

SOTHEBY'S NOVEMBER 9, 2000 SALE OF IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART IN NEW YORK TOTALS \$123.1 MILLION

AUCTION RECORDS ESTABLISHED FOR WORKS BY MATISSE, MAILLOL AND MORISOT

MONUMENTAL MANET SELLS FOR \$20.9 MILLION

22 WORKS SELL FOR MORE THAN \$1 MILLION

November 9, 2000, New York, N.Y. — Sotheby's evening sale of Impressionist and Modern art totaled \$123.1 million, the third highest total for a various owner's sale in ten years. The sale was highlighted by Manet's *Jeune Fille Dans un Jardin*, which sold for \$20.9 million, and new world auction records were established for works by Henri Matisse, Aristide Maillol and Berthe Morisot. Twenty-two works sold for more than \$1 million each and 30 works sold at or above their pre-sale estimates.

Charlie Moffett, Co-Chairman of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department Worldwide, said that tonight's results "reflect the extent to which the search for quality drives today's market for Impressionist and Modern art. The private collectors that dominate the top end of the market are highly knowledgeable and make decisions based on informed connoisseurship."

While there was real strength seen in the area of modern art, there was some selectivity in the Impressionist area, especially for more decorative works. New buyers and bidders competed for several paintings, and as David Norman, Head of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department, noted, "there were significant indications of strength in the market based on prices for works returned to sale within the last dozen years. Matisse's *La Robe Persane*, which sold at Sotheby's in 1991 for \$4.5 million, sold over the phone for a record \$17.1 million this evening. *Le Repos*, painted in 1932, during Picasso's greatest period, which had sold in 1993 for \$2.2 million, surpassed all expectations and sold for \$7.9 million against a pre-sale estimate of \$3/4 million. Modigliani's *Fillette Assise en Robe* had appeared on the market in 1989 and sold for \$8 million; and this evening soared past a pre-sale estimate of \$8/12 million selling for \$15.6 million. Berthe Morisot's *Cache-Cache*, from the Collection of the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, which had sold just last year for a record \$3.9 million in the sale of Impressionist and Modern Art from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney, brought \$4.4 million, establishing a new record for the artist at auction.

Of the lots that sold this evening, 12 sold above their high estimate, 18 sold at or between estimates and 6 sold below estimate.

The top selling lot for the evening was a rare Impressionist work by Edouard Manet, *Jeune Fille Dans un Jardin*, which sold for \$20.9 million, a sale described by Mr. Moffett as "a very rare and beautiful moment in the marketplace." Painted en plein air in the garden of the house near Paris that Manet rented during the summer of 1880, the monumental work depicts a woman whom Berthe Morisot identified as the American Mademoiselle Marguerite reading in a garden.

Aristide Maillol's *L'Air*, the sculpture commissioned by the city of Toulouse in 1937 to commemorate the pilots killed while in the line of duty of France's first airmail service, *L'Aéropostale*, sold for \$3,085,750 and established a new world record for the artist at auction. It was estimated to sell for \$2/3 million.

Monet's *Matinée Sur la Seine*, signed and dated 1896, which belongs to an important series of works which was the precursor to the famous *Waterlilies* series, sold for \$5,725,750.

Highlighting the 16 classic works of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art from the Ronne and Joseph Wohl Collection was Monet's richly colored *Antibes vue de la Salis* from 1888 that sold for \$5,065,750. This radiant landscape is one of 39 paintings the artist completed during his three-and-a-half month stay in Cap d'Antibes. Here, Antibes is seen as a distant vision, shimmering under the bright winter light of the South of France.

Pissarro's early landscape *Paysage avec Rochers, Montfoucault*, also from the Wohl Collection, sold for \$3,305,750. Formerly in the collection of Pissarro's good friend and fellow artist, the great collector Gustave Caillebotte, the work was estimated to sell for \$2/3 million.

For more information / images please contact:

Diana Phillips
Matthew Weigman
Lauren Gioia
(212) 606-7176
fax: (212) 606-7381