

CHRISTIE'S

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COURBET, MILLET, AND BÉRAUD LEAD CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK SPRING SALE OF 19TH CENTURY EUROPEAN ART

New York - On April 28, Christie's will present the spring sale of *19th Century European Art* in New York, which will feature works of exceptional quality by Jean-François Millet, Gustave Courbet, Jean Béraud, Louis Marie de Schryver, Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida and others. Comprised of 72 carefully selected lots mostly sourced from private US collections, the sale will appeal to discerning collectors and showcases a full spectrum of styles.

Leading the sale is **Gustave Courbet's** *Les Récits de la Grand-Mère Salvan (Les trois soeurs de Courbet)* (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). Courbet's early *oeuvre* is notable for the large number of portraits he painted of his immediate family and close friends. The importance of the present work is that it differs from the Romantic, almost troubadour style of his first portraits and self-portraits. The scene is observed as if through a half-open door, with a strong contrast between the blurred background shadows and the strongly lit, well-defined features of the four women. It is perhaps no coincidence that Courbet was to maintain possession of this painting until almost the end of his life, selling it only in 1874 when in need of funds after his exile to Switzerland.



Among the Barbizon School highlights is **Jean-François Millet's** *Woodcutter in the Forest* (estimate: \$300,000-500,000), painted shortly after Millet's arrival in Barbizon, the small village outside the Forest of Fontainebleau. *Woodcutter in the Forest* is one of Millet's first successful efforts to shape a substantial painting around these characteristic laborers. As an object, *Woodcutter in the Forest* is unusual, for on the back of the wooden panel Millet sketched a life study of a young woman removing linens from a closet. Together, the

forest and household scenes provide a vivid measure of the breadth of Millet's creative interests during these vital years around 1850. Frequently returning to a page of sketches to make another drawing on the verso, *Woodcutter in the Forest* is the only known instance in which Millet used the back of a painted panel to start another composition. This sketch in bright sanguine crayon of a young housewife has an unexpected air of casual intimacy and is a reminder that Millet would later become one of the most observant chroniclers of women's daily labors since the 17th century.

The sale also features a strong selection of works from the *Belle Époque*. Consigned from an important Midwestern collection is **Jean Béraud's** *Le boulevard Saint-Denis à Paris* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), which depicts a bustling day in the city. Using the architecture of Paris to set his scene, Béraud concentrates the viewer's gaze down the center of the composition, which is a *tour-de-force* of movement, color and atmosphere.

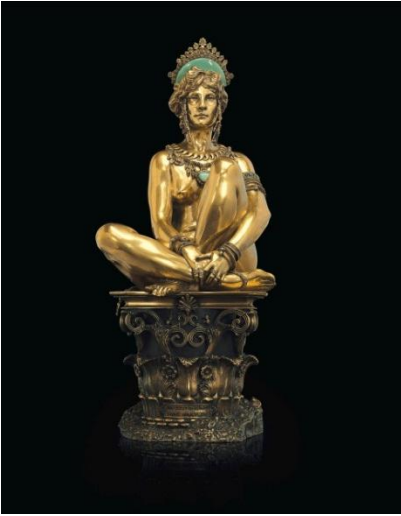


Another *Belle Époque* highlight is **Louis Marie de Schryver's** *The Little Flower Seller on the Champs-Élysées* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). As a member of the privileged upper class, de Schryver innately understood the spirit of the *Belle Époque* and the leisure activities of the fashionable set in Paris. The artist had a special affinity for the proliferation of flower vendors on the boulevards of Paris and chose them as they central focus of his *oeuvre*.



Influenced by his love for his family, **Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida's** *El beso* (estimate: \$600,000-900,000) is a poignant look at a man's dedication and passion for both his art and his loved ones. *El beso* is a tender portrait of Sorolla's daughter, Elena, kissing a bronze bust, which they kept in the house and remains in the Sorolla Museum in Madrid. Elena, barely more than a toddler, has climbed up on a chair in order to give the statue a kiss. Sorolla enhances the lightness of the moment by executing the painting in pale colors and swift, broad brushstrokes. The brushwork demonstrates the development of a more Impressionist style which Sorolla adopted later on in his career. Through the use of this light palette and quick, broad brushstrokes, Sorolla has eliminated any somber overtones that might be read into the painting and has instead captured a moment of pure emotion.





Among the sculpture highlights in the sale is **Jean-Léon Gérôme's** bronze work *Corinthe* (estimate: \$120,000-180,000). Left unfinished until the time of his death, the work was posthumously completed for the Paris *Salon* of 1904 by his assistant Louis-Emile Décorchement. Displayed in marble and seated atop a column with enamels and jewels the work was declared a 'definitive masterpiece' by critics. *Corinthe* delves deeper in its allegory of the ancient Greek city known historically as a prosperous center of trade with the Near East and Mediterranean civilizations.

The sale also features a superb selection of Orientalist pieces including work from prominent American expatriate artist **Frederick Arthur Bridgman** (estimate: \$150,000-200,000) and the popular Italian artist **Alberto Pasini** (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) as well as several works from British Maritime artist **Montague Dawson** (estimates from \$10,000).

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Alberto Pasini (Italian, 1826-1899)
Market day, a capriccio of the Old City Shores, Constantinople
oil on canvas
\$200,000-300,000



Frederick Arthur Bridgman (American, 1847-1928)
Women at the Fountain
oil on canvas
\$150,000-250,000



Federico del Campo (Peruvian, 1837-1927)
The Grand Canal, Venice
oil on canvas
\$220,000-300,000



Montague Dawson F.R.S.A., R.S.M.A. (British, 1895-1973)
Engagement between Mediator and three French and two American Ships
oil on canvas
\$70,000-100,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual 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 totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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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