

# COLNAGHI

## COLNAGHI ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION - *SOROLLA: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE*



Joaquín Sorolla (Valencia 1863 – Madrid 1923), *Niños en el mar*, 1908, oil on canvas, 60 x 100cm © Colnaghi

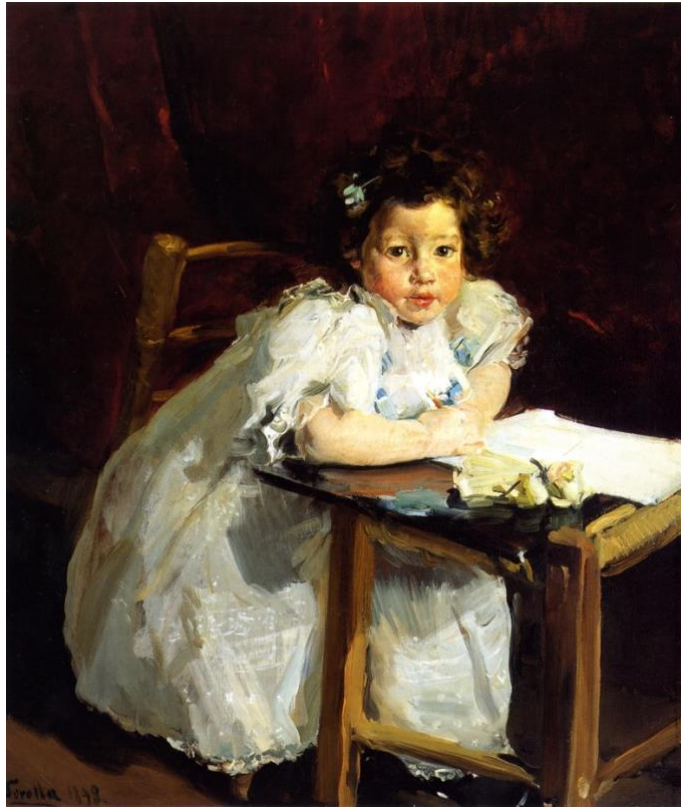
**London; 8 November 2023** | Colnaghi is delighted to announce its new exhibition *Sorolla: A Celebration of Life*, opening at Colnaghi London on 1 December 2023. Coinciding with London Art Week, this seminal show, masterminded by three Spanish art professionals- Jorge Coll, Artur Ramon and Dámaso Berenguer- will feature masterpieces by Joaquín Sorolla (1863-1923), several of which have hitherto not come to market.

2023 marks the centenary of Sorolla's death, a fitting occasion on which to have gathered some fifteen of his works to honour the major role he played within the canon of Spanish art history. Together with John Singer Sargent and Giovanni Boldini, he was the most celebrated painter of his time, whose output is key to understanding fin de siècle European art.

Hailing from private collections, the artworks included in *Sorolla: A Celebration of Life* encompass many of Sorolla's most recurrent themes, including social realism, insightful portraiture, scenes painted *en plain air*- such as a sun-dappled Valencian terrace- and, crucially, the sea. Ever the lively protagonist, Sorolla's sea is captured with deft brushstrokes, conveying the crashing of waves and the swirl of foam, lapping around happy bathers. Two such works are featured in our exhibition, 1908's *Niños en el mar* and *Niños bañándose en la playa*, both of which are paeans to Spanish summers and uninhibited gaiety.

In part, Spanish painting's comparative lack of international recognition can be attributed to a dearth of promotion and exhibition. As such, *Sorolla: A Celebration of Life*- the fourth in a series of shows dedicated to Spanish modern masters- will tour various locations: Brussels, London, New York and Madrid, the latter three cities having ebulliently recognised Sorolla during his lifetime. The visibility of the exhibition, beyond its commercial aspect, plays a crucial part in our decision to honour the undisputed leading figure of Spanish Impressionism, whose impact is still keenly felt a century after he died.

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Joaquín Sorolla (Valencia 1863 – Madrid 1923), *Little Elena at her Desk*, 1898, oil on canvas, 98 x 83 cm © Colnaghi

***Sorolla: A Celebration of Life* will be on view at Colnaghi London, 26 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AL from 1 December 2023 – 5 January 2024**

## **Media Contact**

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## **About Colnaghi**

Founded in 1760, Colnaghi is among the oldest commercial art galleries in the world, and one of the few specialising in works of art from antiquity to the present day. Since the late nineteenth century, Colnaghi has been a leading dealership in Old Master paintings and sculpture, prints and drawings, selling masterpieces to the greatest collectors and museums of the Gilded Age. With galleries in London, New York and Madrid, today Colnaghi deals in rare objects from the Ancient World and the finest Old Master, Modern and contemporary works, providing its clients with expert advice and opportunities to cross-collect across centuries and media.