

For Immediate Release

September 24, 2007

Contact: Bendetta Roux, New York

1 212 636 2680

broux@christies.com

Rhiannon Broomfield, London

44 207 389 2117

rbroomfield@christies.com

LUCIAN FREUD'S *IB AND HER HUSBAND* TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK



Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

November 13, 2007

New York – Christie's New York will offer as one of the highlights of the *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale* on November 13, Lucian Freud's *Ib and Her Husband*, 1992, a deadly honest and deeply intriguing portrait of Freud's daughter Isobel and her partner. The painting is expected to realize in excess of \$15 million. Christie's set the record for Freud at auction in the London June sale when *Bruce Bernard*, 1992, achieved £7.86 million (\$15.5 million).

Lucian Freud's portraits are intimate visions of the life and the people around him so it comes as no surprise to find that his extensive family has provided the subject matter for many of his most

important paintings. Isobel, Freud's daughter, has featured in several of Freud's paintings. She was already shown as a child in *Large Interior, Paddington*, painted in 1968-69, where she was sprawled on the floor. Close-up views that give a sense of intense proximity have also featured in his *oeuvre*, as well as a later oil of her reading from 1997. Dating from 1992, *Ib and her Husband*, a work that has been included in several major exhibitions since it was painted, is another splendid example of the intricate father-daughter artistic relationship. The painting shows Isobel – Ib – with her husband as they are huddled together on a brown rug, the tattered, paint-strewn wall of the studio visible, with a distinctly utilitarian radiator, in the background. Is it the unadorned honesty of the scene that elevates this painting from a mere depiction to a conveyer of emotion, a window which offers a glimpse not only into the life of Isobel and her relationship with her husband but also, and maybe more importantly so, into her relationship with her father -- the painter.

There is a strong sense of authenticity in *Ib and her Husband* that reflects a deep mining of the painter's and the sitters' experiences and chemistry and it is precisely this quality that fills Freud's paintings with the sense of existential earnestness for which they are celebrated. In the present painting, this effect is achieved in a two-fold way – Freud clearly does chart the tensions of his relationship with his daughter and son-in-law, but he also shows them very much at ease with their surroundings. It really is his insistence on his sitters being comfortable, being 'at home' that allows Freud to capture deep and veiled aspects of their personalities.

Where Freud's early paintings tended to show Ingres-like figures, his later work is clearly of another caliber as he turned to the more painterly treatment that is evident in *Ib and her Husband*. Freud used thicker hog's hair brushes in order to capture the 'realness,' the 'breathing – moving – vibrating – there – ness,' of his sitters. A second focal point is the artist's own world, his own life in a sense, which he delicately but clearly reveals to the viewer. In the present painting, Freud himself is present in the image through the rendering of his studio – this crucial place at the heart of his being – which he depicts in such minute detail that even the daubs of paint that have over the years accumulated on his studio wall are clearly visible. In the end, *Ib and her Husband*, is as much a portrait of Freud's daughter and son-in-law as it is a portrait of the artist.

Auction: Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

November 13 at 7 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

November 10 – 13

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour.

Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about this Christie's sale can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.