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Sotheby's Old Master Paintings Evening Sale Totals £56.2 million / \$70.7 million

Up 32% on last July's Sale
& Our Third Highest Total for a Sale in this Category in London

Auction Record for Gainsborough

One of the finest eighteenth-century British landscapes likely to ever come to market
Sells for £8 million / \$10 million

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Acquires Johann Liss's "The Temptation of Saint Mary Magdalene"
For Record-Breaking £5.7 million / \$7.1 million

Records Also Achieved for Giannicola di Paolo, Sebastiano del Piombo, Altobello Melone,
Peeter Baltens, Jusepe de Ribera, Andrea Sacchi, and a record for a work on paper by
Jean-Etienne Liotard

Work by Botticelli and Studio sells for £3 million to benefit the
Operazione Mato Grosso charity



"This evening's sale demonstrated just how broad and exciting the field of Old Masters is: from the oldest painting ever offered in this category dating back to the 1230s, to Turner's pre-Impressionist masterpiece from the 1840s. Amongst the extraordinary works by famous artists such as Rubens, Velázquez and Gainsborough, were masterpieces by artists seldom seen in our world; the most notable of which was the sensuous baroque canvas by Johann Liss which caused a sensation during the pre-sale exhibition and fell tonight to a winning bid from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York."

Alex Bell, Sotheby's Co-Chairman, Old Masters,
Worldwide

Facts and Figures

- Sell through rate of 83.8% – on of our strongest sell-through rates
- Almost half of lots sold over the high-estimate
- Pre-sale estimate: £45 – 64.3 million / \$56.5 - 80.8 million
- Over 6,600 visitors to our galleries over five days
- Ten works sold over £2 million

Record-Breaking Gainsborough Leads the Sale

- **“Going To Market, Early Morning”** established a new record for Gainsborough at £8 million / \$10 million - *Arguably the artist’s finest masterpiece remaining in private hands and one of the finest eighteenth-century British landscapes likely to ever come to market* (lot 22, est. £7-9 million)
- Also from the Golden Age of British landscape painting, Turner’s **“Landscape with Walton Bridges”** sold for £8.2 million / \$10.3 million, double the low estimate, and in contrast to the 1,110 guineas it sold for in 1887. *A rarely seen late work by the artist which foreshadows the advent of Impressionism just a few decades later. One of only a handful of late works by the artist left in private hands* (lot 11, est. £4-6 million)

The Baroque (Liss, Ribera, Rubens, Velázquez)

- Baroque paintings represented almost 40% of today’s overall sale total.
- Johann Liss’s **“The Temptation of Saint Mary Magdalene”** established a new record at £5.7 million / \$7.1 million – some five times the £991,500 auction record this same painting set in 1994. *One of the finest examples of the artist’s work to remain in private hands. Though few in number, Liss’s works remained influential in the development of painting well into the 18th century* (lot 9, est. £4- 6 million)
- Jusepe Ribera’s celebrated **“Girl with a Tambourine”** sold for £5.7 million / \$7.2 million - *Here Ribera transforms a realistic everyday subject into a personification of hearing, creating an ingenious representation of sound. Probably one of five works originally depicting the five senses* (lot 24, est. £5-7 million)
- Peter Paul Rubens, **“Head of a Young Warrior”** sold for £3.1 million / \$3.9 million - *Most likely kept in the artist’s studio as a prop throughout his life for use in larger compositions, including Saint Ambrosius of Milan in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna* (lot 17, est. £2.5-3.5 million).
- A newly-discovered **Velázquez**, lost for over 300 years, sold for £2.5 million / \$3.1 million - *Thanks to a cypher on the verso, Sotheby’s specialists determined that the painting was the long-lost portrait of Pope Innocent X’s sister-in-law, Donna Olimpia, the ‘puppet-master’ behind the Pope’s throne* (lot 28, est. £2-3 million).

Flemish Landscape (Wtewael, Baltens)

- Joachim Antonisz Wtewael, **“Diana and Actaeon”** sold for £4.6 million / \$5.8 million - *A small scale work intended for personal enjoyment by the most important artist of mythological cabinet pieces painted on copper in the Netherlands.* (lot 14, est. £4-6 million)
- Peeter Baltens, **“Landscape with Satan sowing Tares”** sold for £2.8 million / \$3.5 million, seven times the previous artist record - *One of fewer than fifteen autograph surviving paintings by Baltens, and unquestionably the finest left in private hands. In remarkably good original condition for a work of 450 years old.* (lot 13, est. £1-1.5 million)

The Oldest Old Master

- Tonight's sale opened with "**The Madonna And Child**" by Third Master of Anagni which was driven to £735,000 / \$923,895 by eight bidders. Dating from the mid-1230s this is the oldest work ever offered in an Old Masters sale at Sotheby's. (lot 1, est. £200,000-300,000).

Sale for charity

- A second painting of the same subject, "**Madonna and Child**" by Botticelli and Studio, was pursued by three bidders, eventually selling for £3 million, double its low pre-sale estimate. Proceeds from the sale will go to benefit Operazione Mato Grosso, a voluntary educational movement that carries out a series of activities in Latin America and helping those most in need.

Old Master Drawings & British Works on Paper

- In a sale earlier today which totalled £7 million / \$8.8 million, a rare drawing by **Canaletto** realised £3.1million / \$3.9 million, setting a new auction record for a drawing by the artist. A superbly preserved pen and brown ink drawing which ranks among the greatest that the artist ever made, "**The Presentation of the Doge in S. Marco**" belongs to a highly original series of twelve depictions of the ceremonies and festival of Doges, the *Feste Ducali*, the majority of which now reside in museums around the world.

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*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

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