**SOTHEBY’S EUROPE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**--Auctions and Exhibitions--**

February to April 2011

Sotheby’s London

**Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale**

Tuesday, 8 February, 2011

On view from 1 February

The London evening sale of Impressionist and Modern art on the evening of 8 February is led by a major work by **Picasso** – *La Lecture* of 1932 (pictured left). Estimated at £12-18 million*, it is the star lot of the season. It was painted just days apart from one of the artist’s most acclaimed paintings, *Le Rêve*, to which it is extremely close in style and composition. The subject of both paintings is Marie-Thérèse Walter, who had been the object of Picasso’s adoration since he first set eyes on her leaving the Paris Metro five years earlier. At that time, Picasso was firmly married and Marie-Thérèse was just 17, so their love affair had to remain secret. But by January 1932, Picasso could no longer resist expressing his feelings for her in his art and made these passionate first paintings of his mistress and muse, revealing his secret both to the world at large and to his own wife. The sale will also include six further paintings by Picasso as well as major works by Giacometti, Monet, Renoir, Magritte, Feininger, and one of the most important works by Marino Marini ever to come to the market.
Sotheby’s London
Looking Closely: A Private Collection
Thursday, 10 February, 2011
On view from 1 February

Sotheby’s London will offer for sale on 10 February a remarkable collection of Modern and Contemporary European Art, Looking Closely: A Private Collection. This exceptional selection of sixty works surveys a grand panorama of artistic innovation, and individually the works represent the pinnacle of creative output from masters who redefined the realm of visual culture in the twentieth century, including Salvador Dalí, Amedeo Modigliani, Alberto Giacometti, Marc Chagall, Joan Miró, Francis Bacon (Three Studies for Portrait of Lucian Freud, est. £7-9 million, pictured above), Lucian Freud, Alexander Calder and Eduardo Chillida. Collected over thirty years and now estimated to fetch in excess of £45 million, Looking Closely presents works from a legendary art historical epoch.

Sotheby’s London
Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Tuesday, 15 February, 2011
On view from 1 February

In the wake of Sotheby’s third most successful year ever (2010) for sales of Contemporary Art, the forthcoming Contemporary Art Evening Auction will feature major pieces by established Post-War and Contemporary artists as well as cutting-edge works of art and installations by the younger generation of artists practising today, in addition to important artworks by Contemporary British Artists, including: Lucio Fontana, Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol, David Hockney, Frank Auerbach, Juan Muñoz, Bridget Riley, Antony Gormley, Chris Ofili, Ged Quinn and Ai Weiwei. The Evening Auction, which will take place on 15 February, is estimated to realise in excess of £30 million, bringing the total value of Contemporary Art to be offered by Sotheby’s this February to more than £56 million. Headlining the auction will be Gerhard Richter’s Abstraktes Bild, executed in 1990, which is a breathtaking masterwork of this epic cycle (est. £5-7 million, pictured above). The sale will also feature one hundred kilograms of Ai Weiwei’s handmade porcelain Kui Hua Zi (Sunflower Seeds) and its inclusion in the upcoming sale represents the first time ever that the artist’s Sunflower Seeds have been offered at auction (est. £80,000-120,000).
Sotheby’s Paris

Gainsbourg
Monday, 28 February – Wednesday, 9 March, 2011

Sotheby’s is honoured to announce an extraordinary exhibition dedicated to one of the most admired French artists, Serge Gainsbourg. Collected in Antwerp, Belgium, by Roger Szmulewicz, director of the Fifty One Fine Art Photography gallery, this exceptional collection of photographs will be exhibited at the Galerie Charpentier from 28 February to 9 March. The exhibition will bring together key moments of this very eclectic artist’s career: from the awkward first years of his career to the great success of his hits in the Seventies, and to the final phase of the flamboyant decline of Gainsbarre, the nickname he coined for himself in the song *Ecce Homo*. Among the portraits and unpublished images are works by William Klein, Helmut Newton, Pierre Terrasson, Ulf Andersen, Patrick de Spiegelaere, Claude Gassian, Tony Frank, Xavier Martin, Alain Trellu, Guy Aelbrecht, Roberto Battistini, Jean-Jacques Bernier ou Yannick Ribeaut, and Patrick Duval.

Sotheby’s London

Musical Instruments
Tuesday, 8 March, 2011
On view from 3 March

Sotheby’s sale of Musical Instruments on 8 March will offer a violin by Jacob Stainer, the leading violin maker of the Austro-German school. This magnificent instrument is considered by many to be the finest example of Stainer’s work in existence and bears its original manuscript label dated 1659 (pictured left). Christened ‘The King’, the violin has survived the last 350 years in superb condition – almost as fresh as the day it was made – and boasts an illustrious provenance. It was first recorded in the possession of A.D. Siegert of Radebeul, Dresden, in the 1890s, hence the violin’s other moniker, Ex-Siegert. By 1921, the violin was with German dealer and connoisseur Emil Herrmann and remained “my treasured possession” for 33 years, before reluctantly being sold by him to the American financier Henry Hottinger. Herrmann’s certificate, dated 12th July 1954 and made out to Hottinger, refers to the violin as ‘The King of all the Stainers’, and praises its unsurpassable workmanship and mint condition. The violin then passed into the Nordberger collection, and, via New York dealer Rembert Wurlitzer, on to the current owner who has treasured in for the last 43 years. Stainer was in all probability a pupil of the great Cremonese violin maker Nicolo Amati. After completing his apprenticeship in Cremona, he settled
in Absam, outside Innsbruck, and was active there from about 1650 until 1680. The present violin, estimated at £100,000-150,000, is a testament to Stainer’s reputation as one of the greatest craftsmen of the seventeenth century.

Sotheby’s Amsterdam

Property from the Estate of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands: All to be Sold for the Benefit of Charity
Monday, 14 – Thursday, 17 March, 2011
On view from 8 – 13 March at Sotheby’s Amsterdam

The four-day sale will take place at the RAI Theatre, Europaplein 14, Amsterdam

Sotheby’s Amsterdam is honoured to have the opportunity to offer some 1,600 lots from the Estate of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. The sale is taking place at the instructions of the Executors on behalf of the Queen’s daughters, Her Majesty the Queen and Their Royal Highnesses Princess Irene, Princess Margriet and Princess Christina, who have stipulated that the proceeds of the sale contribute to four charities. The sale includes furniture, porcelain, glass, silver, paintings and drawings which encompass the long and varied history of the Dutch Royal family. Many come from the Palace Soestdijk where Queen Juliana lived throughout her married life, while other items come from the attics of other Royal Palaces, with many drawings and prints previously held in the Royal Archive for safe keeping. Only a small number of the pieces were acquired by Queen Juliana and her spouse Prince Bernhard, and by far the greater share was accumulated over the last 150 years from Kings Willem I, II and III, Queen Emma and Queen Wilhelmina. Many of the works still bear inventory marks and labels to show their origins in the seven Royal Palaces and Royal Residences throughout the Netherlands. ‘It is wonderful that this historical accumulation of possessions allows the daughters of Queen Juliana to make a donation to charities which they chose because of their personal association with these charities and that the public enjoy the opportunity to acquire a memento of their Late Queen Juliana,’ Mark Grol, Managing Director of Sotheby’s Amsterdam, explains.

Sotheby’s London

The Irish Sale
Tuesday, 29 March, 2011
On view from 24 March

Sotheby’s seventeenth annual Irish Sale will take place in London on 29 March and brings together works of exceptional quality that have emerged from all corners of the globe. The sale includes pieces from a range of dates, stylistic movements and mediums, and draws attention to the richness of Ireland’s longstanding artistic output. Laden
with superb and rare examples, many that have never been offered on the market, it includes works from today’s most sought after Irish artists, including Basil Blackshaw, Colin Middleton, William Scott, Louis le Brocquy and Sean Scully. Of particular note is John Lavery’s portrait of Lady Gwendoline Churchill (est. £100,000-150,000 / €121,000-182,000, pictured right) which has come from a private collection in the UK, where it has been for several generations. Having never been seen on the market, this exquisite portrait depicts Lady Gwendoline, Winston Churchill’s sister-in-law. Resurfacing from an American Private Collection, the vibrant and expressive Paysage (est. £120,000-180,000 / €146,000-218,000) by Roderic O’Conor is one of the most accomplished of the artist’s Fauvist landscapes to appear at auction. Clearly influenced by the Pont-Aven school, and most particularly the colouration of Gauguin, whom the artist worked with in France in 1894, the painting’s contrasting warm and cool tones create a shimmering effect across the surface.

Sohemy’s London
Old Master, Modern & Contemporary Prints
Wednesday, 30 March, 2011
On view from 1 – 8 February, from 25 March

On 30 March, 2011, Sotheby’s London will present for sale a magnificent collection of works on paper by Paul Gauguin that incorporates the artist’s three most significant categories of print-making activity. Executed in France and Tahiti between 1894 and 1902, the works are among the finest within Gauguin’s printed oeuvre, and together they serve to represent the most important collection of Gauguin prints to be offered at auction for over a generation. From the Collection of Stanley J. Seeger, the ten works have a well-recorded provenance that can be traced back in most cases directly to the artist. The group will lead Sotheby’s sale of Old Master, Modern and Contemporary Prints, and is estimated at £430,000-574,000. Crouching Tahitian Woman, 1901-02, estimated at £180,000-220,000 (pictured above), is a superb realisation of the traced monotype, or ‘printed drawing’ as the artist also called the method which allowed him to print clear linear compositions with coloured backgrounds. Printed in sanguine and black, and with tracing in red crayon and pencil on the reverse, the work demonstrates Gauguin’s pioneering experimentation in this medium.
Sotheby’s Paris
Regards sur l’Orient: Orientalist Paintings and Sculptures - Islamic Art
Wednesday, 30 March, 2011
On view from 25 March

Sotheby’s Paris sale Regards sur l’Orient on 30 March will feature a selection of paintings by artists who lived in Morocco. These include several works by Jacques Majorelle, landscapes and genre scenes of Moroccan day to day life; two vividly colourful works by José Cruz Herrera that evoke sensual Moroccan beauty; and a Portrait of a musician by Giuseppe Signorini, an exquisite example of the Orientalist taste of Italian artists in the nineteenth century (est. €20,000-30,000). The Islamic art section will present a splendid Iznik work of art: a blue and white mosque lamp belonging to an extremely rare group associated with the tomb chamber of Sultan Bayezid II (died 1512). Only five other examples have previously been recorded: four in the Çinili Kosk (Istanbul) and one in the British Museum (London). The lamp offered by Sotheby’s can therefore be considered an exceptional discovery (est: €20,000-30,000, pictured above). Two important and rare 18th century Moroccan jewels comprise an engraved, filigree, openwork gold and emerald pendant from Tetuan (est. €10,000-15,000); and an important seven pendants lebba necklace from Fez, inset with emeralds, rubies, precious stones and a range of ovoid pearls (est. €30,000-40,000). The lebba was a very important part of a Moroccan bride’s adornment. Here, each of the pendants is composed of the motif of the rarnati, or pomegranate, which is a recurrent motif in Moroccan jewellery of the period. These exceptional jewels illustrate the fusion of Islamic and European goldsmithing techniques.

Sotheby’s London
The Stuart Cary Welch Collection: Arts of the Islamic World
Wednesday, 6 April, 2011
On view from 1 April

Sotheby’s will offer for sale the outstanding and scholarly collection of Islamic and Indian Art assembled by the late Stuart Cary Welch. This celebrated collection, which is estimated to realise in excess of £6 million, will be offered in London in two parts: Part I. The Stuart Cary Welch Collection: Arts of the Islamic World on 6 April, and Part II. The Stuart Cary Welch Collection: Arts of India on 31 May. Among the many highlights to be offered across the two sales in 2011, the star lot (pictured left) is an illustrated leaf depicting the story of King Faridun transforming himself into a dragon to test the courage of his three sons, from one of the most famous illustrated
Persian manuscripts ever produced, the *Shahnameh* of Shah Tahmasp, also known as the “Houghton *Shahnameh*”. This royal manuscript, which was at one time owned by the Barons Edmund and Maurice de Rothschild, is acknowledged as one of the supreme illustrated manuscripts of any period or culture, and among the greatest works of art in the world. The celebrated *Shahnameh* or ‘Book of Kings’ is the Persian national epic, narrating the history and mythology of Persia from prehistoric times until the 7th century. The author, Firdausi, presented his epic poem of 30,000 couplets, the result of 35 years work, to Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna in 1010AD. It quickly became a revered and popular text associated with kings and princes, and a symbol of royal sovereignty. This particular leaf from the *Shahnameh* of Shah Tahmasp is one of the most important ever to appear on the open market and is one of the finest miniatures from the book attributable to Aqa Mirak. It is estimated at £2-3 million.

Sotheby’s Paris

**Important Furniture, Sculpture & Works of Art**

Wednesday, 6 April, 2011

On view from 2 April

Furniture with Sèvres porcelain plaques was considered the epitome of refinement by French decorative arts collectors in the eighteenth century. Sotheby’s sale of Important Furniture, Sculpture & Works of Art on 6 April will offer a superb example, a secrétaire with an estimate of €1.5-2.5 million (detail, pictured right). The most well-known cabinet makers of the “grand siècle”, such as BVRB, Carlin, Riesener and Weisweiler, often produced furniture under the direction of merchants-haberdashers, including Poirier and Daguerre, who benefited from an exclusive relationship with the Sèvres porcelain manufactory. The merchants successfully operated between the wealthy client and the cabinet makers, often acquiring precious materials in the form of lacquer panels, and Sèvres or China porcelain. In the eighteenth century these pieces of furniture attracted a large female clientele, including illustrious figures such as the Mazarin Duchess, Maria Feodorovna, future Empress of Russia; the d’Artois Countess, and Queen Marie-Antoinette, as well as the courtesan Madame Du Barry, who commissioned a chest of drawers decorated with panels by Pater and Lancret. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this furniture formed part of the Hillingdon and Wallace collections, and the Rothschild collection, in which the present secrétaire was kept until the close of the 1970s. Examples can be found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Musée du Louvre in Paris.
Sotheby’s London
Turkish Contemporary Art
Thursday, 7 April, 2011
On view from 1 April

Following the huge successes achieved by Sotheby’s in the field of Turkish Contemporary Art since pioneering international auctions in this collecting category in 2009, Sotheby’s next sale of Turkish Contemporary Art will take place in London on 7 April. Among the modern and contemporary highlights consigned for sale is Mubin Orhon’s 1977 oil on canvas Untitled which is estimated at £50,000-70,000 (pictured left).

Sotheby’s Amsterdam
The BAT ArtVenture Collection Formerly Known As The Peter Stuyvesant Collection, Part II
Tuesday, 19 April, 2011
On view from 14 April

Sotheby’s Amsterdam will offer for sale on 19 April the second part of the former Peter Stuyvesant Collection, property of British American Tobacco Netherlands (BAT). The sale comprises around 190 works by a mixed group of contemporary international artists such as Simon Hantai, Patrick Heron (Violet, Orange and Reds with Green Disc, est. €50,000-70,000, pictured left), Jean Degottex, Camille Graeser, Guido Molinari, Jose Manuel Broto, Achille Perilli, Richard Lohse and Luis Tomasello. All the artworks are completely fresh to the market and the sale is estimated to realise in excess of €1 million. On 8 March 2010, Sotheby’s Amsterdam sold the first part of this collection. The sale exceeded all expectations, achieving a remarkable total of €13.6 million ($18.6 million / £12.2 million), well in excess of pre-sale expectations (€4-6 million) and the highest total ever achieved in the Netherlands for a sale of fine art. The former Peter Stuyvesant Collection represents a pioneering approach to display art in a factory setting to inspire workers by transforming their surroundings. This was the concept of the Collection’s founder, Alexander Orlow (1918–2009), whose great innovation was to change the context in which art is appreciated.

#    #    #    #

*Pre-sale estimates do not include buyer’s premium