

# Mary Cassatt 1844-1926 | American



*Sara in a Round-Brimmed Bonnet, Holding her Dog*



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Pastel on paper | Circa 1901

Signed "Mary Cassatt" (center right)

Paper: 21 1/2" high x 16 1/4" wide | 54.61 cm x 41.28 cm

Frame: 34 3/4" high x 29 1/4" wide x 2 1/2" deep

88.27 cm x 74.30 cm x 6.35 cm

“

*I love to paint children.  
They are so natural  
and truthful. They have  
no arrière-pensée  
[ulterior motive].*

- Mary Cassatt

”



## OVERVIEW

**M**ary Cassatt is distinguished as one of the foremost female painters in Western art and one of the main Americans to exhibit with the Impressionists. This work, entitled *Sara in a Wide-Brimmed Hat*, was completed during the pinnacle of her prolific career. Perfectly exemplifying her mastery of the Impressionist ethos, this work on paper showcases her signature subject in a vibrant composition, capturing the essence of domestic beauty.

In 1901, already a renowned artist, Mary Cassatt began frequently employing Sara, a young golden-haired girl who was quite likely the granddaughter of former French president Emile Loubet. Sara's sweet face, ethereal features, and good-natured demeanor made her a favored model. A staunch supporter of women's equality, Cassatt imbued her paintings with a belief in the compelling individualism of girls.

In this work, she focuses intently on Sara's countenance, capturing her personality with meticulous artistry. Sara's bright blue eyes gaze to the right, harmonizing with the blue flower in her hair and the fluid lines outlining her form. Cassatt's masterful draftsmanship is evident in the intricacies of Sara's brow, nose and lips, enhancing the girl's lifelike presence. The detailing of Sara's face is complemented by her delightful hat at the top of the composition and her furry friend at the bottom. By matching the rich sandy color palette of the pair's hair, Cassatt subtly emphasizes the intimate and universally familiar bond between child and canine.

Born in 1844 near Pittsburgh, Mary Cassatt spent most of her life in France. She is likely the most important person in exposing the Impressionist movement to the Americas. Cassatt exhibited at the Salon and was invited by Edgar Degas in 1877 to join the Impressionist exhibitions, participating in 1879–81 and 1886 as the lone American in the group.

Sara is featured in many of her works, including *Sara in a Green Bonnet* at the Smithsonian of American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. and the drawing titled *Sara Wearing Her Bonnet and Coat* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Today, Cassatt remains one of the most towering figures in art history, and her works are highly coveted by prestigious institutions and collectors. Major retrospective exhibitions of her work, both oil paintings and works on paper alike, have been held at the Musée d'Orsay, and 2024 exhibitions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Fine Art Museum of San Francisco. ●





## OVERVIEW

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### PROVENANCE

Payson Thompson, New York, acquired from the artist

Sale, American Art Association, New York, 12 January 1928, lot 82, sold by above

J.P. Henry, 1928

Mrs. George C. Willson, Flint, Michigan

Private collection, gift from the above, 1958

Sale, Sotheby's New York, 30 November 1989, lot 173, sold by the above

Private collection, likely acquired from above

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

### LITERATURE

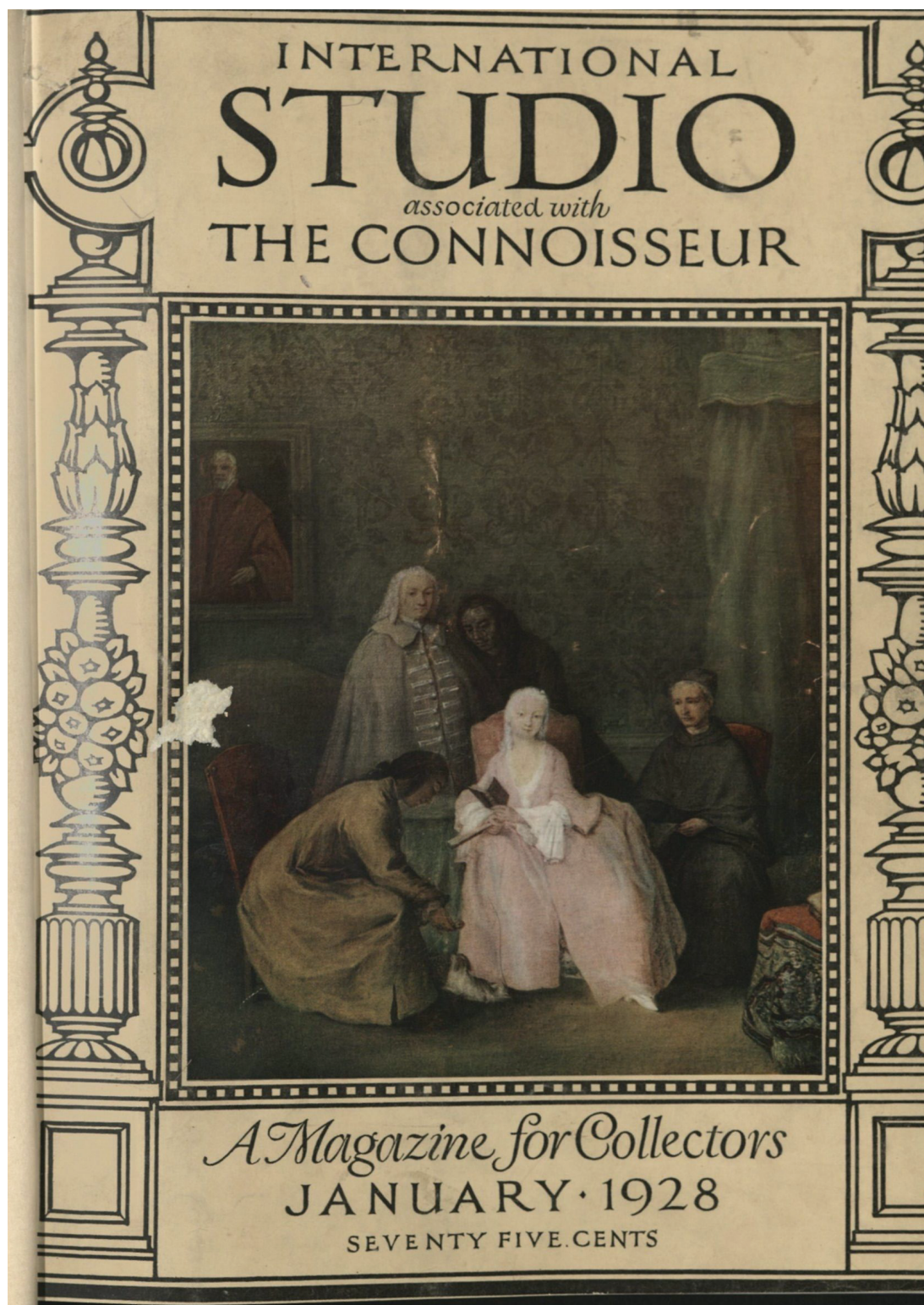
*International Studio*, vol. 89, January 1928, p. 6

Adelyn Dohme Breeskin, *Mary Cassatt: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Oils, Pastels, Watercolors and Drawings*, Washington, D.C., 1970, p. 154, no. 368 (illustrated)

### EXHIBITED

Grand Rapids, Michigan, Grand Rapids Art Museum, *Mary Cassatt*, May 10-June 2, 1974, no. 2





*International Studio*, vol. 89, January 1928, p. 6







## AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

Madison Avenue • 56<sup>th</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
NEW YORK CITY

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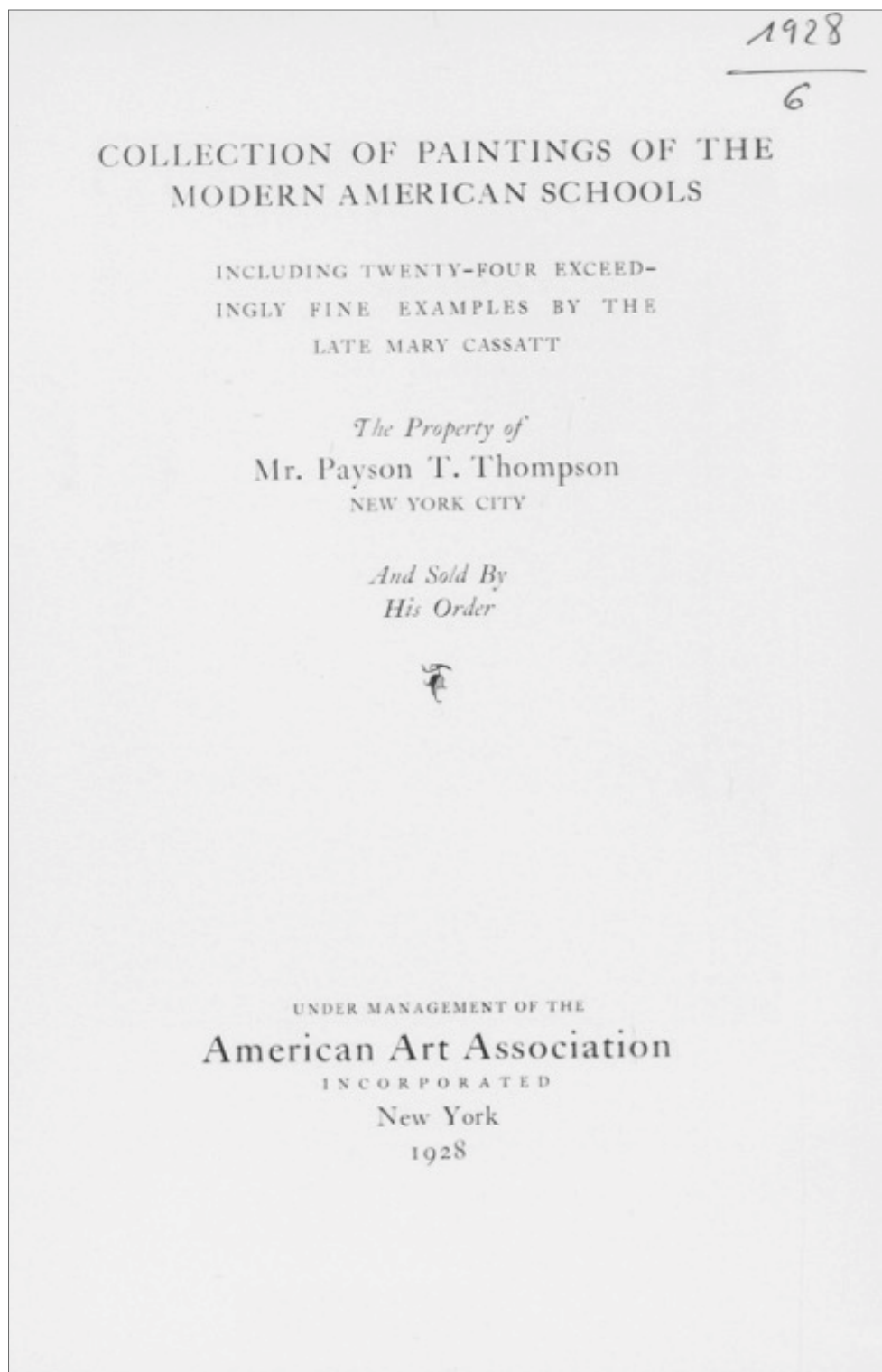
### TWO IMPORTANT JANUARY SALES

Commencing on January 7th two collections will be displayed in the exhibition rooms of the Association: That of the Payson T. Thompson paintings by prominent American artists will be offered at public sale on the evening of January 12; the nucleus of the collection is a group of twenty-four splendid examples by the late Mary Cassatt, and among the other painters represented are: Frank W. Benson, Albert Groll, Ridgway Knight, van Boskerck, Ernest Lawson and G. H. Bogert. . . . Also the collection of Mr. Owen Roberts, comprising a very beautiful group of the various types of Orientalia most eagerly sought for by the collector of today: examples from the early *Sung* to the *Ch'ien-lung* period, including a wealth of porcelains and potteries, jades and crystals, some superb fabrics and delightful little snuff bottles in hard stones, porcelain, etc.; the sale will be held on the afternoons of January 12, 13 and 14.

CATALOGS ARE NOW READY FOR DISTRIBUTION AND MAY  
BE HAD UPON APPLICATION TO THE  
AMERICAN ART ASSOCIATION • INC.  
MANAGERS

*International Studio*, vol. 89, January 1928, p. 6





Sale, American Art Association, New York, 12 January 1928, lot 82, sold by Payson Thompson







MARY CASSATT

AMERICAN: 1844—1926

82. *CHILD WITH DOG*

Half-length impression of a golden-haired child with rosy complexion, her deep blue eyes looking gravely to the right. She wears a feathered poke bonnet tied under her chin with ribbons, a cluster of blue flowers under the brim. In her arms appears the sketched head of a toy poodle.

Signed at right, MARY CASSATT

*Pastel: Height, 23 inches; width, 18 inches*

Purchased from the artist

65

Sale, American Art Association, New York, 12 January 1928, lot 82, sold by Payson Thompson



# MARY CASSATT

*A Catalogue Raisonné of the*  
Oils, Pastels,  
Watercolors, and Drawings

Adelyn Dohme Breeskin

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION PRESS  
CITY OF WASHINGTON 1970

Adelyn Dohme Breeskin, *Mary Cassatt: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Oils, Pastels, Watercolors and Drawings*, Washington, D.C., 1970, p. 154, no. 368 (illustrated)







365  
**Sara, in a Bonnet with Streamers Loose, and Her Dog (Counterproof)**  
Pastel on paper, 21½ × 17½ in., 53.5 × 43.5 cm.  
Unsigned

*Description:* Reverse of BrCR 364.

*Collections:* From the artist to Ambroise Vollard, Paris; Hôtel Drouot sale, 31 May 1956 (cat. 2); present location unknown.



366  
**Sara with Her Dog** c. 1901  
Pastel on paper, 26 × 22 in., 66 × 56 cm.  
Signed lower right: *Mary Cassatt*

*Description:* Sara sits facing forward but turned toward left, holding her griffon dog with one hand on each of his front legs. She wears a straw bonnet trimmed with a plum hanging down at front left, a blue dress, and dark green velvet streamers loose over her shoulders. The background is grayish-blue.

*Collections:* Private collection, Paris.



367  
**Sara in a Very Big Bonnet with a Plum Hanging at Left** c. 1901  
Oil on canvas, 18½ × 14½ in., 46 × 36 cm.  
Signed at lower right: *M. C.*

*Description:* Little Sara wears a big bonnet with a plum hanging over the brim. She looks left and wears a low, round-necked sleeveless dress. The wide dark streamers of her bonnet hang forward over her shoulders, with one big loop over her shoulder at left.

*Collections:* Private collection, Paris.



369  
**Sara in a Dark Bonnet** c. 1901  
Pastel on paper, 21½ × 16 in.  
Signed upper right: *Mary Cassatt*

*Description:* This is a ske (BrCr 366) but without the some lines below the skirt could be placed. Dark bow of head; no chair indicated suggested above the brim under her chin.

*Collections:* From the artist to Mme. Ader, Paris, 1897; J. H. Haffer, Jr., Oklahoma City.

368  
**Sara in a Round-Brimmed Bonnet, Holding Her Dog** c. 1901  
Pastel, 23 × 18 in., 58.5 × 45.7 cm.  
Signed at right center: *Mary Cassatt*

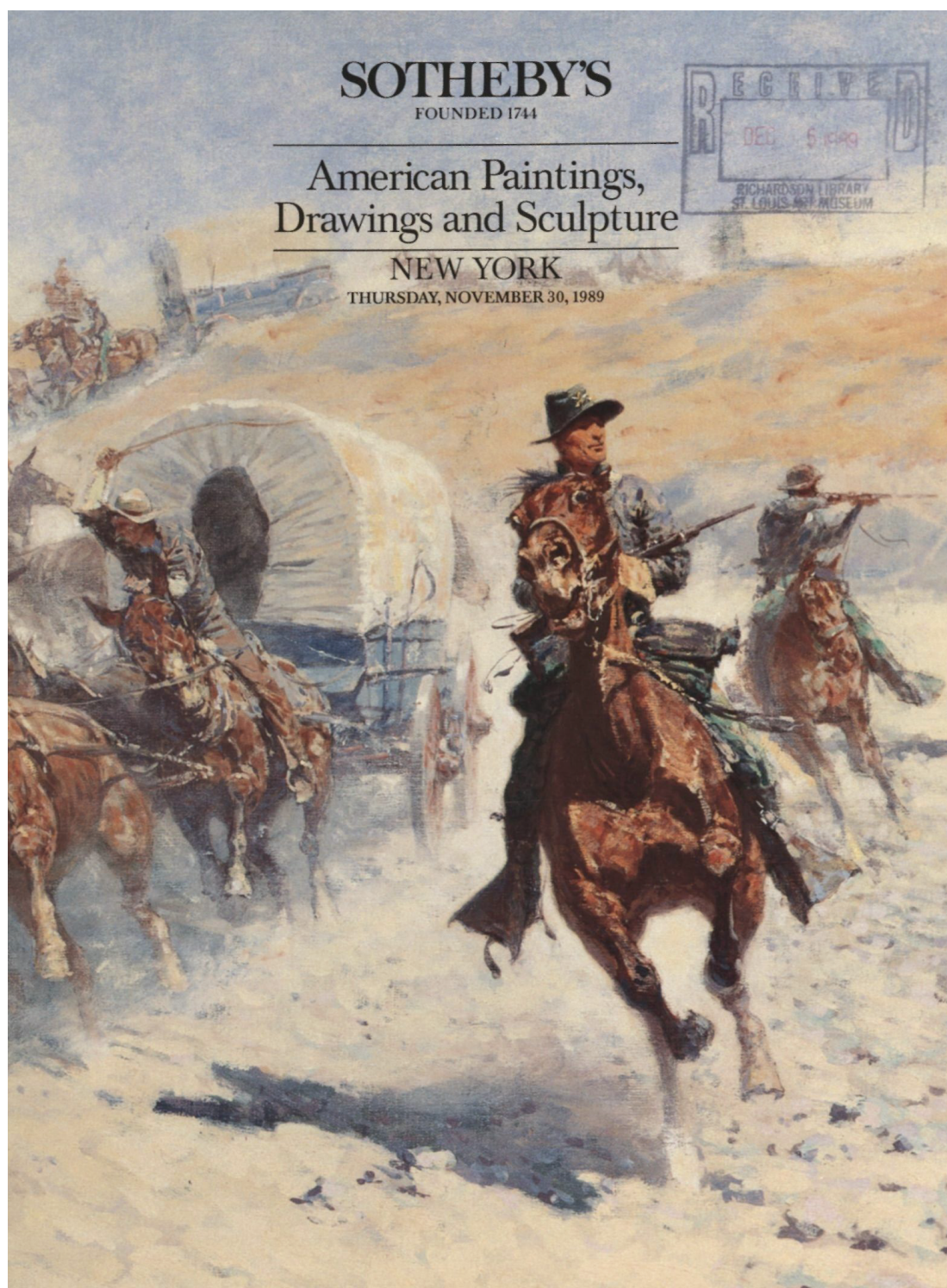
*Description:* Sara sits in an armchair upholstered in rose color with her dog on her lap. Both face forward but Sara looks to the right. She wears a round poke bonnet tied under the chin with a dark bow. It is trimmed with feathers and a cluster of blue flowers under the brim.

*Note:* Related to drypoint Br 197.

*Collections:* From the artist to Payson Thompson; American Art Association, New York, Thompson sale, 12 Jan. 1928 (cat. 82, illus.); to private collection, Flint, Michigan.

*Reproductions:* *International Studio*, vol. 89 (Jan. 1928), p. 368.



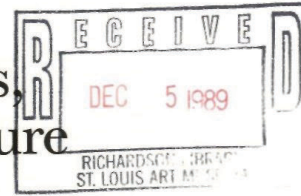


Sale, Sotheby's New York, 30 November 1989, lot 173





# American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture



Property of Various Owners Including  
 The Estate of John R. Black, Sr., Dallas, Texas  
 The Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Bloch, Kansas City, Missouri  
 The Estate of Walter P. Chrysler, Jr.  
 The Collection of Harold J. Goldman  
 The Collection of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gordon  
 The Collection of the late Maitland Lee Griggs, Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York  
 The Estate of Stephen Guglielmi, sold to benefit the Pastor's Benevolence Fund in Houston, Texas, for AIDS Patients  
 An Estate, sold at the Direction of the Internal Revenue Service  
 The Collection of the Irish American Cultural Institute, given by the Family of Ernie O'Malley  
 The Estate of the late Stuart S. Janney, Jr.  
 The Collection of the late Edgar J. Kaufmann, Jr.  
 Property sold by Order of The Trustees of a Midwestern Institution to benefit its Acquisitions Program  
 The Estate of Joseph E. Milgram, New York  
 The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth  
 The William Rockhill Nelson Trust, Kansas City, Missouri  
 The Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer P. Potamkin  
 Mr. Jeffrey Reynolds  
 A Southern California Private Collector  
 Formerly in the Collection of Andrew Tsanas, sold in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service  
 Walker Art Center, sold to establish a purchase fund for contemporary art in the name of the donor, the T.B. Walker Foundation  
 The Estate of Frederick P. Weissman  
 The Whitney Museum of American Art, sold to establish a Purchase Fund in the name of the donor  
 The Estate of Mary Jane Edwards Young, Spartanburg, South Carolina

## Auction

Thursday, November 30, 1989 at 10:15 am and 2 pm

## Exhibition

Saturday, November 25 1 pm to 5 pm  
 Sunday, November 26 1 pm to 5 pm  
 Monday, November 27 10 am to 5 pm  
 Tuesday, November 28 10 am to 5 pm  
 Wednesday, November 29 10 am to 3 pm

In sending absentee bids this catalogue  
 may be referred to as 5941 "TRISTAN"

Cover Illustration: Lot 114

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Sale, Sotheby's New York, 30 November 1989, lot 173







173

□ 173

**Mary Cassatt (1844–1926)**

SARA IN A ROUND-BRIMMED BONNET, HOLDING HER DOG

signed *Mary Cassatt*, m.r.

pastel on paper

Size: 22 by 16 1/4 in. 55.9 by 41.2 cm.

Executed circa 1901

A copy of a letter from Adelyn Dohme Breeskin discussing this pastel will accompany the lot.

*Provenance:*

Payson Thompson, New York (acquired from the artist)

Sale: American Art Association, New York, January 12, 1928, lot 82, illus. (for \$500)

J.P. Henry, 1928

Mrs. George C. Willson (gift to the present owner, 1958)

*Literature:*

*International Studio*, Vol. 89, January, 1928, p. 368, illus.  
Adelyn Dohme Breeskin, *Mary Cassatt, A Catalogue Raisonné of the Oils, Pastels, Watercolors and Drawings*, Washington, D.C., 1970, no. 368, p. 154, illus.

\$150,000–250,000

Sale, Sotheby's New York, 30 November 1989, lot 173



# AUCTION COMPARABLES



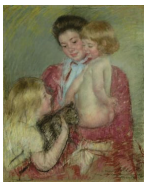
**Mary Cassatt**  
*Mother, Sara, and the Baby*  
 pastel on paper  
 Height 91.5 x Width 75 cm.  
 Height 36.024 x Width 29.528 in.  
 1901

**10 May 1989** *about 35 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
*IMPT IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN PAINTINGS/COLL. OF HAL B. WALLIS – [Lot 00003]*  
 est. 3,500,000 - 4,500,000 USD **3,850,000 USD** (P)



**Mary Cassatt**  
*Young mother sewing (study)*  
 pastel on paper  
 Height 92.7 x Width 72.4 cm.  
 Height 36.496 x Width 28.504 in.  
 1902

**02 December 2009** *over 14 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
*Important American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture – [Lot 00087]*  
 est. 800,000 - 1,200,000 USD **2,434,500 USD** (P)  
 ↑ 103% est



**Mary Cassatt**  
*Reine Lefebvre with blond baby and Sara holding a cat*  
 pastel on paper  
 Height 81.3 x Width 65.4 cm.  
 Height 32.008 x Width 25.748 in.  
 1902

**06 May 2003** *about 21 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**  
*Impressionist & Modern Art Part One – [Lot 00003]*  
 est. 1,000,000 - 1,500,000 USD **1,352,000 USD** (P)



**Mary Cassatt**  
*A Kiss for Baby Ann (No. 3)*  
 pastel on paper  
 Height 46.4 x Width 55.9 cm.  
 Height 18.268 x Width 22.008 in.  
 1897

**21 October 2022** *over 1 year ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
*The Ann & Gordon Getty Collection: Volume 2 | Old Master, 19th and 20th Century Paintings, Day Sale – [Lot 00171]*  
 est. 800,000 - 1,200,000 USD **1,108,800 USD** (P)



**Mary Cassatt**  
*Mother and nude child*  
 pastel on paper  
 Height 64.1 x Width 53.3 cm.  
 Height 25.236 x Width 20.984 in.

**05 June 1997** *about 27 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
*Important American and European Paintings, and Drawings from a distinguished private collection – [Lot 00017]*  
 est. 400,000 - 600,000 USD **992,500 USD** (P)  
 ↑ 65% est



## AUCTION COMPARABLES



**Mary Cassatt**  
*Mathilde holding baby who reaches out to right*

pastel on paper  
Height 72.7 x Width 60.4 cm.  
Height 28.622 x Width 23.78 in.  
1889

**22 June 2011** *almost 13 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist/Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 00154]*

est. 250,000 - 350,000 GBP  
est. 403,355 - 564,698 USD

**577,250** GBP (P)  
**931,348** USD (P)



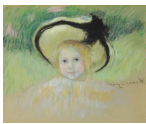
**Mary Cassatt**  
*Mother and child (Nude dark-eyed little girl with mother in patterned wrapper)*

pastel on paper  
Height 67.3 x Width 57.2 cm.  
Height 26.496 x Width 22.52 in.  
1898–1899

**19 May 2010** *about 14 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**  
*American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture – [Lot 00031]*

est. 500,000 - 700,000 USD

**902,500** USD (P)



**Mary Cassatt**  
*Girl in a Hat with a Black Ribbon*

pastel on paper  
Height 45.1 x Width 54.6 cm.  
Height 17.756 x Width 21.496 in.  
1901–1902

**22 May 2014** *about 10 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
*American Art – [Lot 00044]*

est. 400,000 - 600,000 USD

**665,000** USD (P)





Mary Cassatt | *Sara Wearing a Bonnet and Coat*

Circa 1904-06

**Medium:** Pastel over pastel counterproof on chine collé

**Dimensions:** 28<sup>11/16</sup> x 22<sup>7/8</sup> inches | 72.87 x 58.1 cm



**National**  
Gallery of Art

National Gallery of Art  
Washington D.C., United States



Mary Cassatt | *Sara Smiling in a Hat Holding her Dog*

Circa 1901

**Medium:** Pastel over a pastel counter-proof on paper

**Dimensions:** 27<sup>1/2</sup> x 22<sup>3/4</sup> inches | 69.85 x 57.78 cm



Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
Philadelphia, PA, United States



## Mary Cassatt | *Child with Red Hat*

Circa 1904

**Medium:** Pastel on light blue paper

**Dimensions:** 20<sup>11/16</sup> x 17<sup>1/16</sup> inches | 52.6 x 43.4 cm



**THE  
CLARK**

The Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown, MA, United States





Mary Cassatt | *Ellen Mary Cassatt*

Circa 1899

**Medium:** Pastel on laid paper

**Dimensions:** 12 x 14<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 30.5 x 36.8 cm



Metropolitan Museum of Art  
New York, United States



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