

MODERN & IMPRESSIONIST AUCTIONS LONDON, FEBRUARY 2nd, 3rd, and 4th



The London auction season opened with a low-key yet reassuring result, as Christie's "Impressionist and Modern Art" evening sale delivered £66,430,000. Small-scaled works seemed to be the flavor of the evening as Alberto Giacometti's 11-inch high bronze Femme debout, from a posthumous 1976 cast, made £1,082,500, and the 16 by 13-inch Fernand Léger oil on canvas Le moteur, a mini tour-de-force from 1918, snared £5,234,500. German works were in high demand as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's power-packed Bahnhof Konigstein from 1916, a city scene in oil on canvas hailing from the collection of chemist and collector Carl Hagemann, sold to a telephone bidder for £2,434,500. Another Kirchner from a different owner, Erna am Meer, Fehmarn from 1913, depicting a somewhat exotic island scene, shot past expectations and sold for £4,786,500. And a color saturated and dynamic Marc Chagall, Les maries de la Tour Eiffel from 1928, depicting the artist and his wife set against the majestic tower, sold to the Geneva dealer Thomas Seydoux for £7,026,500.

On the other hand, Sotheby's "Impressionist and Modern" evening sale on Wednesday 3rd was marred in part by a trail of unsold works that limited the overall result to £78,853,000. Twelve of the thirty seven lots offered went unsold, for a buy-in-rate by lot of 32%. The boldly colored *Tête de femme*, from March 1935, an oil on canvas showing Marie-Thérèse Walter, took top lot honors, selling to a telephone bidder for £18,853,000. Of the big-time lots, Henri Matisse's densely patterned *artwork La Leçon de piano* from 1923, offered from the collection of the late Scotsman Royan Middleton, sold to international dealer David Nahmad for £10,789,000. Claude Monet's light-soaked *Le Palais Ducal vu de Saint Georges Majeur* from 1908, one of the canvases shown in his exhibition at Galerie Bernheim-Jeune in Paris in 1912, sold for £11,573,000.







10 TOP LOTS SOLD						
	Artist	Title	Sale Price		Venue	
1	PABLO PICASSO	TÊTE DE FEMME	£	18,853,000	SOTHEBY'S	
2	CLAUDE MONET	LE PALAIS DUCAL VU DE SAINT	£	11,573,000	SOTHEBY'S	
3	AUGUSTE RODIN	IRIS, MESSAGÈRE DES DIEUX	£	11,573,000	SOTHEBY'S	
4	HENRI MATISSE	LA LEÇON DE PIANO	£	10,789,000	SOTHEBY'S	
5	EGON SCHIELE	SELBSTBILDNIS MIT GESPREIZTEN	£	7,250,500	CHRISTIE'S	
6	MARC CHAGALL	LES MARIÉS DE LA TOUR EIFFEL	£	7,026,500	CHRISTIE'S	
7	FERNAND LÉGER	LE MOTEUR	£	5,234,500	CHRISTIE'S	
8	PAUL CÉZANNE	FERME EN NORMANDIE, ÉTÉ	£	5,122,500	CHRISTIE'S	
9	ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER	ERNA AM MEER, FEHMARN	£	4,786,500	CHRISTIE'S	
10	PABLO PICASSO	NATURE MORTE	£	4,002,500	CHRISTIE'S	
	•	•		TOTAL:	£	86,211,000

^{*}All prices are in GBP