

# CHRISTIE'S

RELEASE | NEW YORK | 21 APRIL 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PABLO PICASSO'S *NATURE MORTE À LA FENÊTRE* TO LEAD 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY EVENING SALE



PABLO PICASSO (1881-1973)  
*Nature morte à la fenêtre*  
oil on canvas 51 x 63 in. (129.7 x 162.3 cm.)  
Painted on 18 January 1932  
Estimate on request

**NEW YORK** - Christie's is pleased to announce the top lot of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Evening Sale on May 11, 2023 during the Spring Marquee Week of sales will be Pablo Picasso's *Nature morte à la fenêtre* (estimate on request; in the region of \$40,000,000). This important, large-scale 1932 portrait of the artist's golden muse

Marie-Thérèse Walter dates from one of the most celebrated moments within Picasso's entire career. This May will be the first time in history that the work has come to auction.

**Vanessa Fusco, Christie's Head of Impressionist and Modern Art, and Co-Head of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Evening Sale,** remarks, "*Marie-Thérèse's presence in Picasso's life reinvigorated every area of his work, her statuesque form, radiant beauty, and carefree sensibility inspiring the artist to create works that stand among the finest of his entire career. Created at the very start of Picasso's annus mirabilis, Nature morte à la fenêtre is a testament to Marie-Thérèse's powerful influence, and the great flourishing of activity she inspired in his art, from drawing to sculpture, printmaking to painting.*"

**Giovanna Bertazzoni, Christie's Vice Chairman of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art,** remarks, "*We are thrilled to showcase this masterpiece at Christie's New York, as we celebrate Picasso's contribution to the history of art and legacy this year, which marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.*"

*Nature morte à la fenêtre* was painted in January of 1932, a pivotal year for the artist. Over the course of this year, Picasso reached an extraordinary peak of creativity in his paintings, inspired by the forms of Marie-Thérèse Walter, whose classical profile, curves and cropped hair came to dominate every aspect of his output in the early 1930s. *Nature morte à la fenêtre* is among the very first paintings in this exceptional series devoted to her, which includes seminal works such as *Le Rêve*, *Jeune fille devant un miroir*, *Nude*, *Green Leaves and Bust* and *Femme assise près d'une fenêtre (Marie-Thérèse)*—which sold at Christie's in 2021 for more than \$103 million. The example on offer this season represents a highly significant moment within the story of Picasso's so called "*annus mirabilis*" (year of wonder).

Almost immediately following its completion, *Nature morte à la fenêtre* was shown in renowned Picasso retrospective at the Galeries Georges Petit in Paris during the summer of 1932; it hung prominently in the gallery's Grande Salle, directly above *Le Rêve*. It then traveled to the Kunsthaus Zürich for Picasso's inaugural museum show later that year. The painting would continue to remain in the artist's personal collection for the rest of his life, hidden from public view until the 1980s.

**PRESS IMAGE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)**

Press Contact:

Jessica Stanley | [jstanley@christies.com](mailto:jstanley@christies.com) | 212 636 2680

---

## About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019). Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's Everydays](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability by reducing our carbon emissions by 50% and pledging to be net zero by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or by downloading Christie's apps.

*\* Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

