

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2007

Contact: Sara Fox 212.636.2680 sfox@christies.com

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT HARTSHORNE COLLECTION OF WORKS BY MARY CASSATT LEADS CHRISTIE'S PRINTS SALES

A Mary Cassatt Collection: Prints and Drawings from the Descendants of Robert Hartshorne - Oct 30 Prints and Multiples - Oct 30 - 31



New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of a distinguished collection of rare works known for its breadth and historical significance, A Mary Cassatt Collection: Prints and Drawings from the Descendants of Robert Hartshorne, that will take place in New York on October 30. The collection has remained in private hands for generations and many of the works in the sale are rediscovered, such as the drawing Gathering Fruit (illustrated left, estimate: \$50,000-70,000), which was only known to scholars through Cassatt's catalogue raisonné but has not been seen for decades. The sale consists of over 70 works on paper that reveal Harthshorne's dedication to compiling a nearly complete collection of Cassatt's printmaking activity.

HARTSHORNE COLLECTION

Hartshorne was from a prominent family in New Jersey and he amassed a nearly comprehensive collection of Cassatt's prints by the time of his death around 1945. The works offered in the sale include many rare states of early intaglio work – among the most difficult and technical of all art forms – and a few choice preparatory drawings and soft-ground transfer drawings. In addition to the Hartshorne provenance several lots bear one or more of the stamps of Roger Marx, Durand-Ruel, and Degas.



Cassatt began printmaking mid-life, when she was already an established painter, and she considered printmaking a venue for artistic growth rather than a commercial enterprise. Among the highlights in the collection is the well-known image *The Bath* (five states plus a preparatory drawing), which reveal Cassatt's process in developing her first color aquatint

(estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Important and rare works that demonstrate the artist's cross-influence with Degas and development of style include: *The Map* – an image from her first portfolio of drypoints published by Durand-Ruel (*illustrated left*, estimate; 30,000-50,000); *Costume Study After Gavarimi*, 1878 – all three states of her rare second print (estimate: \$25,000-30,000); and *Waiting* – a soft-ground etching that shows her interest in the effects of light and dark (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).

On the Balcony is one of Cassatt's earliest color prints, noted by A.D. Breeskin for the unique color inking on the plate by the artist's hand (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$30,000-40,000). Another early print, Lady in Black, in a Loge, Facing Right, was created during Cassatt's first years with the Impressionists (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).

