

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 15 OCTOBER 2014
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MANET, MAGRITTE, MATISSE, PICASSO, LÉGER AND MIRÓ:

CHRISTIE'S NOVEMBER 5 EVENING SALE IN NEW YORK PRESENTS MASTER WORKS OF THE IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN MOVEMENTS



Left: HENRI MATISSE, *Nu assis, fond bleu*, oil on canvas, 1936, \$4-6million

Center: FERNAND LÉGER, *Les constructeurs avec arbre*, oil on canvas, 1949-1950, \$16-22million | Right: EDOUARD MANET, *Le Printemps*, oil on canvas, 1881, \$25-35million

New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the full roster of highlights from its upcoming *Evening Sale* of Impressionist & Modern Art at Rockefeller Center on November 5. Led by two pivotal works of the Impressionist and Modern movements – **Edouard Manet's *Le Printemps*** (estimate: \$25-35 million) and **Fernand Léger's *Les constructeurs avec arbre*** (\$16-22 million) – the sale's forty offerings reflect current collector demand for works of great rarity, strong provenance, and exceptional museum exhibition history. 90% of the works featured in the sale come fresh to the market, having remained in private collections for a decade or more, while nearly 80% of the works have been featured in a museum exhibition.

*"We have assembled a sale tailored to the refined tastes of our global collecting community, keeping exceptional quality and rarity as our guiding principles. The resulting sale is an exciting, sweeping representation of the Impressionist and Modern eras in European Art, embracing multiple mediums and movements and tracing the evolution of art from Impressionism through to Cubism, and on to Surrealism in each of the media instructive to these genres. Matisse's *Nu assis, fond bleu* and a suite of cubist works by Picasso, Braque, Gris and Severini, are particularly thrilling to offer alongside the openings of the Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs and Cubism: The Leonard A. Lauder Collection exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum in New York,"* noted **Brooke Lampley, Head of Department, Impressionist & Modern Art.**

Impressionist Highlights:

- **EDOUARD MANET**, *Le Printemps*, oil on canvas, 1881, \$25-35 million
- **CLAUDE MONET**, *Port-Coton: Le Lion*, oil on canvas, 1886, \$3-5 million
- **PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR**, *La jeune fille au cygne ou La jeune fille au héron*, oil on canvas, 1886, \$5-7 million
- **CAMILLE PISSARRO**, *Laveuse dans le jardin d'Eragny*, oil on canvas 1899, \$1.4-1.8 million

Cubist Highlights:

- **PABLO PICASSO**, *Guitare*, oil on canvas, 1920, \$3.3-5 million
- **GEORGES BRAQUE**, *Guitare et rhum*, oil on canvas, 1918, \$2-3 million
- **PABLO PICASSO**, *Figure*, paper collage, pen and black ink and pencil on paper, 1913, \$1.5-2.5 million
- **GINO SEVERINI**, *Etude pour Autoportrait au canotier*, charcoal, pastel and white and blue chalk on buff paper, 1912-1913, \$1-1.5 million

Surrealist Highlights

- **RENÉ MAGRITTE**, *Mesdemoiselles de l'Isle Adam*, oil on canvas, 1942, \$5-7 million
- **RENÉ MAGRITTE**, *L'ombre celeste*, oil on canvas, 1927, \$2-3 million
- **RENÉ MAGRITTE**, *La vie privée*, oil on canvas, 1946, \$1-1.5 million
- **PAUL DELVAUX**, *Faubourg*, oil on panel, 1956, \$450,000-550,000

Modern Highlights:

- **FERNAND LÉGER**, *Les constructeurs avec arbre*, oil on canvas, 1949-1950, \$16-22 million
- **JOAN MIRÓ**, *Tuilerie à Mont-roig*, oil on canvas, 1918, \$5-8 million
- **JOAN MIRÓ**, *Peinture*, oil on canvas, 1953, \$5-8 million
- **HENRI MATISSE**, *Nu assis, fond bleu*, oil on canvas, 16 November-6 December 1936, \$4-6 million

FERNAND LÉGER, *LES CONSTRUCTEURS AVEC ARBRE*, 1949-1950

Fernand Léger's *Les constructeurs avec arbre*, (estimate: \$16-22 million) – *pictured on page 1, center*, is an important example from the artist's rarely offered and highly coveted *Constructors* series. Known as the "painter of the machine age", Léger was captivated by themes of construction and engineering, using them in his work as a symbol of man's creative power in an industrialized modern world. In the years 1949-1950, he painted *Les constructeurs avec arbre*, using it as the model for the what would become the final acclaimed painting in this series, *Les constructeurs à l'aloès*.

- The *Constructor* series is Léger's homage to the salt-of-the-earth working man, both as a class within French society and in the industrialized world generally, and as a more universal symbol of *homo faber* — man the maker and builder.
- The emphasis that Léger devoted to the configuration of the four workmen in this study resulted in this picture becoming the most strongly characterized of the large compositions in this series.
- At the upper left, one of the four construction workers perched on the girders of this building-in-progress is applying his muscular physique to the job. Two other men exchange greetings, and the fourth, perhaps a member of the architectural team that designed this structure, gazes dreamily away from the scene. **This figure is thought to be Léger's portrayal of himself as a young man.**

EDOUARD MANET'S, *LE PRINTEMPS*, 1881

Currently on an international tour to Asia and Europe, the top lot of the Evening Sale is Edouard Manet's masterpiece portrait, *Le Printemps* (estimate: \$25-35 million) – *pictured on page 1, right*. Encapsulating all the major themes of the early modern period, from nature and femininity to society and fashion, *Springtime* is one of Manet's best known and most widely reproduced works, and perfectly exemplifies the revolutionary style that Manet embraced.

- The portrait depicts the actress Jeanne Demarsy, cast as an allegory of spring. She also appears in the background of Manet's iconic scene *Un bar aux Folies-Bergere*. Both paintings were exhibited at the Paris Salon of 1882, and together they sealed Manet's fame as a titan of modern-era painting.
- This masterwork comes completely fresh to the market, having remained in the same collection for over a century and been on loan for the last two decades at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. **Of the 30 paintings that Manet exhibited at the Salon over the course of his lifetime, this is the last remaining in private hands.**
- Proceeds from its sale will benefit a private American foundation supporting environmental, public health and other charitable causes.
- [Click here to view Adrien Meyer, International Director of Impressionist & Modern Art, discuss Edouard Manet's *Le Printemps*.](#)
- [Click here to view the complete press release.](#)

RENÉ MAGRITTE, Master of Surrealism

In keeping with growing demand for Surrealist works, particularly by René Magritte, Christie's is pleased to present three important works by the Belgian master, each representing a distinct period and theme in the artist's career.

***Mesdemoiselles de l'Isle Adam*, oil on canvas, 1942, \$5-7million – pictured right**

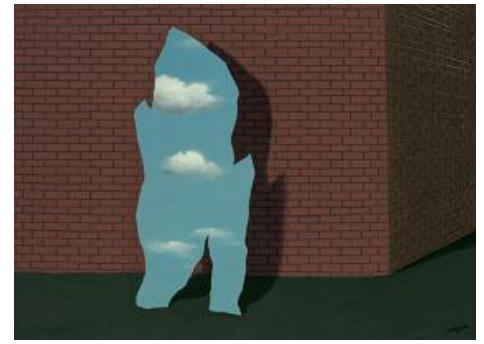
- *Mesdemoiselles de l'Isle Adam* belonged to Gustave Nellens, owner of the seaside Casino Communal at Knokke-Le-Zoute in Belgium, who commissioned Magritte in 1953 to design the panoramic mural *Le domaine enchanté*.



- Monumental in size, *Mesdemoiselles de l'Isle Adam*, encompasses two of the artist's signature elements, the nude female, and a blue sky, which Magritte fashions as both the background and the foreground with his dexterous use of cut-outs.

***L'ombre céleste*, oil on canvas, 1927, \$2-3million – pictured right**

- Magritte painted *L'ombre céleste* in 1927, in the first of three years that he spent in Paris. Magritte's time in Paris has been described as the most creative period in his career.
- This work was included in MoMA's controversial and groundbreaking exhibition, *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism* from December 1936-January 1937.
- *L'ombre céleste* was acquired by Beth Straus in the early 1960's from the New Art Center in New York, with whom it remained until 1976, when the present owner received it by descent.



***La vie privée*, oil on canvas, painted in April 1946, \$1-1.5million**

- The artist explained the title, *La vie privée*, saying "Every person has a private life which, on further acquaintance, can be perceived as through a window".

CUBISME: Property from The Melamed Family Collection

A cornerstone of the Evening Sale is the Melamed Collection, one of the foremost American collections of Cubist Art. Started in 1944, the collection features works by the greatest masters of the movement, including Picasso, Braque, Léger, Gris, Villon, Marcoussis, Gleizes, and Metzinger, among others. Over 50 works from the Collection will be featured in Christie's November sales, including three important selections for the Evening Sale:

- **Picasso's *Figure*** (estimate: \$1.5-2.5million) – pictured right, **Picasso's *Tête de femme*** (estimate: estimate: \$1-1.5million), and **Severini's *Etude pour "Autoportrait au canotier"*** (estimate: \$1-1.5million), all of which have been featured in major museum exhibitions, in keeping with the Melamed's commitment to sharing their collection with the general public.
- The importance of the Melamed collection was underscored by the curators of a 1982 exhibition for the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. entitled, "The Cubist Print". After exploring all the leading museums collections, the curators wrote that **"...it soon became clear that the largest, most comprehensive collection of Cubist Prints was not in the public domain, but in the knowledgeable private hands of Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Melamed."**



EGON SCHIELE – A Rare Landscape

Egon Schiele's *Stadt am blauen Fluss (Krumau)*, was executed in the summer of 1910, at a critical turning point in the artist's career (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) - pictured right. Schiele traded the claustrophobic confines of Vienna for the summer in favor of the Bohemian landscape, seeking to pare down his style of landscape painting to its most essential elements, just as he had with figure painting previously. The metamorphosis can be seen in 10 landscape paintings from that summer though the present landscape is one of only three outdoor subjects executed that year in non-opaque watercolor.

- Schiele visualized the scene from a bluff overlooking the Moldau River, gazing toward a bend in the river on the eastern outskirts of the medieval Bohemian town of Krumau.
- In contrast to the technique of post-Impressionist brushwork, Schiele allowed his fluid colors loose rein, contained within a framework of quickly drawn lines; the composition of *Stadt am blauen Fluss* is a startling demonstration of distance and space, stacked vertically in the flat modernist manner.
- This rare landscape represents one of the most stunning stylistic transformations to have been achieved in 20th century painting. *Stadt am blauen Fluss* is being offered for sale pursuant to the successful resolution of a restitution settlement agreement between the consignor and the Grünbaum Heirs, which allows for clear title to the work.



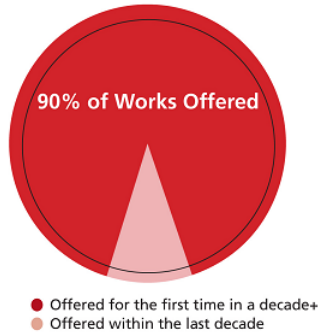
NOTE TO EDITORS

The record for a work by Édouard Manet at auction was set by *Portrait de Manet par lui-même, en buste (Manet à la palette)*, which sold for 22,441,250 GBP (\$33,279,822 USD) in June 2010.

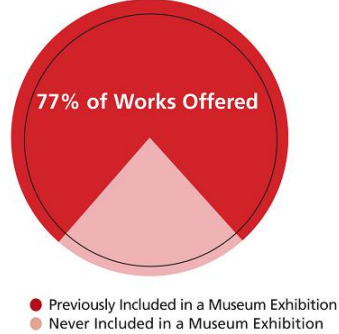
SALE STATISTICS

The Evening Sale of Impressionist and Modern Art on November 5 will be comprised of 40 works total, primarily offered from individual private collectors who recognize the strength of the current market for conservatively estimated works of exceptional quality and rarity. **Overall, 46% of the lots featured in the sale have never been offered at auction before.**

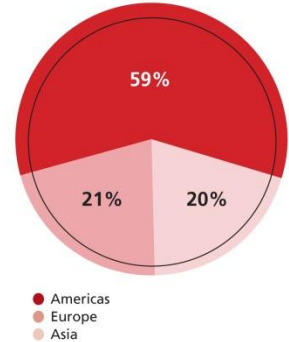
WORKS OFFERED FRESH TO MARKET
For the First Time in 10+ Years



PROVENANCE AND EXHIBITION HISTORY
Works Featured in Museum Exhibitions



NEW BIDDERS BY REGION
Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sales
Last 3 Years, Christie's New York



The Market

The global market for new bidders in the category of Impressionist and Modern Art at Christie's is expanding globally, expanding the geographic footprint of countries that are represented in each sale. In New York, during the first half of 2014, bidders from 36 different countries participated in the Evening and Day sales in this category. But while international growth is expanding the footprint, **new competition from domestic bidders adds an exciting dynamic.** North and South American collectors together represent the strongest influx of new bidders over the last three seasons, with Asia and Europe (including Russia and the Middle East) contributing an equal portion of new bidders (see above).

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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Images available on request

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