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Contacts: Carine Decroi +331 40 76 85 88 cdecroi@christies.com
Beverly Bueninck +331 40 76 84 08 bbueninck@christies.com

Former Collection of Jeanne and Fernand Moch
Christie's 22 May 2012 in Paris

Auguste Renoir (1841-1919)
Femme au corsage rouge et au chapeau noir

Paris – Christie's department of *Impressionist and Modern Art* is pleased to present the sale of the *Former Collection of Jeanne and Fernand Moch* on 22 May 2012. Estimated to realise between €2.7 and €4.2 million, this collection comprises 27 lots and is presented at auction for the first time. Fernand Moch (1863-1945) and his wife Jeanne's passion for Impressionist and Modern art is evident in this collection which they gathered throughout their lives.

As co-founder of one of the main establishments of the French wool industry, Moch and Odelin, Fernand Moch was integral to both reinvigorating industry in Reims after the Armistice and the rebuilding of the textile industry after the First World War. Between the First and Second World War Fernand Moch became one of the most influential merchants of the period, supplying the most prestigious factories in France and worldwide. He also began to be seen as an increasingly important art collector; with the support of his wife Jeanne, Moch began to compile a rich collection of impressionist and modern works of art, some of which can now be seen in some of the world's most important international museums. Moch acquired works by both the established masters of impressionism and the young promising artists; *Cathédrale de Rouen* and *Pont du Charing Cross* by Claude Monet (1840-1926), several major pieces by Vincent Van Vogh (1853-1890) such as *l'Heure de Midi* (1889), oil paintings by Paul Gauguin (1848-1903), Henri Matisse (1869-1954) and Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), and also several beautiful works on paper executed by Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) and Auguste Renoir (1841-1919).

Works by Renoir are especially predominant in this sale; a pastel drawing, *Femme au corsage rouge et au chapeau noir* (*illustrated page 1*) is expected to realise between €400,000 and €600,000. *Gabrielle et Jean Renoir* (*illustrated left*), a charcoal and pastel drawing which shows the future film-maker with his nanny. Using children as models was a recurring theme in Renoir's oeuvre. Other important paintings by the artist on offer include, *Femme dans un paysage de Cagnes*, executed during his extended stay in the South of France (estimate: €300,000-500,000). In 1903, Renoir settled in Cagnes-sur-Mer with his family, as it was thought the Southern French climate would be favourable to his health. His paintings of this period, inspired by the region where he resided for the remainder of his life, are brilliant and vivid thanks to his use of fluid oil which gave more transparency and reflected the light of Southern France.

Henri Matisse (1869-1954)
Paysage de Corse

Camille Pissarro (1830-1903)
La gardeuse d'oies

Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947)
Le régime de dattes

Other highlights include works by Pierre Bonnard; a beautiful still life entitled *Le régime de dattes (illustrated above right*), estimated between €150,000 and €250,000, and a gouache and watercolor on paper entitled *Le Cannet*, realised after 1926 when the artist settled on the French Riviera (estimate: 100,000-200,000). Henri Matisse is also represented in the sale with a youthful oil painting, *Paysage de Corse,* executed in 1898 during his honeymoon (estimate: €180,000-250,000, *illustrated above left*).

Further highlights of the collection include two beautiful works by Camille Pissarro; *Paysanne attachant son soulier,* 1885 (estimate: €400,000-600,000) with an almost photographic approach and *La gardeuse d'oies* (*illustrated above centre*), a masterpiece on silk executed in 1888 (estimate: €300,000-500,000). During this time, the painter settled in l'Eure in Normandy where the theme of rural life became central to his work. Here, Pissarro explored pointillism as he worked with his friend George Seurat (1859-1881).

A more modern gouache painting by Marc Chagall (1887-1985) is also on offer; *Le Ruisseau* was acquired by the descendants of the couple who also inherited the same passion for art. Estimated at €180,000-250,000, it was executed by the artist in 1926, a few years after he met Ambroise Vollard, which resulted in him realising the famous series of the Fables of Jean de La Fontaine.

Sale: Tuesday 22 May 2012 à 17 pm.
Exhibition: Saturday 19 May from 10 am to 6 pm, Monday 21 May from 10am to 6pm and Thursday 22 May from 10am to 5pm**.**
Christie's: 9 avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris

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Images and catalogue available on request

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