

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTIE'S

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**THE ESTATE OF ERNST BEYELER:
SALE OF IMPRESSIONIST, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
ART FROM THE LEGENDARY ART CONNOISSEUR**

**Important works by Monet, Gauguin, Renoir, Picasso, Giacometti, Calder, Klee
and other leading artists**

To Be Offered For Sale at Christie's London in June 2011

All Sale Proceeds Will Benefit The Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland



Ernst Beyeler (1921-2010)

**Special Exhibition at Christie's New York:
May 7 through 11, 2011
(closing at noon on 11 May)**

London - Christie's is honored to announce the sale of the Estate of Ernst Beyeler, the late Swiss art connoisseur who was one of the greatest art dealers, collectors and curators of our time. The sale, which will include art works Ernst and his wife Hildy lived with at their private home as well as significant paintings and sculptures from the Galerie Beyeler, will take place in London on 21 and 22 June 2011 as part of Christie's major *Evening* and *Day* sales of Impressionist & Modern Art.

Ernst Beyeler opened his celebrated gallery at Bäumleingasse 9 in Basel in 1945. Over the next 65 years the gallery would hold over 300 major exhibitions which were attended by collectors and museum

curators from all over the globe, to whom Beyeler would sell over 16,000 works of art during his lifetime. No other dealer handled more extraordinary works of modern art. The gallery's name quickly became synonymous with the greatest artists of the 20th century, many of whom Ernst Beyeler knew personally. Over the years, the Galerie Beyeler produced celebrated exhibitions featuring marquee works by Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Henri Matisse, Fernand Léger, Vassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian, Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder, Jean Arp, Jean Dubuffet, Mark Rothko, Francis Bacon, Roy Lichtenstein, Georg Baselitz and many other important artists. These shows were eagerly anticipated by connoisseurs, collectors and press alike, as Beyeler had his choice of the very best works from the artists. Even Picasso granted him the privilege to select works directly from the studio.

Beyeler's great eye and sense for quality became legendary. As his gallery prospered in the post-war years, Beyeler became the dealer of the world's leading art collectors and was also responsible for selling great masterpieces to leading museums. In 1970 Ernst Beyeler co-founded Art Basel and was largely responsible for establishing it as the world's most prestigious art fair bringing together the greatest dealers, artworks and collectors to Basel, Switzerland every year in June. Ernst and Hildy Beyeler were also avid collectors of post-Impressionist, Modern, Contemporary, African and Oceanic art. In 1982, the Beyelers created a foundation to which they donated their private collection, which ranks amongst the finest in the world. They commissioned Pritzker-Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano to design a home for it in Riehen, which opened its doors in 1997 and is widely regarded as one of Europe's most beautiful art museums. Its mission is to share the couple's collection with the public and to encourage interest in fine art. As one of the leading private museums in Europe, the Fondation Beyeler has made a reputation for organizing world-class exhibitions which have attracted over 4 million visitors.

At age 88, Ernst Beyeler passed away on February 25, 2010, less than two years after his wife Hildy. His last will stated that the Galerie Beyeler should be closed and that the works he owned should be sold to benefit the Fondation Beyeler. Thus the sale proceeds will help to cover the annual operating costs of the museum and secure the future of Ernst and Hildy Beyeler's legacy in the long term.

"Christie's is honored to present this magnificent collection for sale on behalf of the late Ernst Beyeler and his estate. Many generations of specialists and collectors have seen their taste forged by Beyeler's eye. To buy from Ernst Beyeler was to buy great 20th century modernism, and to buy from Beyeler was to buy the best. We look forward to a tremendous atmosphere in the saleroom and to raising a significant sum for the Fondation Beyeler, which remains the great legacy of Ernst Beyeler's personal generosity and vision," said **Jussi Pykkänen**, President of Christie's Europe, Middle East and Russia.

"Ernst Beyeler was a model dealer who inspired great trust and confidence in those who worked with him and who bought exceptional paintings from him. It is a great honour to be entrusted with this sale. Ernst was much admired by several generations of specialists at Christie's, myself included," said **Andreas Rumbler**, Senior Director of Impressionist & Modern Art at Christie's.

Among the many highlights of the upcoming sales are significant works by **Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Alexej von Jawlensky, Oscar Kokoschka, Alberto Giacometti, Alexander Calder, Paul Klee,**

Fernand Léger, Jean Arp, Jean Dubuffet, Mark Tobey, Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein, Georg Baselitz, and Anselm Kiefer among others.

An intimate insight into Ernst Beyeler's world will be provided by several small jewels with which he and his wife Hildy lived and could never conceive of selling during their own lifetime. These include the celebrated *Wood Stabile* by **Calder**, which was executed in the same year as Beyeler opened his gallery at Bäumleingasse 9 in 1945 and which sat either on or beside his desk throughout his long and illustrious career. In this vein, the sale will also include a superb **Klee** watercolor entitled *Parklandschaft* which was executed at the peak of the artist's career in 1920 and hung above Beyeler's bedside table in Basel for over 50 years. Amongst the works on paper is **Giacometti's** *Portrait of James Lord*, a wonderful drawing of the celebrated author James Lord, which Beyeler personally prized as one of the artist's great portraits of the 1950s, and which was displayed in his home for several decades.

The highlights of Christie's *Evening Sale* on June 21 will include a great late **Monet** *Nymphéas* executed between 1916 and 1919. Painted on a grand scale, this magnificent painting is a precursor to the post-war abstractions of Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still, and Sam Francis.

No major Beyeler exhibition was complete without a great **Picasso**, and so it is fitting that the auction will include the artist's *Buste de Françoise*, a great colorist portrait of 1946. Other masterpieces include **Gauguin's** *Le Vallon Tahiti* of 1892, **Toulouse-Lautrec's** *Miss May Belfort* of 1895, **Renoir's** *Nu allongé* of 1902, and **Léger's** *Le Drapeau* of 1919.

Aside from these masterpieces, the auctions will also include a selection of paintings, sculptures, drawings, and prints as well as a superb group of 30 Picasso ceramics that will be featured in the *Day* sale portion of the Impressionist and Modern Art auctions on 22 June.

A select group of highlights will be on view at Christie's New York from 7 – 11 May. The touring highlights, which will also travel to Hong Kong, Paris, Stuttgart and Dusseldorf, include:

TOURING HIGHLIGHTS



CLAUDE MONET (1840-1926)

Nymphéas, 1916-1919 (w.1814)

Oil on canvas, stamped signature

150 x 200 cm

Estimate upon request



PABLO PICASSO (1881-1973)

Buste de Françoise, 17 June 1946

Oil on wood

100 x 81 cm

Estimate: £7-10 million (US\$10-15 million)



FERNAND LÉGER (1881-1955)

Le Drapeau

Oil on canvas, 1919

Signed lower right

65 x 81 cm

Estimate: £2.8-4.0 million (US\$ 4.5-6.5 million)



PAUL KLEE (1879-1940)

Parklandschaft, 1920

Water colour, signed, dated and titled

14.5 x 29 cm

Lit: Cat. Rais. 2430

Estimate: £400,000-600,000 (US\$700,000-1 million)



ALBERTO GIACOMETTI (1901-1966)

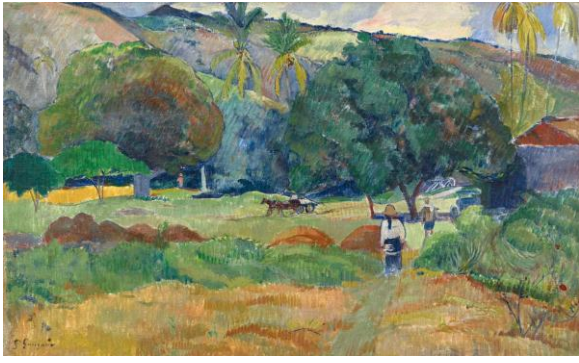
Portrait of James Lord, 1954

Pencil on paper

Signed and dated lower right

45.5 x 30.5 cm

Estimate: £200,000-300,000 (US\$330,000-500,000)



PAUL GAUGUIN (1848-1903)
Le Vallon, Tahiti
Oil on canvas, 1892
Signed lower left
42 x 67.5 cm
Estimate: £5.5-8.5 million (US\$9-14 million)



HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC (1864-1901)
Miss May Belfort, 1895
Gouache on board
83 x 61.5 cm
Estimate: £1.8-2.4 million (US\$3-4 million)



PIERRE-AUGUST RENOIR (1841-1919)
Nu allongé, 1902
Oil on canvas
Signed lower right
67.3 x 154 cm
Estimate: £4-6 million (US\$7-10 million)



ALEXANDER CALDER (1898-1976)
Wood stabile, 1945
H: 26.5 cm
Estimate: £350,000-450,000 (US\$600,000-750,000)

Auctions – Christie's London

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale
Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale

21 June 2011 at 7pm
22 June 2011 at 10am & 2pm

Viewings:

Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries, New York
Hong Kong Convention Centre

7-11 May 2011
25-29 May 2011

*Additional exhibition dates & times will be announced in the coming weeks.
For further information, please contact Christie's Corporate Communications.*

About Ernst Beyeler

The Other Collection. Homage to Ernst and Hildy Beyeler. Hatje Cantz Verlag, Ostfildern, 2007. Articles on <http://www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/Museum/History>

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/US\$5.0 billion. 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from US\$200 to over US\$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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*

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Images available on request

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