Directors' Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2007

Registered number 2353474

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# Directors' Report and Financial Statements

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# Directors' Report

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2007

#### Principal Activities

The Company is an investment holding company which owns the whole of the issued share capital of Christie's Hong Kong Limited, which engages in the business of fine art auctioneering in the Far East.

#### Business Review

During the year, the Company received no dividend income in the year (2006 £21 5m from Christie's Hong Kong Limited)

The principal risk that the Company faces is that the carrying value of its investment could be diminished. An annual review is carried out and provisions are made against it if necessary

The Director's are satisfied with the net asset position of the Company at £0 4m (2006 £0 4m)

#### Dividend

The Directors have not declared any dividends in the year (2006 £19,946 per share)

#### Directors

The Directors who held office during the year and at the date of this report are

R H Aydon (resigned 29th February 2008)

J B Chesworth

#### Disclosure of information to auditors

The Directors who held office at the date of approval of this Directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and each Director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information

By Order of the Board

J B Chesworth

Director

29 octoBAR LOS

8 King Street St James's London SW1Y 6QT

# Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards.

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have a general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

# Independent auditors' report to the members of Christie's Hong Kong Holdings Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Christic's Hong Kong Holdings Limited for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed

#### Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on page 2

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland)

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it

#### Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Opinion

#### In our opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2007 and of its profit for the year then ended,
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements

KPMG Audit Plc
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor
London

31 October 2008

# Profit and Loss Account For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		£'000	£'000
Administrative and other expenditure	_	(3)	(3)
Operating loss		(3)	(3)
Income from shares in group undertakings		-	21,517
Net interest income	4	33	1
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	5	30	21,515
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	6	(9)	(1,467)
Profit for the financial year	_	21	20,048

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the result for this or the last financial year Accordingly a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared

For the current and preceding year there were no discontinued operations or acquisitions

The notes to the accounts on pages 6 to 10 form part of these financial statements

# Balance Sheet As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

	Note	200	7	200	06
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		1,049		1,049
Current assets:					
Cash at bank and in hand		830		797	
		830	,	797	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,484)		(1,472)	
Net current liabilities			(654)		(675)
Total assets less current liabilities			395	•	374
Net assets			395	•	374
Capital and reserves					
Called up equity share capital	10		1		1
Profit and loss account	11		394		373
Shareholders' funds	12		395		374

The notes to the accounts on pages 6 to 10 form part of these financial statements

These accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 29 scales Loos and were signed on its behalf by

J B Chesworth

Director

#### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Company's financial statements

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards

The Company is exempt by virtue of s228 of the Companies Act 1985 from the requirement to prepare group accounts. These financial statements therefore present the results of the entity, and not its group.

The Company is exempt from the requirements of FRS1 "Cash Flow Statements (Revised 1996)" to prepare a cash flow statement, as it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Financière Pinault SCA, an EC incorporated company, and its cash flows are included within the consolidated cash flow statement of that company

The Company is exempt from the requirement to disclose related party transactions with other group companies under FRS8 "Related Party Disclosures" as it is a wholly owned subsidiary as detailed above

#### Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are shown at historical cost less any provision for impairment. If the carrying value of an investment exceeds the recoverable amount, it would be written down to its recoverable amount and an impairment loss would be recognised in the profit and loss account for the period

#### Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date and the gains or losses on translation are included in the profit and loss account.

#### **Taxation**

The charge for taxation is based on the profit for the year and takes into account deferred taxation because of timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes

Deferred taxation is recognised, without discounting, in respect of all timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes which have arisen but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except as otherwise required by FRS 19

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 2. Directors emoluments

The Directors did not receive any emoluments in respect of their service for this company during the year (2006 £ml)

#### 3. Staff numbers and costs

The company employs no staff (2006 nil)

#### 4. Net Interest

	2007	2006
	£'000	£,000
Bank interest received	33	1

### 5. Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is shown after charging

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Auditor's Remuneration		
Fees paid to the Company's auditor for the audit of the		
Company's annual accounts	3	2
Fees paid to the Company's auditor and its associates for		
other services		
The audit of the Company's subsidiaries, pursuant to		
legislation	24	23
Tax services	-	3

The audit fees borne by the Company were £2,000 (2006 £2,000) All other fees were borne by its subsidiary undertaking

# 6. Taxation on profit on ordinary activities

### a) Analysis of charge in period

	2007	2007	2006	2006
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK corporation tax Current tax on income for the period	9	-	1,467	_
Tax charge on profit on ordinary activities		9_		1,467_

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

#### b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the current period

The current tax credit for the period is the same as (2006 lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK which is 30% (2006 30%) The difference is explained below

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Current tax reconciliation		
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	30	21,515
Current tax at 30% (2006 30%)	9	6,455
Effects of		
Underlying foreign tax credit	-	(3,195)
Tax loss rate differential	-	(1,793)
Total current tax charge (see note 6a)	9	1,467

#### c) Factors affecting the future tax charge / (credit)

The total tax charge in future years is anticipated to follow the standard rate of UK corporation taxation. The statutory rate of UK corporation tax reduced to 28% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

### 7. Equity Dividends

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
Interim dividends paid		19,946

The Directors have not declared a dividend in the year (2006 £19,946,000)

#### 8. Fixed Asset Investments

The Company's wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, Christie's Hong Kong Limited, is incorporated in Hong Kong. The authorised share capital is HK\$12,500,000 divided into 1,250,000 ordinary shares of HK\$10 each, all of which have been issued to the Company. The principal activity of the subsidiary undertaking is to act as auctioneer for sales of fine art and to promote auctions and related activities throughout Asia.

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings
Cost	£'000
At beginning and end of year	1,049

In the opinion of the Directors the investment in the Company's subsidiary undertaking is worth at least the amount at which it is stated in the balance sheet

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

# 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2007	2006
	£'000	£,000
Amounts owed to group undertaking	1,481	1,469
Accruals and deferred income	3	3
	1,484	1,472

# 10. Share Capital

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Authorised		
1,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	1	1
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
1,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	1	1

### 11. Movements in reserves

	Profit and loss	
	account	
	£'000	
As at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007	373	
Profit for the financial year	21	
As at 31st December 2007	394	

# Notes to the Accounts (continued)

#### 12. Reconciliation of movements in shareholders' funds

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Profit for the financial year	21	20,048
Equity dividends	-	(19,946)
Increase in shareholders' funds	21	102
At beginning of year	374	272
At end of year	395	374

### 13. Ultimate parent undertaking

The smallest and largest group in which the results of Christie's Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited are consolidated is Financière Pinault SCA, a company incorporated in France Financière Pinault SCA is the ultimate parent undertaking of Christie's Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited The financial statements of Financière Pinault SCA are filed with the Tribunal de Commerce de Paris, 1, Quai de Corse, 75004 Paris