

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27 May 2015

IMPORTANT WORKS BY TISSOT, ROSSETTI, HOLMAN HUNT AND MILLAIS AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE



London – Christie's is pleased to announce details of the *Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art* sale which will take place on 16 June 2015. The auction presents stellar examples of 19th and 20th century British painting including **James (Jacques) Joseph Tissot's** *Les Demoiselles de Province*, which has remained unseen for over a century (estimate: £1.2–1.8 million, *illustrated above left*). Other revered artists of the Victorian and Edwardian eras include **Edward Burne-Jones, William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais, Alfred James Munnings** and **E.J. Poynter**. The sale comprises a beautiful private collection of Pre-Raphaelite and Victorian drawings and paintings, led by one of eight works by **Dante Gabriel Rossetti**, *Beatrice: A Portrait of Jane Morris* (estimate: £700,000–£1 million). There are a rich array of opportunities for new and established collectors alike to acquire works at a wide range of price points, with estimates starting from £1,000 to £1.2 million.

Peter Brown and Harriet Drummond, International Heads of the department: “Christie's is honoured to present this important and beautiful selection of paintings, drawings and sculpture. The market has reacted strongly to Christie's sales of Pre-Raphaelite Art in June 2013, and June 2014, and we look forward to continued interest from a broad number of international collectors.”

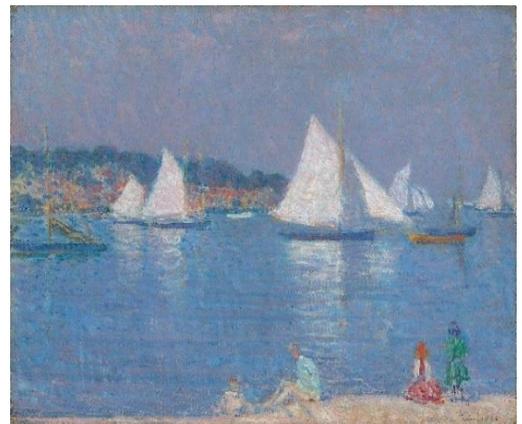
Leading the sale is Tissot's *Les Demoiselles de Province*, a striking example of the artist's painterly talent and gentle humour that gained him international renown and popularity. Tissot created a series of compositions focusing on women's daily lives, and this painting is one of a series entitled 'Parisian Women' (1883–1885). This museum-quality work captures the uncertainty of three beautifully dressed daughters as they arrive too early for a reception, gathering around their father who looks overawed. *Les Demoiselles de Province* is in its original frame and is offered in remarkable condition.

Building on the success of the auction in June 2014, when Christie's set a world record for William Holman Hunt (1827–1910) at auction, the sale will feature *The Birthday* (estimate: £600,000–800,000, *illustrated right*). Hunt gave this painting to the sitter, and it has come by descent in the family to the present owner. The sitter is Hunt's sister-in-law Edith Waugh, who is seen holding presents she was given on her twenty-first birthday. It was begun in the aftermath of her eldest sister Fanny's death. Hunt married Fanny in 1865, but tragically died after less than a year of marriage. While painting Edith, Hunt became aware that she had been in love with him for some years. The painting is full of symbolic connotations that represent the emerging love between artist and sitter, who won through against all the odds and eventually married in 1875.



When John Everett Millais (1829–1896) painted *Pensive* in 1893 he was the most acclaimed artist in Britain (estimate: £600,000–800,000, *illustrated left*). Millais exhibited the present work at the Royal Academy that spring and received high praise. This work explores three roots of late-19th century artistic production: Georgian portraiture, the Victorian predilection for images of children, and the handling and style of the Aesthetic Movement. Millais was also interested in psychology and here he has given the little girl a real sense of inner life, beauty and innocence.

This sale will also feature a coastal scene by Philip Wilson Steer, *Yachts at Cowes (Summer at Cowes)* (estimate: £250,000–350,000, *illustrated right*). Steer was considered the new standard-bearer for the avant-garde, as he embraced modern painting and impressionism. The brushstrokes of the present work echo 'classic' impressionist canvases by Monet and Sisley. Steer enjoyed observing holiday-makers watching the off-shore excitement during the annual yacht racing at Cowes on the Isle of Wight.



John Singer Sargent (1856–1925) formed an abiding love for and fascination with Venice, which informed his depictions of the mysterious floating city for over thirty years. *Gondoliers, Venice* is a vibrant and dynamic example of the Venice Sargent painted during his almost annual visits from 1898 to 1913 and serves as a window



into the life and travels of one of the most celebrated artists of the 19th and 20th centuries (estimate: £120,000–180,000, *illustrated left*). The present work was dedicated to Paolo Tosti (1846–1916), Italian tenor and composer, and given to him by Sargent. It was then in the collection of Samuel Joseph.



This sale comprises four works by Sir Alfred James Munnings (1878–1959), including *The artist painting on Exmoor* (estimate: £30,000–50,000, *illustrated left*). The dramatic and distinctive landscapes around Exmoor provided the subject matter for many of the artist's paintings. This oil is a rare self portrait of Munnings at work, epitomising his love of *plein air* painting. It was executed soon after he had been elected President of the Royal Academy. Further works by Munnings to be offered include *Hop Pickers Returning* (estimate: £80,000–120,000) and *Saddling* (estimate: £150,000–250,000).

The three principle founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Rossetti, Hunt and Millais, are all well represented in this sale. Rossetti's *A Christmas Carol* is a highly finished drawing with excellent provenance (estimate: £250,000–350,000, *illustrated right*). The present work is related to a painting of the same date (1867), which holds the world record for the artist at auction. The model for *A Christmas Carol* was Ellen Smith, a laundry girl, and, like so many of the models who passed through Rossetti's doors, of equivocal virtue. There is a pencil study for the painting in the British Museum, and this present work is often described as a 'finished study', implying that it was the definitive rendering of the subject before Rossetti embarked on the painting itself.



This sale includes a watercolour by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones (1833–1898), titled *Viridis of Milan* (estimate: £80,000 – 120,000, *illustrated left*). Still in its original frame, this work has come to the market for the first time having



once been owned by the painter George Price Boyce, and thence by descent to the current owner. It depicts Viridis Visconti (1451–1414), an Italian noblewoman who married Leopold III, Duke of Austria. This work exemplifies Burne-Jones's interest in the Italian Renaissance as the pose of the sitter, her costume, and the interior behind her are all reminiscent of the work of Titian. It was conceived as part of a series of 'harmonies', paintings of unrelated subjects, linked through an exploration of colour, which Burne-Jones painted in the early years of the 1860s.

A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF PRE-RAPHAELITE AND VICTORIAN ART

Offered as part of this sale is a beautiful collection featuring 45 works, some of which have not been seen for decades. Leading the collection is one of eight works by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882), *Beatrice: A Portrait of Jane Morris* (estimate: £700,000-£1 million, *illustrated below centre*). The fine selection of works on paper is led by Rossetti's impressive life-size study for the protagonist in Desdemona's Death Song (estimate: £500,000-800,000, *illustrated below left*). Other works which exemplify the romance, imagination, and soul of the Pre-Raphaelites, their contemporaries and the artists they influenced include *Proud Maisie* by Anthony Frederick Augustus Sandys (1829-1904) (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated below right*).

Please click [here](#) for the separate press release.



PRESS CONTACT: Katie Carder | +44(0)207 389 2283 | kcarder@christies.com

Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Friday, 12 June: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, 13 June: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, 14 June: 12 noon – 5:00 pm
Monday, 15 June: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm
Tuesday, 16 June: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

AUCTION:

Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art
Tuesday, 16 June 2015
2:30pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 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 totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion) in 2014, an increase of 20% on the previous year. Christie's has a global presence with 54 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 Shanghai, New Delhi, 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.*