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Sotheby's January 2009 Sale of Old Master Paintings and Sculpture Brings a Total of \$63.9 Million

JMW Turner's *The Temple of Jupiter Panellenius* Sells for Nearly \$13 Million

New York, NY – Sotheby's January 2009 sale of Important Old Master Paintings and Sculpture in New York achieved a total of \$63,888,875 (est. \$84/117 million)*. The sale was highlighted by one of the most important oil paintings by Joseph Mallord William Turner remaining in private hands, **The Temple of Jupiter Panellenius**, which sold for \$12,962,500, the second highest price ever achieved for the artist at auction. A new auction record was established for Hendrick ter Brugghen when his 1624 canvas, **Bagpipe Player in Profile**, soared past a pre-sale estimate of \$4/6 million to sell for \$10,162,500.

George Wachter, Co-Chairman of Sotheby's Old Master Paintings Department Worldwide said, "The past two days have shown us that there is still a flight to quality and a desire for great works of art. Collectors and dealers are more focused and selective than I have ever seen - where they saw great opportunities for paintings of fantastic quality that were fresh to the market, as with the Turner and Ter Brugghen, they were prepared to spend a great deal of money. Likewise, for smart buyers, there were great opportunities to acquire fantastic works, such as the Guido Reni, *Saint Margaret of Antioch* which sold to a private collector for just over \$500,000 (est. \$600/800,000). We sold 11 works for more than \$1 million, which is quite an accomplishment in the current climate. In fact, our total of nearly \$64 million is among the top five totals we have ever achieved in this category."

Additional highlights included: Canaletto's **Capriccio of the Prisons of San Marco** which had formerly been in the collection of King George III and sold for \$2,882,500 (est. \$2.5/3.5 million), Francisco de Goya y Lucientes' **Portrait of Prince Alois Wenzel Von Kaunitz-Rietberg** from 1815-1817, which brought \$2,210,500 (est. \$2.5/3.5 million), and Pieter Brueghel the Younger, **St. George's Kermis with the Dance Around the Maypole** which surpassed a high estimate of \$2 million to sell for \$2,434,500.

The session devoted to sculpture and works of art was led by a **Florentine Bronze Pacing Bull** by Gian Francesco Susini from the first half of the 17th century which sold for \$458,500 (est. \$400/600,000). Other highlights included a **French Oval Marble Relief of Leda and the Swan**, School of Fontainebleau, mid 16th century, which brought \$242,500 (est. \$120/150,000), and an **Italian Glazed Terracotta Bust of Alexander the Great**, attributed to Girolamo della Robbia that exceeded expectations to sell for \$230,500 (est. \$100/120,000). Also of note was a **French Ivory Panel from a Casket**, first half 14th century, which was purchased by the Princeton University Art Museum for \$53,125 and reunited with two other panels from the casket purchased at Sothebys in June 1996.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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