont Neuf, naufrage de la Bonne Mère*, 1901 (estimate: £2,200,3,200,000) by **Camille Pissarro** (1830-1903), a painting by **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973), *Nu Assis (Dora Maar)*, 1939 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000), and a work by **René Magritte**, (1898-1967) *Le sabbat*, 1959 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000), and an early museum-quality work by **Giorgio Morandi** (1890-1964), *Natura Morta*, 1920 (estimate: £900,000-1,200,000).

Christie's is also privileged to showcase selected property from the **Estate of Pierre Noël Matisse**. The grandson of Henri Matisse and younger son of the dealer Pierre Matisse and Alexina (Teeny) Duchamp, Pierre Noël Matisse inherited a rich trove of family pictures, objects and sculptures. 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 Noël Matisse, including Klein, Giacometti and Miró. The exhibition encapsulates the artistic movements in Paris over the course of the past century through this one singular family collection.

The section of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* is lead by the most important portrait 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, including Francis Bacon's *Two Men Working in a Field*, 1971 (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000), which all appear at auction for the first time. A further significant work by Francis Bacon, *Landscape with Car*, 1945-46 (estimate: £4,000,000-6,000,000) will also be exhibited.

Further 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 on view 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.

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 & Resorts 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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