

# CHRISTIE'S

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## Rosa Bonheur's American Dream

An unpublished pastel by the artist  
to be auctioned on 20 March

Auction Paris, 20 March 2024 at 3pm

Preview 15 to 20 March 2024



Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899), *Étude pour l'Émigration des bisons*, 1896, pastel on light brown paper 57 x 94 cm (22<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 37<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in.)

Estimate : €100,000-150,000 | US\$110,000-160,000 | £86,000-130,000

Paris – Christie's France is pleased to announce its annual [Old Master and 19th Century Drawings sale](#). On 20 March, in Paris, the 2024 edition of this sale will be largely devoted to preparatory studies and sketches. **Headline of the sale is an important and unpublished pastel on light brown paper by Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) kept for generations and until today in the same French family.**

A recent retrospective at the **Musée d'Orsay** helped giving Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) her righteous place in Art History. Right from the beginning of her drawing and painting career, this **long forgotten artist and icon of women's emancipation**, was deeply **committed to depicting animals**, their singularity, as well as the relationship between animals and people.

Fascinated by the American West, where she never stepped foot, **Rosa Bonheur** met William F. Cody, known as **Buffalo Bill**, in Paris in 1889. Alongside Native American performers and bisons, Buffalo Bill was the main protagonist of the Wild West Show, a stage performance meant to present the American West to Parisian audiences. A portrait of the legendary buffalo hunter, painted at the time by **Rosa Bonheur** is now preserved at the **Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Wyoming, USA**. Her instant fascination for bisons is well epitomized in *Étude pour l'Émigration des bisons*, a preparatory work for a painting now held in a private collection. In pristine condition, this very large pastel on light brown paper by **Rosa Bonheur** offers a subtle, detailed and natural depiction of the bisons, their coat, their eyes and of the surrounding snowy vegetation. **Undoubtedly one of the season's highlight at Christie's, the work is estimated €100,000-150,000 | US\$110,000-160,000 | £86,000-130,000.**

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*\* Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue. \*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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