



ANNUAL REPORT

20
11

Sotheby's

EST. 1744



LOT 69

Sotheby's

£190,000

USD \$205,084

EUR €21,014

CHF 19,000

Sotheby's

Wilson Gallery

Sotheby's

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SOTHEBY'S SHAREHOLDERS' INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Sotheby's
1334 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021
212 606 7000
www.sothebys.com

TRANSFER AGENT

BNY Mellon Shareowner Services
480 Washington Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07310
Tel: U.S. Holders: 800 303 3971
Tel: Non-U.S. Holders: 201 680 6578
<http://www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd>

COMMON STOCK INFORMATION

Sotheby's Class A Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol: BID)

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on May 8, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Sotheby's 1334 York Avenue New York, NY 10021

SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

All of the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission may be obtained online at <http://investor.shareholder.com/bid/sec.cfm> or by writing to:

Investor Relations
Sotheby's
1334 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Tel: 800 700 6321
investor@sothebys.com

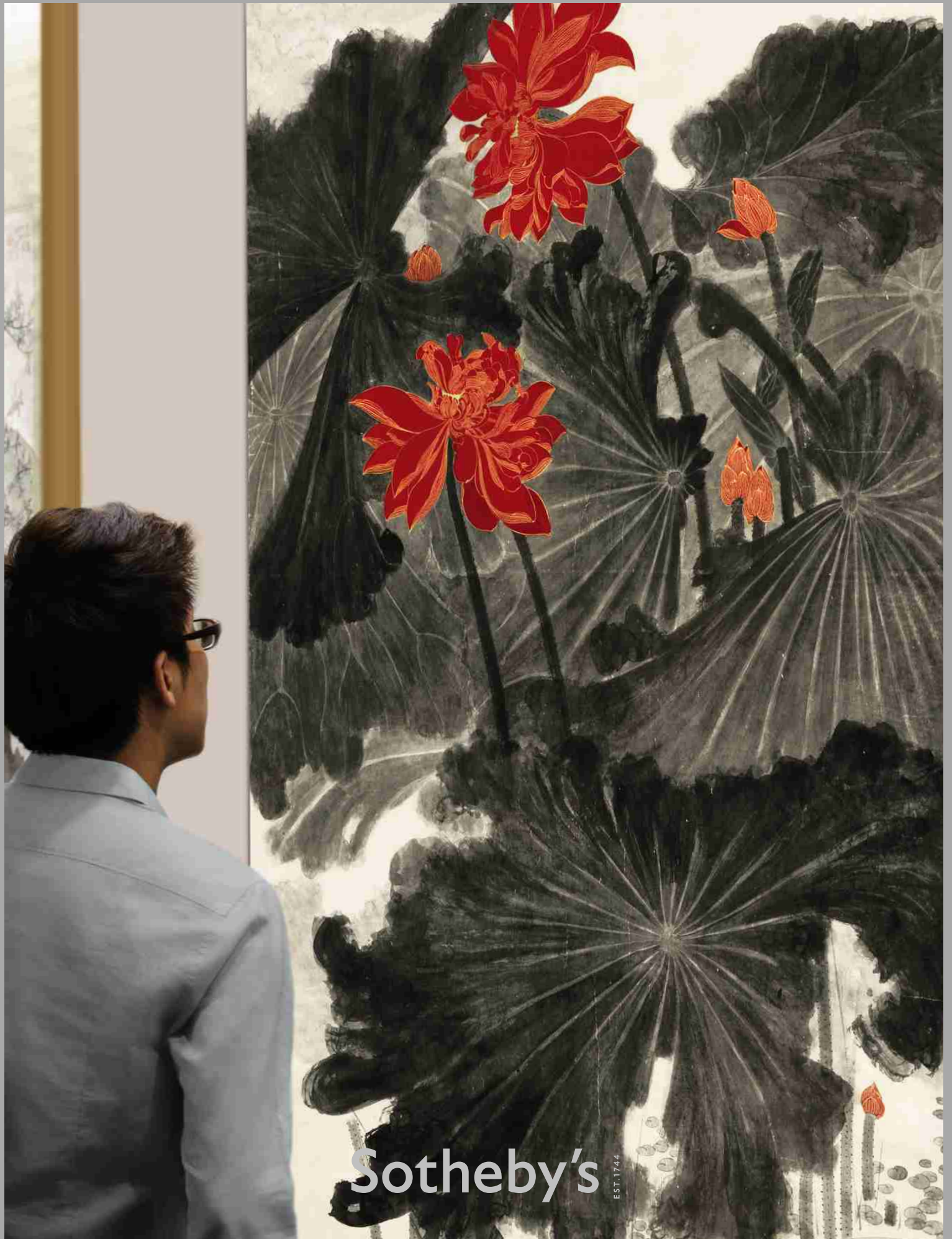
U.K. Corporate Office
Sotheby's
34-35 New Bond Street
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Sotheby's latest financial information and news is also available by fax, recording, or mail by calling our Shareholder Direct toll-free line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 800 700 6321.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Deloitte & Touche LLP
Two World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281

Cover: Clyfford Still 1949-A-No. 1, Sold for US \$61,682,500 in November 2011 © Clyfford Still Estate
Back cover: Zhang Daqian Lotus and Mandarin Ducks Sold for HK\$191,060,000 (US\$24,494,872) in May 2011
Inside front cover: Property from an English Private Collection Francesco Guardi Venice, a View of the Rialto Bridge, Looking North, Opposite from the Fondamenta del Carbon, Sold for £26,697,250 (US\$42,865,105) in July 2011



Sotheby's

EST. 1744

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

- ☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011.
- OR
- ☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO
COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-9750

Sotheby's EST. 1744

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)
1334 York Avenue
New York, New York
(Address of principal executive offices)

38-2478409
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)
10021
(Zip Code)

(212) 606-7000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value | New York Stock Exchange |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Act. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter periods that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Large accelerated filer ☒ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act) Yes ☐ No ☒

As of June 30, 2011, the aggregate market value of the 67,206,102 shares of Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$2,923,465,437 based upon the closing price (\$43.50) on the New York Stock Exchange composite tape on such date for the Common Stock.

As of February 22, 2012, there were outstanding 67,503,459 shares of Common Stock.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement for the 2011 annual meeting of shareholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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PART I

ITEM 1: DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

Overview

Sotheby's (or, "the Company") is one of the world's two largest auctioneers of authenticated fine and decorative art, jewelry and collectibles (collectively, "art" or "works of art" or "artwork" or "property"). In 2011, Sotheby's accounted for approximately \$5 billion, or 51%, of the total aggregate auction sales of the two major auction houses within the global auction market.

Sotheby's operations are organized under three segments: Auction, Finance and Dealer. Sotheby's Auction segment functions principally as an agent by offering works of art for sale at auction and by brokering private sales of artwork. Sotheby's also operates as a dealer in works of art through its Dealer segment, conducts art-related financing activities through its Finance segment and is engaged, to a lesser extent, in brand licensing activities. A more detailed explanation of the activities of each of Sotheby's segments, as well as its brand licensing activities, is provided below.

Sotheby's was initially incorporated in Michigan in August 1983. In October 1983, the Company acquired Sotheby Parke Bernet Group Limited, which was then a publicly held company listed on the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and which, through its predecessors, had been engaged in the auction business since 1744. In 1988, Sotheby's issued shares of common stock to the public. In June 2006, Sotheby's reincorporated in the State of Delaware. Sotheby's common stock ("Common Stock") is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") and trades under the symbol "BID." As successor to the business that began in 1744, Sotheby's is the oldest company listed on the NYSE.

Auction Segment

Description of Business

The sale of works of art in the international art market is primarily effected through the major auction houses, numerous art dealers, smaller auction houses and also directly between collectors. Although art dealers and smaller auction houses generally do not report sales figures publicly, Sotheby's believes that art dealers account for the majority of the volume of transactions in the international art market.

Sotheby's Auction segment functions principally as an agent by offering works of art for sale at auction and by brokering private art sales. Sotheby's principal role as an agent is to stimulate buyer interest through professional marketing techniques and to match sellers and buyers through the auction or private sale process. Prior to offering a work of art for sale, Sotheby's experts perform significant due diligence activities to authenticate and determine the ownership history of the property being sold.

In its role as auctioneer, Sotheby's represents sellers of artworks by accepting property on consignment and by matching sellers to buyers through the auction process. Sotheby's invoices the buyer for the purchase price of the property (including the commission owed by the buyer), collects payment from the buyer and remits to the seller the net sale proceeds after deducting its commissions, expenses and applicable taxes and royalties. Sotheby's commissions include those paid by the buyer ("buyer's premium") and those paid by the seller ("seller's commission") (collectively, "auction commission revenue"), both of which are calculated as a percentage of the hammer price of the property sold at auction. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, auction commission revenue accounted for 84%, 86%, and 82%, respectively, of Sotheby's consolidated revenues.

Under the standard terms and conditions of its auction sales, Sotheby's is not obligated to pay consignors for property that has not been paid for by buyers. If a buyer defaults on payment, the sale may be cancelled, and the property will be returned to the consignor. Alternatively, the consignor may reoffer the property at a future Sotheby's auction or negotiate a private sale with Sotheby's acting as its agent. However, on a limited basis and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, the consignor may be paid the net sale proceeds before payment is collected from the buyer and/or the buyer may be allowed to take possession of the property before making payment. In situations when the buyer takes possession of the property before making payment, Sotheby's is liable to the seller for the net sale proceeds whether or not the buyer makes payment.

From time to time in the ordinary course of its business, Sotheby's will guarantee to consignors a minimum sale price in connection with the sale of property at auction (an "auction guarantee"). In the event that the property sells for less than the guaranteed price, Sotheby's must perform under the auction guarantee by funding the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee. Sotheby's is generally entitled to a share of the excess proceeds (the "overage") if the property under the auction guarantee sells above the guaranteed price. If the property does not sell, the amount of the auction guarantee must be paid, but Sotheby's has the right to recover such amount through the future sale of the property. In these situations, the guaranteed property is recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet at the lower of cost

(i.e., the amount paid under the auction guarantee) or management's estimate of the property's net realizable value (i.e., expected sale price upon disposition). The sale proceeds ultimately realized by Sotheby's in these situations may equal, exceed or be less than the amount recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet.

Sotheby's may reduce its financial exposure under auction guarantees through risk and reward sharing arrangements, which include:

- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to bid a predetermined price on the guaranteed property (an "irrevocable bid"). If the irrevocable bid is the winning bid, the counterparty purchases the property at the predetermined price plus the applicable buyer's premium, which is the same amount that any other successful bidder would pay at that price. If the irrevocable bid is not the winning bid, the counterparty is generally entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned on the sale and/or a share of any overage.
- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to fund: (i) a share of the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee if the property sells for less than the guaranteed price or (ii) a share of the guaranteed price if the property does not sell while taking ownership of a proportionate share of the unsold property. In exchange for accepting a share of the financial exposure under the auction guarantee, the counterparty is entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned and/or a share of any overage if the property sells.

The counterparties to these auction guarantee risk and reward sharing arrangements are typically major international art dealers or major art collectors. Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event any of these counterparties do not perform according to the terms of these contractual arrangements.

(See Notes D, E and R of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Seasonality

The worldwide art auction market has two principal selling seasons, which generally occur in the second and fourth quarters of the year. Accordingly, Sotheby's auction business is seasonal, with peak revenues and operating income generally occurring in those quarters. Consequently, first and third quarter results have historically reflected a lower volume of auction activity when compared to the second and fourth quarters and, typically, a net loss due to the fixed nature of many of Sotheby's operating expenses. (See Note V of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

The Auction Market and Competition

Competition in the international art market is intense. A fundamental challenge facing any auctioneer or art dealer is to obtain high quality and valuable property for sale either as agent or as principal. Sotheby's primary global auction competitor is Christie's International, PLC ("Christie's"), a privately held, French-owned, auction house. To a much lesser extent, Sotheby's also faces competition from smaller auction houses such as Bonhams and Phillips de Pury & Company, as well as regional auction houses and a variety of art dealers across all collecting categories. In the Chinese art market, Sotheby's also competes with Beijing Poly International Auction Co. Ltd., China Guardian Auctions Co. Ltd. and Beijing Hanhai Auction Co. Ltd.

The owner of a work of art wishing to sell has four principal options: (i) sale or consignment to, or private sale by, an art dealer; (ii) consignment to, or private sale by, an auction house; (iii) private sale to a collector or museum without the use of an intermediary; or (iv) for certain categories of property (in particular, collectibles) consignment to, or private sale through, an internet-based service. The more valuable the property, the more likely it is that the owner will consider more than one option and will solicit proposals from more than one potential purchaser or agent, particularly if the seller is a fiduciary representing an estate or trust. A complex array of factors may influence the seller's decision. These factors, which are not ranked in any particular order, include:

- The level and breadth of expertise of the art dealer or auction house with respect to the property;
- The extent of the prior relationship, if any, between the art dealer or auction house and its staff and the seller;
- The reputation and historic level of achievement by the art dealer or auction house in attaining high sale prices in the property's specialized category;
- The client's desire for privacy;
- The amount of cash offered by an art dealer, auction house or other purchaser to purchase the property outright, which is greatly influenced by the amount and cost of capital resources available to such parties;
- The availability and terms of financial options offered by auction houses including auction guarantees, short-term

financing and auction commission sharing arrangements;

- The level of pre-sale estimates;
- The desirability of a public auction in order to achieve the maximum possible price (a particular concern for fiduciary sellers, such as trustees and estate executors);
- The amount of commission charged by art dealers or auction houses to sell a work on consignment;
- The cost, style and extent of pre-sale marketing and promotion to be undertaken by an art dealer or auction house;
- Reputation and recommendations by third parties consulted by the seller;
- The desire of clients to conduct business with a publicly traded company; and
- The availability and extent of related services, such as tax or insurance appraisals.

It is not possible to measure with any particular accuracy the entire international art market or to reach any conclusions regarding overall competition because privately owned art dealers and auction firms frequently do not publicly report annual totals for auction sales, revenues or profits, and the amounts reported may not be verifiable.

Auction Regulation

Regulation of the auction business varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In many jurisdictions, Sotheby's is subject to laws and regulations that are not directed solely toward the auction business, including, but not limited to, import and export regulations, antitrust laws, cultural property ownership laws, data protection and privacy laws, anti-money laundering laws, copyright and resale royalty laws, and laws and regulations involving sales, use, value-added and other indirect taxes. In addition, Sotheby's is subject to local auction regulations, such as New York City Auction Regulations Subchapter M of Title 6 §§ 2-121–2-125, et. seq. Such regulations do not impose a material impediment to Sotheby's business, but do affect the market generally. A material adverse change in such regulations, such as the Equity for Visual Artists bill introduced in the U.S. Congress imposing a 7% resale royalty only on sales of art through large auction houses, could materially affect Sotheby's business. Additionally, export and import laws and cultural property ownership laws could affect the availability of certain kinds of property for sale at Sotheby's principal auction locations or could increase the cost of moving property to such locations. In addition, failure to comply with local laws and regulations could subject Sotheby's to civil and/or criminal penalties in such jurisdictions. Sotheby's has a Compliance Department which, amongst other activities, develops and updates compliance policies and audits, monitors, and provides training to its employees on compliance with many of these laws and regulations.

Finance Segment

Description of Business

Sotheby's Finance segment provides certain collectors and art dealers with financing secured by works of art that Sotheby's either has in its possession or permits borrowers to possess. The Finance segment generally makes two types of secured loans: (i) advances secured by consigned property to borrowers who are contractually committed, in the near term, to sell the property at auction (a "consignor advance"); and (ii) general purpose term loans secured by property not presently intended for sale (a "term loan"). A consignor advance allows a seller to receive funds upon consignment for an auction that will typically occur up to one year in the future, while preserving for the benefit of the seller the potential of the auction process. Term loans allow Sotheby's to establish or enhance mutually beneficial relationships with borrowers and may generate future auction consignments or may be used to facilitate certain auction or private purchases. On rare occasions, in order to attract future consignments, Sotheby's also makes unsecured loans to clients.

The collection of secured loans can be adversely impacted by a decline in the art market in general or in the value of the particular collateral. In addition, in situations when there are competing claims on the collateral and/or when a borrower becomes subject to bankruptcy or insolvency laws, Sotheby's ability to realize on its collateral may be limited or delayed.

Sotheby's target loan-to-value ("LTV") ratio, which is defined as the principal loan amount divided by the low auction estimate of the collateral, is 50% or lower. However, loans are sometimes made at an initial LTV higher than 50%. In addition, as a result of the periodic revaluation of loan collateral, the LTV ratio of certain loans may increase above the 50% target due to decreases in the low auction estimates of the collateral. The revaluation of loan collateral is performed by Sotheby's specialists on an annual basis or more frequently if there is a material change in circumstances related to the loan or the disposal plans for the collateral. Management believes that the LTV ratio is the critical credit quality indicator for Finance segment secured loans. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the aggregate LTV ratio of Finance segment secured loans was 42% and 45%, respectively. As of December 31, 2011, Finance segment secured loans with an LTV ratio above 50% totaled \$134.3 million and the

collateral related to these loans had a low auction estimate of \$225.2 million. As of December 31, 2010, Finance segment secured loans with an LTV ratio above 50% totaled \$133 million and the collateral related to these loans had a low auction estimate of \$191 million.

Finance segment loans are predominantly variable interest rate loans; however, short-term, interest-free advances with maturities typically ranging between three and six months are provided to certain consignors in order to secure high-value property for auctions and can represent a significant portion of the client loan portfolio as of the end of certain quarterly reporting periods in advance of peak selling seasons.

The activities of the Finance segment, which are conducted through Sotheby's wholly-owned subsidiaries, have in recent years been funded through the operating cash flows of the Auction segment. Sotheby's may supplement the funding of the Finance segment with credit facility borrowings, but has not borrowed under its credit facility during the last three years. (See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.")

(See Notes D and E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

The Finance Market and Competition

A considerable number of traditional lending sources offer conventional loans at a lower cost to borrowers than the average cost of loans offered by Sotheby's Finance segment. Additionally, many traditional lenders offer borrowers a variety of integrated financial services such as wealth management services, which are not offered by Sotheby's. Few lenders, however, are willing to accept works of art as sole collateral as they do not possess the ability to both appraise and sell works of art within a vertically integrated organization. Sotheby's believes that through a combination of its art expertise and skills in international law and finance, it has the ability to tailor attractive financing packages for clients who wish to obtain immediate access to liquidity from their art assets.

Dealer Segment

Description of Business

Sotheby's Dealer segment principally includes the activities of Noortman Master Paintings (or "NMP"), an art dealer that sells works of art from inventory directly to private collectors and museums and, from time-to-time, acts as a broker in private purchases and sales of art.

NMP was acquired by Sotheby's on June 7, 2006 paying initial consideration in the form of 1,946,849 shares of Common Stock (the "Initial Consideration"). Pursuant to the terms of the acquisition, if NMP failed to achieve a minimum level of financial performance during the five years following the closing of the transaction, up to 20% of the Initial Consideration would be returned to Sotheby's. The minimum level of financial performance was not achieved by NMP as of May 31, 2011 and, as a result, 147,341 shares of Sotheby's Common Stock were returned to Sotheby's.

In the third quarter of 2011, following the fifth anniversary of the acquisition of NMP and the expiration of the related financial performance targets, management initiated a plan to restructure NMP's business and sales strategy. Historically, NMP has principally specialized in sales of Dutch and Flemish Old Master Paintings, as well as French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, with a large number of paintings held in inventory at various price points. However, as a result of the restructuring of its business and sales strategy, NMP is greatly reducing its inventory of lower valued Old Master Paintings and shifting its focus to a select group of high-valued works of art. Accordingly, NMP sold a collection of lower valued works at various auction houses in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the ordinary course of NMP's business, these objects would have been held for a longer period and sold in privately negotiated transactions. As a result of this new strategy and due in part to a general weakening of the private dealer market for certain categories of Old Master Paintings, as well as a shift in the collecting tastes of NMP's clients, inventory writedowns of \$8.4 million were recorded in 2011, of which \$5.7 million were recorded in the third quarter of 2011.

To a lesser extent, Dealer segment activities also include the investment in and resale of artworks directly by Sotheby's and the activities of certain equity investees, including Acquavella Modern Art (or "AMA"). (See Note G of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

The Dealer Market and Competition

The Dealer segment operates in the same markets as Sotheby's Auction segment and is impacted to varying degrees by many of the same competitive factors (as discussed above under "The Auction Market and Competition"). The most prominent competitive factors impacting the Dealer segment, which are not ranked in any particular order, include: (i) reputation and relationships and personal interaction between the buyer or seller and the art dealer; (ii) access to, and participation in, art fairs;

(iii) the level of specialized expertise of the art dealer; (iv) the ability of the art dealer to locate and purchase quality works of art for resale; and (v) the ability of the art dealer to finance purchases of art.

Brand Licensing Activities

Prior to 2004, Sotheby's engaged in the marketing and brokerage of luxury residential real estate sales through Sotheby's International Realty (or "SIR"). In 2004, Sotheby's sold SIR to a subsidiary of Realogy Corporation (or "Realogy"), formerly Cendant Corporation. In conjunction with the sale, Sotheby's entered into an agreement with Realogy to license the SIR trademark and certain related trademarks for an initial 50-year term with a 50-year renewal option (the "Realogy License Agreement"). The Realogy License Agreement is applicable worldwide.

The Realogy License Agreement provides for an ongoing license fee during its term based on the volume of commerce transacted under the licensed trademarks. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Sotheby's earned \$3.9 million, \$3.1 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, in license fee revenue related to the Realogy License Agreement.

The Sotheby's name is also licensed for use in connection with the art auction business in Australia, art education services in the U.S. and the United Kingdom ("U.K.") and print management services. Management will consider additional opportunities to license the Sotheby's brand in businesses where appropriate.

Strategic Initiatives

Continued Focus on Sotheby's Most Valuable Relationships

Sotheby's focus on the high-end of the art market has been an important contributor to its success. Accordingly, management is continuing to dedicate significant time, energy and resources to broadening and extending the breadth and depth of Sotheby's relationships with major clients. These efforts are part of a multi-year strategy to invest in those areas which serve Sotheby's major clients best.

Over the past several years, Sotheby's has made substantial investments in information technology designed to improve client service. A portfolio of enterprise systems anchored by SAP has been deployed across the organization, which has enhanced the quality of information and the processing of sales and inventory tracking, as well as data management. In 2010, Sotheby's implemented a systems enhancement to significantly reengineer and improve Sotheby's post-sale client service. In particular, enhancements were made to facilitate the shipment and tracking of client purchased property, and Sotheby's reorganized its staff so that clients have a single point of contact for post sale inquiries. Also, in 2010, the sothebys.com website was enhanced with several important features including BIDnow™ (an online bidding feature), mobile and IPHONE/IPAD† website access, improved e-catalogue features, Chinese language e-catalogues and a new retail wine website. The BIDnow™ feature has satisfied a demand from clients for online bidding capabilities and its impact in certain categories such as wine, jewelry and books has been dramatic.

In 2011, management made further significant technology investments, including a re-launch of the sothebys.com website. The new website provides clients with a variety of new and innovative tools, such as recommendations, related lots, favorites, foreign language translations, enhanced account management, and new custom proprietary content. Sotheby's also launched a custom catalogue app design for the IPAD† in the fourth quarter of 2011. Additionally, Sotheby's is leveraging social media channels with a new presence on FACEBOOK†, YOUTUBE† and TWITTER†.

Client relationships are a key driver of Sotheby's success and its clients expect a consistently high level of service. Management believes these initiatives will have a meaningful positive impact on the future of Sotheby's business.

†IPHONE, IPAD, FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE and TWITTER are third-party marks over which Sotheby's does not make any claims.

Continue to Develop Sotheby's Presence in China and Other Emerging Markets

In recent years, Sotheby's has focused on developing its presence in China and the growth in activity from buyers in this region has been dramatic. As demonstrated in the following table, over the past five years, auction and related revenues attributable to Sotheby's Hong Kong has increased substantially and has become an increasingly significant contributor to Sotheby's financial results (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Auction and related revenues attributable to Sotheby's Hong Kong | \$156,361 | \$111,651 | \$50,061 | \$52,331 | \$59,550 |
| As a percentage of Sotheby's consolidated auction and related revenues | 18.8% | 14.4% | 10.3% | 7.6% | 6.5% |

Management is continuing to focus on developing Sotheby's presence in China by deepening its relationships with Chinese art collectors in a number of ways, including:

- The implementation of regional marketing initiatives such as the publishing of Hong Kong sales catalogues in Chinese, the launching of a Chinese language website that includes e-catalogues for sales of Asian Art and Sotheby's major Impressionist and Contemporary sales and the hosting of various traveling exhibitions, including the *Modern Masters* private selling exhibition of western art in Beijing and several other events promoting Asian Art.
- Investing in new staff with the requisite skills to service Asian clients at Sotheby's Hong Kong, New York and London locations, as well as to support the growth of the Chinese art market.
- The expansion of Sotheby's facilities in Hong Kong to accommodate growth opportunities in the Chinese art market.
- Conducting a greater number of auctions and private selling events in Hong Kong. Typically, Sotheby's major Hong Kong auctions are held in early April and early October. Beginning in 2012, the premises expansion discussed above will enable Sotheby's to conduct more auctions in Hong Kong throughout the year, in addition to its traditional auctions held in April and October. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)
- The exploration of a number of ideas for partnerships and/or licensing opportunities in order to sell art at auction and/or privately in mainland China.

In addition to Sotheby's progress in China, investments have also been made in emerging markets such as Russia, the Middle East and South America, with offices opened in Moscow and Doha, Qatar in 2008 and Brazil in 2011.

Enhance Private Sales Initiatives

Private sales have become increasingly important to Sotheby's overall financial performance with private sale commission revenues totaling \$67.8 million in 2011, a 53% increase when compared to 2010 and a 24% increase when compared to the previous peak of the art market in 2007, as management continues to maintain a greater focus on this revenue stream. Over the past two years, Sotheby's has hosted a number of new and innovative private sale exhibitions and, in 2011, Sotheby's completed the construction of a dedicated private sale exhibition gallery, the S|2 Gallery, at its York Avenue headquarters in New York.

Financial and Geographical Information about Segments

See Note D of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for financial and geographical information about Sotheby's segments.

Employees

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had 1,446 employees with 588 located in North America; 503 in the U.K.; 225 in Continental Europe; and 130 in Asia. Sotheby's regards its relations with substantially all of its employees as good. The table below provides a breakdown of Sotheby's employees by segment as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Auction | 1,271 | 1,215 |
| Finance | 7 | 7 |
| Dealer | 10 | 8 |
| All Other | 158 | 150 |
| Total | 1,446 | 1,380 |

Employees classified within "All Other" principally relate to Sotheby's central corporate and information technology departments.

On June 30, 2011, the collective bargaining agreement applicable to 42 property handlers employed at Sotheby's New York City office expired. During the process of negotiations with the union representing the property handlers, the union made statements to the media threatening a strike. In order to avoid the impact of the union's threatened strike during the upcoming sales season and in support of Sotheby's bargaining proposals, Sotheby's locked out members of the bargaining unit on July 29, 2011. Although management cannot predict the ultimate outcome of the negotiations and any associated work disruption, Sotheby's is committed to a good faith bargaining process and resolution of this matter. In the interim, Sotheby's ability to conduct business at its New York City office could be disrupted by the lockout, though management has contingency plans in place to minimize any potential disruption that could be caused by the lockout. The union has also initiated a broader campaign seeking to pressure Sotheby's management and its Board of Directors and to influence Sotheby's clients and suppliers to support the union and cease doing business with Sotheby's. It is impossible to predict the impact of this union campaign, but to-date, the campaign has not had a material impact on Sotheby's business.

Website Address

Sotheby's makes available free of charge its annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K through a hyperlink from its website, <http://investor.shareholder.com/bid/sec.cfm>, a website maintained by an unaffiliated third-party service. Such reports are made available on the same day that they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Information available on the website is not incorporated by reference and is not deemed to be part of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 1A: RISK FACTORS

Sotheby's operating results and liquidity are significantly influenced by a number of risk factors, many of which are not within its control. These factors, which are not ranked in any particular order, are discussed below.

The global economy and the financial markets and political conditions of various countries may negatively affect Sotheby's business and clients, as well as the supply of and demand for works of art.

The international art market is influenced over time by the overall strength and stability of the global economy and the financial markets of various countries, although this correlation may not be immediately evident. In addition, global political conditions and world events may affect Sotheby's business through their effect on the economies of various countries, as well as on the willingness of potential buyers and sellers to purchase and sell art in the wake of economic uncertainty. Sotheby's business can be particularly influenced by the economies, financial markets and political conditions of the U.S., the U.K., China and the other major countries or territories of Europe and Asia. Accordingly, weakness in those economies and financial markets can adversely affect the supply of and demand for works of art and Sotheby's business. Furthermore, global political conditions may also influence the enactment of legislation that could adversely impact Sotheby's business.

Government laws and regulations may restrict or limit Sotheby's business.

Many of Sotheby's activities are subject to laws and regulations including, but not limited to, import and export regulations, cultural property ownership laws, data protection and privacy laws, anti-money laundering laws, antitrust laws, copyright and resale royalty laws, and laws and regulations involving sales, use, value-added and other indirect taxes. In addition, Sotheby's is subject to local auction regulations, such as New York City Auction Regulations Subchapter M of Title 6 §§ 2-121-2-125, et. seq. Such regulations currently do not impose a material impediment to the worldwide business of

Sotheby's, but do affect the market generally. A material adverse change in such regulations, such as the Equity for Visual Artists bill introduced in the U.S. Congress imposing a 7% resale royalty on sales of art through large auction houses, could affect Sotheby's business. Additionally, export and import laws and cultural property ownership laws could affect the availability of certain kinds of property for sale at Sotheby's principal auction locations or could increase the cost of moving property to such locations.

Foreign currency exchange rate movements can significantly increase or decrease Sotheby's results of operations.

Sotheby's has operations throughout the world, with approximately 62% of its revenues earned outside of the U.S. in 2011. Revenues and expenses relating to Sotheby's foreign operations are translated using weighted average monthly exchange rates during the period in which they are recognized. Accordingly, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, particularly for the Pound Sterling and the Euro, can significantly increase or decrease Sotheby's results of operations.

Competition in the international art market is intense and may adversely impact Sotheby's results of operations.

Sotheby's competes with other auctioneers and art dealers to obtain valuable consignments to offer for sale either at auction or through private sale. The level of competition is intense and can adversely impact Sotheby's ability to obtain valuable consignments for sale, as well as the commission margins achieved on such consignments.

Sotheby's cannot be assured of the amount and quality of property consigned for sale at auction, which may cause significant variability in its financial results.

The amount and quality of property consigned for sale is influenced by a number of factors not within Sotheby's control. Many major consignments, and specifically single-owner sale consignments, often become available as a result of the death or financial or marital difficulties of the owner, all of which are unpredictable and may cause significant variability in Sotheby's financial results from period to period.

The demand for art is unpredictable, which may cause significant variability in Sotheby's financial results.

The demand for art is influenced not only by overall economic conditions, but also by changing trends in the art market as to which collecting categories and artists are most sought after and by the collecting preferences of individual collectors, all of which are difficult to predict and which may adversely impact the ability of Sotheby's to obtain and sell consigned property, potentially causing significant variability in Sotheby's financial results from period to period.

The loss of key personnel could adversely impact Sotheby's ability to compete.

Sotheby's is largely a service business in which the ability of its employees to develop and maintain relationships with potential sellers and buyers of works of art is essential to its success. Moreover, Sotheby's business is unique, making it important to retain key specialists and members of management. Accordingly, Sotheby's business is highly dependent upon its success in attracting and retaining qualified personnel.

Sotheby's ability to conduct business at its New York City office could be disrupted by a work stoppage involving unionized employees.

On June 30, 2011, the collective bargaining agreement applicable to 42 property handlers employed at Sotheby's New York City office expired. During the process of negotiations with the union representing the property handlers, the union made statements to the media threatening a strike. In order to avoid the impact of the union's threatened strike during the autumn 2011 sales season and in support of Sotheby's bargaining proposals, Sotheby's locked out members of the bargaining unit on July 29, 2011. Although management cannot predict the ultimate outcome of the negotiations and any associated work disruption, Sotheby's is committed to a good faith bargaining process and resolution of this matter. In the interim, Sotheby's ability to conduct business at its New York City office could be disrupted by the lockout, though management has implemented contingency plans to minimize any potential disruption that could be caused by the lockout. The union has also initiated a broader campaign seeking to pressure Sotheby's management and its Board of Directors and to influence Sotheby's clients and suppliers to support the union and cease doing business with Sotheby's. It is impossible to predict the impact of this union campaign, but to-date, the campaign has not had a material impact on Sotheby's business.

The strategic initiatives being implemented by Sotheby's may not succeed.

Sotheby's current core strategic initiatives are focused on extending the breadth and depth of its relationships with major clients, developing a presence in China and other emerging markets, and enhancing its ability to conduct private sales. Over the past several years, Sotheby's has made substantial investments in information technology to provide clients with access to on-line bidding, improve post-sale client service, and enhance the sothebys.com website. In addition, Sotheby's has

hosted new and innovative private sale exhibitions, and, in 2011, completed the construction of a dedicated private sale exhibition gallery, the S|2 Gallery, at its York Avenue headquarters in New York. Sotheby's has also implemented a restructuring plan whereby it has streamlined certain European selling operations to allow global management to focus resources on growing markets, especially China, and other strategic priorities.

Sotheby's future operating results are dependent in part on management's success in implementing these initiatives. Furthermore, the inability of Sotheby's to successfully implement these initiatives could result in, among other things, the loss of clients, the impairment of assets, and inefficiencies from operating in new and emerging markets. Sotheby's short-term operating results could also be unfavorably impacted by the costs associated with the implementation of its strategic plans.

(See Item 1 above under "Strategic Initiatives" and statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

A breach of the security measures protecting Sotheby's global network of information systems may occur.

Sotheby's is dependent on a global network of information systems to conduct its business. A breach of the security measures protecting Sotheby's information systems could adversely impact its operations, reputation and brand.

Sotheby's business continuity plans may not be effective in addressing the impact of unexpected events that could impact its business.

Sotheby's inability to successfully implement its business continuity plans in the wake of an unexpected event, such as an act of God or a terrorist attack occurring near one of its major selling and/or sourcing offices and/or any other unexpected event, could disrupt its ability to operate and adversely impact its operations.

Sotheby's relies on a small number of clients who make a significant contribution to its revenues, profitability and operating cash flows.

Sotheby's relies on a small number of clients who make a significant contribution to its revenues, profitability and operating cash flows. Accordingly, Sotheby's revenues, profitability and operating cash flows are highly dependent upon its ability to develop and maintain relationships with this small group of clients, as well as the financial strength of these clients.

On a limited basis and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, Sotheby's will pay the consignor before payment is collected from the buyer and/or allows the buyer to take possession of the property before payment is received. In these situations, Sotheby's is exposed to losses in the event the buyer does not make payment.

Under the standard terms and conditions of its auction sales, Sotheby's is not obligated to pay consignors for property that has not been paid for by buyers. However, on a limited basis and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, the consignor may be paid the net sale proceeds before payment is collected from the buyer while retaining possession of the property. In such situations, if the buyer does not make payment, Sotheby's will take title to the property, but could be exposed to losses if the value of the property declines. In other certain limited instances and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, Sotheby's allows the buyer to take possession of the property before making payment. In these situations, Sotheby's is liable to the seller for the net sale proceeds whether or not the buyer makes payment and would incur losses in the event of buyer default.

Sotheby's ability to collect auction receivables may be adversely impacted by buyers from emerging markets, as well as by the banking and foreign currency laws and regulations, and judicial systems of the countries in which it operates and in which its clients reside.

Sotheby's operates in 40 countries and has a worldwide client base that has grown in recent years due in part to a dramatic increase in the activity of buyers from emerging markets, and in particular, China. The collection of auction receivables related to buyers from emerging markets may be adversely impacted by the buyer's lack of familiarity with the auction process and the buyer's financial condition. Sotheby's ability to collect auction receivables may also be adversely impacted by the banking and foreign currency laws and regulations regarding the movement of funds out of certain countries, as well as by Sotheby's ability to enforce its rights as a creditor in jurisdictions where the applicable laws and regulations may be less defined, particularly in emerging markets.

Demand for art-related financing is unpredictable, which may cause variability in Sotheby's financial results.

Sotheby's business is, in part, dependent on the demand for art-related financing, which can be significantly influenced by overall economic conditions and by the often unpredictable financial requirements of owners of major art collections. Accordingly, the financial results of Sotheby's Finance segment are subject to variability from period to period.

The ability of Sotheby's to realize proceeds from the sale of collateral for Finance segment loans may be limited or delayed.

In situations when there are competing claims on the collateral for Finance segment loans and/or when a borrower becomes subject to bankruptcy or insolvency laws, Sotheby's ability to realize proceeds from the sale of its collateral may be limited or delayed.

The value of art is subjective and often fluctuates, exposing Sotheby's to losses in the value of its inventory and loan collateral and significant variability in its financial results.

The art market is not a highly liquid trading market. As a result, the valuation of art is inherently subjective, and the realizable value of art often fluctuates over time. Accordingly, Sotheby's is at risk both as to the realizable value of art held in inventory and as to the realizable value of art pledged as collateral for client loans.

In estimating the realizable value of art, management relies on the opinions of Sotheby's specialists, who consider the following complex array of factors when valuing art: (i) whether the artwork is expected to be offered at auction or sold privately, in the ordinary course of Sotheby's business; (ii) the supply and demand for works of art, taking into account economic conditions and changing trends in the art market as to which collecting categories and artists are most sought after; and (iii) recent sale prices achieved in the art market for comparable works of art within a particular collecting category and/or by a particular artist.

If management determines that the estimated realizable value of a specific artwork held in inventory is less than its carrying value, a loss is recorded to reflect management's revised estimate of realizable value. In addition, if the estimated realizable value of the art pledged as collateral for a client loan is less than the corresponding loan balance, management assesses whether it is necessary to record a loss to reduce the carrying value of the loan, after taking into account the ability of the borrower to repay any shortfall between the value of the collateral and the amount of the loan. These factors may cause significant variability in Sotheby's financial results from period to period.

Sotheby's could be exposed to losses as a result of various claims and lawsuits incidental to the ordinary course of its business.

Sotheby's becomes involved in various claims and lawsuits incidental to the ordinary course of its business. Management is required to assess the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as potential ranges of probable losses. A determination of the amount of losses, if any, to be recorded as a result of these contingencies is based on a careful analysis of each individual exposure with, in some cases, the assistance of outside legal counsel. The amount of losses recorded for such contingencies may change in the future due to new developments in each matter or a change in settlement strategy.

Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event of title or authenticity claims arising from sales or auctions of works of art.

The assessment of works of art offered for sale or auction can involve potential claims regarding title and authenticity. Items sold by Sotheby's may be subject to statutory warranties as to title and to a limited guarantee as to authenticity under the Conditions of Sale and Terms of Guarantee that are published in Sotheby's auction sale catalogues. The authentication of works of art is based on scholarship and research, but necessarily requires a degree of judgment from Sotheby's art experts. In the event of a title or authenticity claim against Sotheby's, Sotheby's may have recourse against the seller of the property and may have the benefit of insurance, but a claim could nevertheless expose Sotheby's to losses and to reputational risk.

Auction guarantees create the risk of loss resulting from the potential inaccurate valuation of art.

As discussed above, the art market is not a highly liquid trading market and, as a result, the valuation of art is inherently subjective. Accordingly, Sotheby's is at risk with respect to management's ability to estimate the likely selling prices of works of art offered with auction guarantees. If management's judgments about the likely selling prices of works of art offered with auction guarantees prove to be inaccurate, there could be a significant adverse impact on Sotheby's results of operations, financial condition and liquidity.

Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event of nonperformance by its counterparties in auction guarantee risk and reward sharing arrangements.

In certain situations, Sotheby's reduces its financial exposure under auction guarantees through risk and reward sharing arrangements. Sotheby's counterparties to these risk and reward sharing arrangements are typically major international art dealers or major art collectors. Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event any of these counterparties do not perform according to the terms of these contractual arrangements.

Sotheby's Convertible Notes have early conversion features that, if triggered, could reduce its liquidity in the short-term.

Sotheby's 3.125% Convertible Notes have a stated maturity date of June 15, 2013, but may be exercised during any fiscal quarter if the closing price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds \$44.20 per share (i.e., 130% of the conversion price of the Convertible Notes) for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days at the end of the previous quarter (the "Stock Price Trigger"). It is Sotheby's current intent and policy to settle up to the principal amount of the Convertible Notes in cash. The Stock Price Trigger was not met during the fourth quarter of 2011 and, as a result, the Convertible Notes will not be convertible for the fiscal quarter beginning on January 1, 2012 and ending on March 31, 2012. However, if the Convertible Notes were to become exercisable during any fiscal quarter subsequent to March 31, 2012, and if any holders of the Convertible Notes elected to exercise during such periods, Sotheby's liquidity would be reduced.

Future costs and obligations related to the Sotheby's U.K. Pension Plan are dependent on unpredictable factors, which may cause significant variability in employee benefit costs.

Future costs and obligations related to Sotheby's defined benefit pension plan in the U.K. are heavily influenced by changes in interest rates, investment performance in the debt and equity markets and actuarial assumptions, each of which is unpredictable and may cause significant variability in Sotheby's employee benefit costs.

Tax matters may cause significant variability in Sotheby's financial results.

Sotheby's operates in many tax jurisdictions throughout the world and the provision for income taxes involves a significant amount of management judgment regarding interpretation of relevant facts and laws in the jurisdictions in which Sotheby's operates. Sotheby's effective income tax rate can vary significantly between periods due to a number of complex factors including, but not limited to: (i) future changes in applicable laws; (ii) projected levels of taxable income; (iii) pre-tax income being lower than anticipated in countries with lower statutory rates or higher than anticipated in countries with higher statutory rates; (iv) increases or decreases to valuation allowances recorded against deferred tax assets; (v) tax audits conducted by various tax authorities; (vi) adjustments to income taxes upon finalization of income tax returns; (vii) the ability to claim foreign tax credits; (viii) the repatriation of non-U.S. earnings for which Sotheby's has not previously provided for income taxes; and (ix) tax planning.

Sotheby's clients reside in various tax jurisdictions throughout the world. To the extent that there are changes to tax laws or tax reporting obligations in any of these jurisdictions, such changes could adversely impact the ability and/or willingness of clients to purchase or sell works of art through Sotheby's. Additionally, Sotheby's unique business and global client base may also expose Sotheby's to complicated and uncertain sales, use, value-added and other indirect tax analyses, which could lead to claims from tax authorities.

Insurance coverage for artwork may become more difficult to obtain, exposing Sotheby's to losses for artwork in Sotheby's possession.

Sotheby's maintains insurance coverage for the works of art it owns and for works of art consigned to it by its clients, which are stored at Sotheby's facilities around the world. An inability to adequately insure such works of art due to limited capacity of the global art insurance market in the future could have an adverse impact on Sotheby's business.

ITEM 1B: UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2: PROPERTIES

Sotheby's North American Auction, Dealer and Finance operations, as well as its corporate offices, are headquartered at 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York (the "York Property"). The York Property contains approximately 439,000 square feet of building area and is home to Sotheby's sole North American Auction salesroom and principal North American exhibition space. Sotheby's purchased the York Property on February 6, 2009 for \$370 million (see Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements). Prior to this purchase, Sotheby's occupied the York Property subject to a 20-year lease which was entered into in conjunction with a sale-leaseback transaction in February 2003. Sotheby's also leases office and exhibition space in several other major cities throughout the U.S.

Sotheby's U.K. operations (primarily Auction) are centered at New Bond Street, London, where the main salesrooms, exhibition space and administrative offices are located. Almost the entire New Bond Street complex is either owned or held under various freehold and long-term lease arrangements. In April 2010, Sotheby's signed a lease for a new warehouse in London, which it began to occupy in January 2011 after the construction of the facility was completed.

Below is a table summarizing Sotheby's ownership, freehold and lease arrangements related to its London properties as of December 31, 2011 (in thousands of dollars, except for square footage):

| | Square Footage | Net Book Value of Land | Net Book Value of Building and Building Improvements | Net Book Value of Leasehold Improvements | Total Net Book Value of London Premises |
|--|----------------|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Owned property | 10,907 | \$ 5,601 | \$ 2,375 | \$ — | \$ 7,976 |
| Freeholds (a) | 84,563 | — | — | 21,637 | 21,637 |
| Leases with a remaining term greater than 10 Years (b) | 106,896 | — | — | 12,580 | 12,580 |
| All other leases (c) | 29,257 | — | — | 1,978 | 1,978 |
| Total | 231,623 | \$ 5,601 | \$ 2,375 | \$ 36,195 | \$ 44,171 |

- (a) Freeholds are occupancy arrangements in which there is no rent paid and the arrangement has no termination date.
- (b) Consists mostly of a lease for the warehouse discussed above, which has approximately 52,000 square feet and has an initial term that expires in 2030. Also includes a lease for approximately 26,000 square feet that expires in 2034 and a lease for approximately 30,000 square feet that expires in 2060.
- (c) Includes various leased office space elsewhere in London.

In order to accommodate growth opportunities in Hong Kong, management is significantly expanding its Hong Kong facilities located at One Pacific Place. In June 2011, Sotheby's signed leases for additional space which will include salesrooms, exhibition space and administrative offices that will more than double the size of the existing premises to 34,000 square feet. Total capital expenditures for this office expansion are expected to be approximately \$8 million in 2012, with the project scheduled for completion in the first half of 2012. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Sotheby's also leases space primarily for Auction operations in various locations throughout Continental Europe, including salesrooms in Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland; Milan, Italy and Paris, France. In addition, Sotheby's leases gallery space for Noortman Master Paintings in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and London, England.

Management believes Sotheby's worldwide premises are adequate for the current conduct of its business. However, management continually analyzes Sotheby's worldwide premises for both its current and future business needs as part of its ongoing efforts to manage infrastructure and other overhead costs. Where appropriate, management will continue to make any necessary changes to address Sotheby's premises requirements.

ITEM 3: LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Sotheby's becomes involved in various claims and lawsuits incidental to the ordinary course of its business, including the matter described below. Management is required to assess the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as potential ranges of probable losses. A determination of the amount of losses, if any, to be recorded as a result of these contingencies is based on a careful analysis of each individual exposure with, in some cases, the assistance of outside legal counsel. The amount of losses recorded for such contingencies may change in the future due to new developments in each matter or a change in settlement strategy. Management does not believe that the outcome of any of these pending claims or proceedings will have a material adverse effect on Sotheby's consolidated results of operations, financial condition and/or cash flows.

Estate of Robert Graham, et al. v. Sotheby's, Inc. is a purported class action commenced in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in October 2011 on behalf of U.S. artists (and their estates) whose artworks were sold by Sotheby's in the State of California or at auction by California sellers and for which a royalty was allegedly due under the California Resale Royalties Act (the "Resale Royalties Act"). Plaintiffs seek unspecified damages, punitive damages and injunctive relief for alleged violations of the Resale Royalties Act and the California Unfair Competition Law. In January 2012, Sotheby's filed a motion to dismiss the action on the grounds, among others, that the Resale Royalties Act violates the United States Constitution and is pre-empted by the United States Copyright Act of 1976. In February 2012, the plaintiffs filed their response to Sotheby's motion to dismiss. It is currently not possible to make an estimate of the amount or range of loss that could result from an unfavorable outcome of this matter. Sotheby's believes that there are meritorious defenses to the claims asserted by plaintiffs, and they are being vigorously defended.

ITEM 4: SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Not used.

PART II

ITEM 5: MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED SHAREHOLDER MATTERS

Market Information

The principal market for Sotheby's Common Stock is the NYSE (symbol: BID). As of February 15, 2012, there were 1,251 holders of record of Sotheby's Common Stock. The quarterly price ranges on the NYSE of Sotheby's common stock during 2011 and 2010 were as follows:

| <u>Quarter Ended</u> | 2011 | | 2010 | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| March 31 | \$ 52.95 | \$ 38.23 | \$ 32.23 | \$ 21.76 |
| June 30 | \$ 55.67 | \$ 37.17 | \$ 46.52 | \$ 22.20 |
| September 30 | \$ 48.90 | \$ 27.53 | \$ 37.42 | \$ 22.06 |
| December 31 | \$ 37.61 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 47.80 | \$ 35.07 |

Sotheby's is party to a credit agreement with an international syndicate of lenders led by General Electric Capital Corporation that contains a financial covenant restricting quarterly dividend payments to the lesser of \$0.10 per share or \$8 million. However, the maximum level of quarterly dividend payments may be increased depending upon the achievement of a certain Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio in any period. (See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for more detailed information related to this credit agreement.)

The following table summarizes dividends declared and paid for each of the quarterly periods in 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars, except per share amounts):

| <u>Quarter Ended</u> | 2011 | | 2010 | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Per Share | Amount | Per Share | Amount |
| March 31 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,451 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,348 |
| June 30 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,420 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,350 |
| September 30 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,425 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,351 |
| December 31 | \$ 0.08 | \$ 4,555 | \$ 0.05 | \$ 3,571 |
| Total | \$ 0.23 | \$ 14,851 | \$ 0.20 | \$ 13,620 |

On November 7, 2011, Sotheby's Board of Directors approved a 60% increase to the quarterly dividend rate (from \$0.05 per share to \$0.08 per share) and declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share (approximately \$5.4 million) that was paid to shareholders of record as of December 1, 2011 on December 15, 2011. On February 28, 2012, Sotheby's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share (approximately \$5.4 million), to be paid on March 15, 2012 to shareholders of record as of March 9, 2012.

The declaration and payment of future dividends to shareholders remains at the discretion of Sotheby's Board of Directors and is dependent upon many factors, including Sotheby's financial condition, cash flows, legal requirements and other factors as the Board of Directors deem relevant. It is the intention of Sotheby's to continue to pay quarterly dividends at a rate of at least \$0.08 per share, subject to Board approval and depending on economic, financial, market and other conditions at the time. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2011 related to shares of Sotheby's common stock that may be issued under its existing equity compensation plans, including the Sotheby's 1997 Stock Option Plan (the "Stock Option Plan"), the Sotheby's Restricted Stock Unit Plan (the "Restricted Stock Unit Plan") and the Sotheby's Amended and Restated Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "Directors Stock Plan"):

| Plan Category (1) | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|--|---|---|--|
| | Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (2) | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (3) | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (4) |
| (In thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders | 2,382 | \$ 21.94 | 1,697 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders | — | — | — |
| Total | 2,382 | \$ 21.94 | 1,697 |

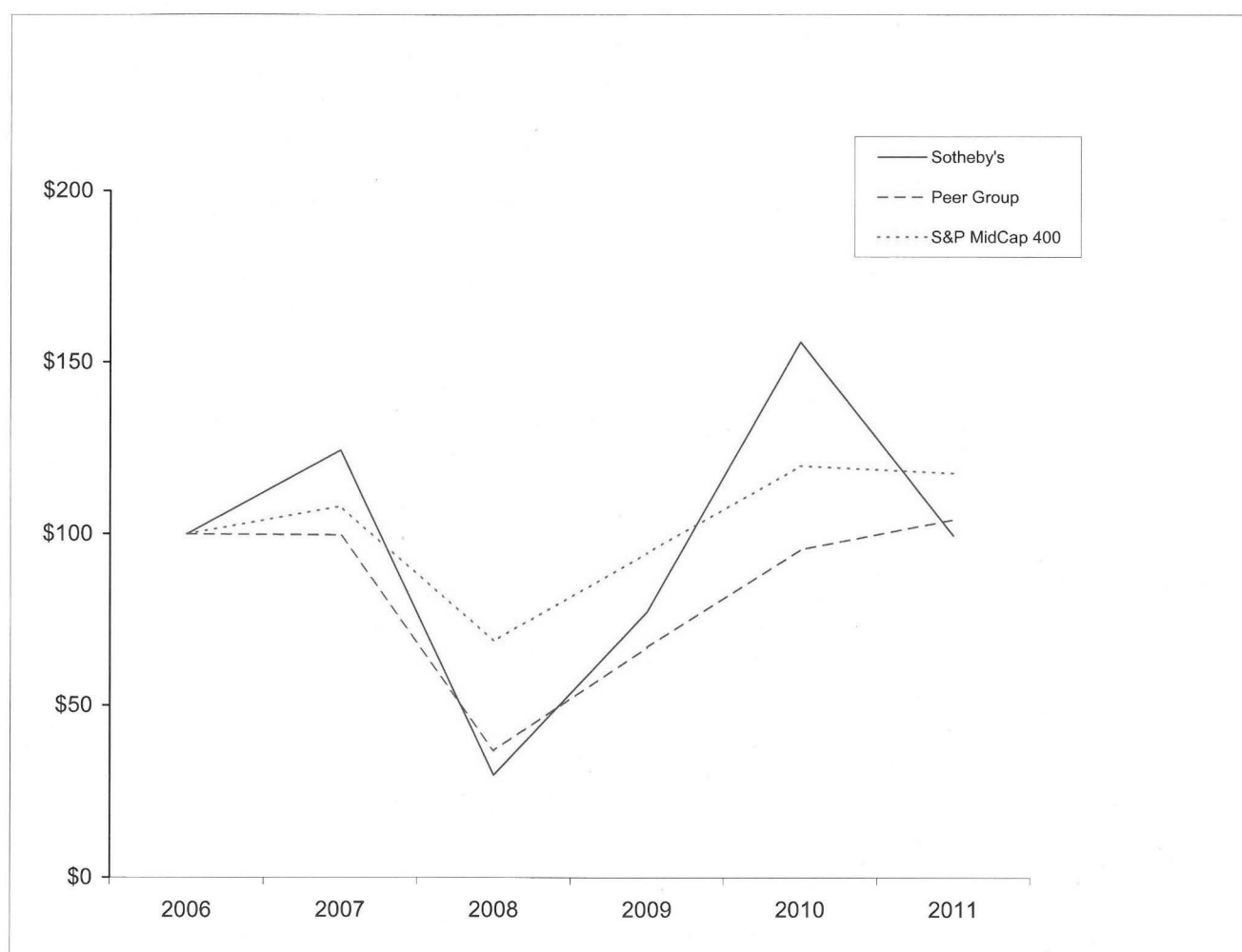
- (1) See Note O of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of the material features of Sotheby's equity compensation plans.
- (2) Includes 1,989,185 shares awarded under the Restricted Stock Unit Plan for which vesting is contingent upon future employee service and/or Sotheby's achievement of certain profitability targets and 392,500 stock options for which vesting is contingent upon future employee service.
- (3) The weighted-average exercise price includes the exercise price of stock options and does not take into account 1,989,185 shares awarded under the Restricted Stock Unit Plan, which have no exercise price.
- (4) Includes 1,582,951 shares available for future issuance under the Restricted Stock Unit Plan, 35,350 shares available for issuance under the Stock Option Plan and 78,307 shares available for issuance under the Directors Stock Plan.

Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total shareholder return on Sotheby's common stock for the five-year period from December 31, 2006 to December 31, 2011 with the cumulative return of the Standard & Poor's MidCap 400 Stock Index ("S&P MidCap 400") and Sotheby's Peer Group ("the Peer Group"). The Peer Group consists of Nordstrom, Inc., Saks Holdings, Inc., Tiffany & Co. and Movado, Inc. Management believes the members of the Peer Group to be purveyors of luxury goods appealing to a segment of the population consistent with Sotheby's own clientele as no other auction house of comparable market share or capitalization is publicly traded.

The graph reflects an investment of \$100 in Sotheby's common stock, the S&P MidCap 400, which includes Sotheby's, and its Peer Group, respectively, on December 31, 2006, and a reinvestment of dividends at the average of the closing stock prices at the beginning and end of each quarter.

**Comparison of Five-Year Cumulative Total Return Among
Sotheby's, the Peer Group Index and the S&P MidCap 400
as of December 31, 2011**



| | 12/31/2006 | 12/31/2007 | 12/31/2008 | 12/31/2009 | 12/31/2010 | 12/31/2011 |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sotheby's | \$ 100.00 | \$ 124.25 | \$ 29.77 | \$ 77.32 | \$ 155.81 | \$ 99.41 |
| Peer Group | \$ 100.00 | \$ 99.60 | \$ 36.92 | \$ 67.03 | \$ 95.43 | \$ 104.14 |
| S&P MidCap 400 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 107.98 | \$ 68.80 | \$ 94.50 | \$ 119.69 | \$ 117.63 |

ITEM 6: SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

| Year ended December 31 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| (Thousands of dollars, except per share data) | | | | | |
| <u>Key Performance Indicator:</u> | | | | | |
| Net Auction Sales (1) | \$ 4,240,573 | \$ 3,644,764 | \$ 1,912,589 | \$ 4,189,735 | \$ 4,625,914 |
| <u>Statement of Operations Data:</u> | | | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 791,738 | \$ 731,021 | \$ 448,768 | \$ 616,625 | \$ 833,128 |
| Finance revenues | 12,038 | 9,685 | 9,073 | 14,183 | 17,025 |
| Dealer revenues | 21,790 | 29,092 | 22,339 | 55,596 | 62,766 |
| License fee revenues | 5,228 | 3,682 | 3,270 | 3,438 | 2,960 |
| Other revenues | 1,042 | 829 | 1,508 | 1,717 | 1,843 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 831,836</u> | <u>\$ 774,309</u> | <u>\$ 484,958</u> | <u>\$ 691,559</u> | <u>\$ 917,722</u> |
| Net interest expense | <u>\$ (37,496)</u> | <u>\$ (45,080)</u> | <u>\$ (40,351)</u> | <u>\$ (31,652)</u> | <u>\$ (14,166)</u> |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ 171,416</u> | <u>\$ 160,950</u> | <u>\$ (6,528)</u> | <u>\$ 26,456</u> | <u>\$ 213,139</u> |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share | <u>\$ 2.52</u> | <u>\$ 2.37</u> | <u>\$ (0.10)</u> | <u>\$ 0.39</u> | <u>\$ 3.22</u> |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share | <u>\$ 2.46</u> | <u>\$ 2.34</u> | <u>\$ (0.10)</u> | <u>\$ 0.38</u> | <u>\$ 3.20</u> |
| Cash dividends declared per share | <u>\$ 0.23</u> | <u>\$ 0.20</u> | <u>\$ 0.30</u> | <u>\$ 0.60</u> | <u>\$ 0.50</u> |
| <u>Balance Sheet Data:</u> | | | | | |
| Working capital | \$ 728,984 | \$ 573,020 | \$ 525,892 | \$ 662,993 | \$ 490,740 |
| Total assets | \$ 2,399,414 | \$ 2,178,628 | \$ 1,586,123 | \$ 1,662,968 | \$ 2,020,104 |
| Long-term debt, net (2) | \$ 464,552 | \$ 472,862 | \$ 512,939 | \$ 461,663 | \$ 268,874 |
| Shareholders' equity | \$ 903,667 | \$ 771,508 | \$ 576,985 | \$ 572,093 | \$ 604,017 |

(1) Represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction.

(2) Includes the York Property capital lease obligation of \$167.2 million and \$169 million as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Sotheby's purchased the York Property on February 6, 2009. Sotheby's financed this purchase, in part, through the assumption of an existing \$235 million mortgage (see Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

ITEM 7: MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Seasonality

The worldwide art auction market has two principal selling seasons, which generally occur in the second and fourth quarters of the year. Accordingly, Sotheby's auction business is seasonal, with peak revenues and operating income generally occurring in those quarters. Consequently, first and third quarter results have historically reflected a lower volume of auction activity when compared to the second and fourth quarters and, typically, a net loss due to the fixed nature of many of Sotheby's operating expenses.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

GAAP refers to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. Included in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (or "MD&A") are financial measures presented in accordance with GAAP and also on a non-GAAP basis. EBITDA, EBITDA Margin and Net Liquidity, as presented in MD&A under "Key Performance Indicators," are supplemental financial measures that are not required by or presented in accordance with GAAP.

EBITDA and EBITDA Margin should not be considered as an alternative to net income or any other performance measures derived in accordance with GAAP or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of Sotheby's liquidity. Net Liquidity should not be considered as an alternative to cash and cash equivalents as reported in accordance with GAAP.

Sotheby's defines EBITDA as net income, excluding income tax expense, interest expense, interest income and depreciation and amortization expense. Sotheby's defines EBITDA Margin as EBITDA as a percentage of total revenues. Management cautions users of Sotheby's financial statements that amounts presented in accordance with its definitions of EBITDA and EBITDA Margin may not be comparable to similar measures disclosed by other companies, because not all companies and analysts calculate such measures in the same manner. Management believes that EBITDA and EBITDA Margin provide important supplemental measures of Sotheby's performance and that these measures may be used by securities analysts, investors, financial institutions and other interested parties in the evaluation of Sotheby's. Management also utilizes EBITDA in analyzing Sotheby's performance and in the determination of annual incentive compensation. A reconciliation of EBITDA to net income derived in accordance with GAAP is presented below in "Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

Sotheby's defines Net Liquidity as the amount of cash and cash equivalents that would remain assuming all accounts receivable were collected and all consignor payables and current accrued liabilities were paid as of each balance sheet date. This measure, among others, is used by management to assess the amount of available short-term liquidity, excluding available borrowings under Sotheby's revolving credit facility, in consideration of the fact that Sotheby's is predominantly an agency business that collects and remits cash on behalf of its clients. A reconciliation of Net Liquidity to cash and cash equivalents reported in accordance with GAAP is presented below in "Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with GAAP requires management to make judgments, assumptions and estimates that affect the amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may ultimately differ from management's original estimates as future events and circumstances sometimes do not develop as expected. Note B of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements describes the significant accounting policies and methods used in the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements. In addition, management believes that the following are its most critical accounting estimates, which are not ranked in any particular order, which may affect Sotheby's financial condition and/or results of operations.

- (1) *Valuation of Art*—The art market is not a highly liquid trading market. As a result, the valuation of art is inherently subjective and the realizable value of art often fluctuates over time. Accordingly, certain amounts reported in Sotheby's financial statements and accompanying notes are dependent upon management's estimates of the realizable value of art held in inventory and art pledged as collateral for Finance segment loans.

If management determines that the estimated realizable value of a specific artwork held in inventory is less than its carrying value, a loss is recorded to reflect management's revised estimate of realizable value. (See Note F of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for detailed information related to Sotheby's inventory balances.)

If the estimated realizable value of the art pledged as collateral for a client loan is less than the corresponding loan balance, management assesses whether it is necessary to record a loss to reduce the carrying value of the loan, after taking into account the ability of the borrower to repay any shortfall between the value of the collateral and the amount of the loan.

(See Note E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for detailed information related to Finance segment loans.)

In estimating the realizable value of art, management relies on the opinions of Sotheby's specialists, who consider the following complex array of factors when valuing art:

- whether the artwork is expected to be offered at auction or sold privately, in the ordinary course of Sotheby's business;
- the supply and demand for works of art, taking into account economic conditions and changing trends in the art market as to which collecting categories and artists are most sought after; and
- recent sale prices achieved in the art market for comparable works of art within a particular collecting category and/or by a particular artist.

Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in estimating the realizable value of art, management's judgments about the estimated realizable value of art held in inventory and the estimated realizable value of art pledged as collateral for client loans may prove, with the benefit of hindsight, to be different than the amount ultimately realized upon the sale of the art.

(See Notes E and F of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

- (2) *Legal and Other Contingencies*—Sotheby's is subject to legal proceedings, lawsuits and other claims. Management is required to assess the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as potential ranges of probable losses. A determination of the amount of losses, if any, to be recorded as a result of these contingencies is based on a careful analysis of each individual exposure with, in some cases, the assistance of outside legal counsel. The amount of losses recorded for such contingencies may change in the future due to new developments in each matter or a change in settlement strategy. (See Note Q of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)
- (3) *Pension Obligations*—The pension obligations related to Sotheby's U.K. defined benefit pension plan (the "U.K. Pension Plan") are based on an actuarial valuation. Inherent in this valuation are key assumptions and estimates, including the discount rate, expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, future expectations of inflation, expected future compensation increases, mortality assumptions and other factors, which are updated on at least an annual basis. In developing these assumptions and estimates, management considers current market conditions, market indices and other relevant data.

The discount rate assumption represents the approximate weighted average rate at which the obligations of the U.K. Pension Plan could be effectively settled and is based on a hypothetical portfolio of high-quality corporate bonds with maturity dates approximating the length of time remaining until individual benefit payment dates. The discount rate used to calculate the \$5.5 million net pension benefit in 2011 related to the U.K. Pension Plan was 5.5%. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 0.1% in this assumption would result in a decrease or increase in net annual pension cost of approximately \$0.1 million. As of the date of the most recent actuarial valuation (December 31, 2011), the discount rate used to calculate the \$270.7 million benefit obligation related to the U.K. Pension Plan was 4.8%. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 0.1% in this assumption would result in a decrease or increase in the benefit obligation of approximately \$5.2 million.

The assumption for the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is based on expected future appreciation, as well as dividend and interest yields available in equity and bond markets as of the measurement date and weighted according to the composition of invested plan assets. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets used to calculate the \$5.5 million net pension benefit in 2011 related to the U.K. Pension Plan was 7.7%. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 0.25% in this assumption would result in a decrease or increase in net annual pension cost of approximately \$0.8 million.

The assumption for future average annual compensation increases is established after considering historical salary data for Sotheby's U.K. employees and current economic data for inflation, as well as management's expectations for future salary growth. The assumption for future average annual compensation increases used to calculate the \$5.5 million net pension benefit in 2011 related to the U.K. Pension Plan was 5.5%. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 0.25% in this assumption would result in an increase or decrease in net annual pension cost of approximately \$0.2 million. As of the date of the most recent actuarial valuation (December 31, 2011), the assumption for future annual compensation increases used to calculate the \$270.7 million benefit obligation related to the U.K. Pension Plan was 5.0%. A hypothetical increase or decrease of 0.25% in this assumption would result in an increase or decrease in the benefit obligation of approximately \$1.6 million.

The mortality assumptions used in the actuarial valuation represent the approximate mortality rates for plan members based upon standardized data tables used by actuaries in the U.K. that include allowances for longer future life expectancies. A hypothetical 5% decrease or increase in life expectancies would result in a decrease or increase in net pension cost of approximately \$0.2 million. Additionally, a hypothetical 5% decrease or increase in life expectancies would result in a decrease or increase in the benefit obligation of approximately \$2.9 million.

As of December 31, 2010, the accumulated net gain for the U.K. Pension Plan that had not yet been recognized in Sotheby's statements of operations was \$6.5 million, net of taxes. In 2011, the U.K. Pension Plan incurred an after-tax net loss of \$28 million largely due to the reduction in the discount rate used to measure plan liabilities from 5.5% to 4.8% at December 31, 2011, which resulted from a decrease in bond yields during the year. The impact of the lower discount rate used to measure plan liabilities was partially offset by a lower assumed rate of inflation.

As of December 31, 2011, the accumulated net loss for the U.K. Pension Plan that has not yet been recognized in Sotheby's statements of operations was \$20.4 million, net of taxes. Net gains and losses related to the U.K. Pension Plan are reflected net of taxes on Sotheby's balance sheets within accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). If the amount recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) exceeds 10% of the greater of the market-related value of the U.K. Pension Plan's assets or benefit obligation, that amount is systematically recognized as a component of future net pension expense or benefit over the average remaining service period of active employees expected to receive benefits under the plan, which was estimated to be approximately 13.5 years as of December 31, 2011.

(See Note P of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information related to the U.K. Pension Plan, as well as Sotheby's other material pension arrangements.)

- (4) *Income Taxes*—The provision for income taxes involves a significant amount of management judgment regarding interpretation of relevant facts and laws in the jurisdictions in which Sotheby's operates. Future changes in applicable laws, projected levels of taxable income and tax planning could change the effective tax rate and the tax balances recorded.

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had net deferred tax assets of \$59.3 million, primarily resulting from deductible temporary differences which will reduce taxable income in future periods over a number of years. Included in this net deferred tax asset is a valuation allowance of \$6.0 million to reduce Sotheby's deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. In assessing the need for the valuation allowance, management considers, among other things, projections of future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. If management's projections of future taxable income and other positive evidence considered in evaluating the need for a valuation allowance prove, with the benefit of hindsight, to be inaccurate, it will be more difficult to support the realization of these deferred tax assets. As a result, an additional valuation allowance may be required, which would have an adverse impact on Sotheby's results. Conversely, should management determine that Sotheby's will be able to realize its deferred tax assets in the future in excess of its net recorded amount, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset would have a favorable impact on Sotheby's results in the period such determination was made.

Additionally, liabilities are recorded to address potential exposures involving uncertain tax positions that Sotheby's has taken, or expects to take, on income tax returns that could be challenged by taxing authorities. These potential exposures result from the varying applications of statutes, rules, regulations and interpretations. Inherent in Sotheby's liabilities for uncertain tax positions are assumptions based on past experiences and judgments about potential actions by taxing jurisdictions. The cost of the ultimate resolution of these matters may be greater or less than the liability that Sotheby's has recorded.

(See discussion of "Income Tax Expense" below, as well as Notes L and M of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

- (5) *Share-Based Payments*—Sotheby's grants share-based payment awards as compensation to certain employees. Certain of these awards vest only if Sotheby's achieves pre-established profitability targets. The amount and timing of compensation expense recognized for such performance-based awards is dependent upon management's assessment of the likelihood and timing of achieving these profitability targets. Accordingly, if the projections of future profitability used by management in its assessment prove, with the benefit of hindsight, to be inaccurate, the amount and timing of future compensation expense related to share-based payments could materially change. (See Note O of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information related to Sotheby's share-based payments.)

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

This discussion should be read in conjunction with Note D ("Segment Reporting") of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Overview

In 2011, Sotheby's had the second most profitable year in its history, with net income of \$171.4 million, a 7% increase in comparison to 2010. These results reflect the growth of the global art market in the first half of 2011, with full year Net Auction Sales of \$4.2 billion, a level that is comparable to the art market's most recent peak years between 2007 and 2008. This improvement in Sotheby's results was driven by a 7% increase in revenues attributable to growth in both auction and private sale commission revenues. Importantly, this was achieved with a significantly lower risk profile, as Sotheby's continued to be highly selective in its use of auction guarantees and only issued auction guarantees in tandem with risk and reward sharing arrangements that greatly reduced its financial exposure, but also contributed to the significant decrease in auction commission margin. Offsetting the growth in revenues was a higher level of operating expenses due in part to increased compensation costs, a higher level of direct costs of services consistent with the volume and composition of auction sales and the cost of investments in strategic initiatives. Sotheby's 2011 results were also favorably impacted by a \$13.6 million tax benefit recognized in 2011 due to the reversal of a valuation allowance against certain of Sotheby's deferred tax assets and a \$7.6 million decrease in net interest expense.

See the discussion below for greater detail on the significant factors impacting Sotheby's 2011 results and the comparison to the prior year.

Outlook

Uncertainty and volatility in the global economic environment contributed to mixed auction results in the fourth quarter of 2011, as well as to the challenging climate for consignments for certain first quarter 2012 auctions. The first quarter is traditionally a loss quarter for Sotheby's (see "Seasonality" above), although in the first quarter of 2011, Sotheby's reported net income of \$2.4 million, primarily as a result of exceptionally strong auction sales that included several significant single-owner sales. Sotheby's will have fewer of these unique revenue opportunities in the first quarter of 2012, and, in tandem with a higher expense base due, in part, to strategic investments, it is expected that Sotheby's will incur a net loss in the first quarter of 2012. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

However, management is encouraged by the strength of the global art market, as evidenced by the level of quality consignments already secured for second quarter 2012 auctions, as well as the potential consignment opportunities that remain in the market. Management is focused on maximizing auction commission margins; nevertheless, the environment for high-value consignments is very competitive, with such consignments typically earning significantly lower auction commission margins. Management is mindful of the potential volatility of the global art market in the current economic environment and is committed to maintaining a rational cost structure, while continuing with measured investments in the strategic initiatives that are vital to Sotheby's future. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Results of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

The table below presents a summary of Sotheby's results of operations for 2011 and 2010, as well as a comparison between the two periods (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 791,738 | \$ 731,021 | \$ 60,717 | 8.3 % |
| Finance revenues | 12,038 | 9,685 | 2,353 | 24.3 % |
| Dealer revenues | 21,790 | 29,092 | (7,302) | (25.1)% |
| License fee revenues | 5,228 | 3,682 | 1,546 | 42.0 % |
| Other revenues | 1,042 | 829 | 213 | 25.7 % |
| Total revenues | 831,836 | 774,309 | 57,527 | 7.4 % |
| Expenses ** | 560,365 | 500,311 | (60,054) | (12.0)% |
| Operating income | 271,471 | 273,998 | (2,527) | (0.9)% |
| Net interest expense | (37,496) | (45,080) | 7,584 | 16.8 % |
| Extinguishment of debt, net | (1,529) | (6,291) | 4,762 | 75.7 % |
| Other (expense) income | (1,057) | 2,952 | (4,009) | * |
| Income before taxes | 231,389 | 225,579 | 5,810 | 2.6 % |
| Equity in earnings of investees, net of taxes | 59 | 644 | (585) | (90.8)% |
| Income tax expense | 60,032 | 65,273 | 5,241 | 8.0 % |
| Net income | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 | \$ 10,466 | 6.5 % |
| Key performance indicators: | | | | |
| Aggregate Auction Sales (a) | \$ 4,986,639 | \$ 4,287,176 | \$ 699,463 | 16.3 % |
| Net Auction Sales (b) | \$ 4,240,573 | \$ 3,644,764 | \$ 595,809 | 16.3 % |
| Private Sales (c) | \$ 814,581 | \$ 494,505 | \$ 320,076 | 64.7 % |
| Consolidated Sales (d) | \$ 5,823,010 | \$ 4,810,773 | \$ 1,012,237 | 21.0 % |
| Auction Commission Margin (e) | 16.6% | 18.3% | N/A | (9.6)% |
| Direct Costs as a percentage of Net Auction Sales | 1.6% | 1.7% | N/A | (5.9)% |
| Average Loan Portfolio (f) | \$ 219,785 | \$ 181,585 | \$ 38,200 | 21.0 % |
| EBITDA (g) | \$ 286,596 | \$ 288,323 | \$ (1,727) | (0.6)% |
| EBITDA Margin (g) (h) | 34.5% | 37.2% | N/A | (7.3)% |
| Net Liquidity (g) (i) | \$ 508,481 | \$ 307,173 | \$ 201,308 | 65.5 % |

Legend:

- * Represents a change in excess of 100%.
- ** Expenses for 2011 include net restructuring charges of \$4.8 million.
- (a) Represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction plus buyer's premium.
- (b) Represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction.
- (c) Represents the total purchase price of property sold in private sales brokered by Sotheby's.
- (d) Represents the sum of Aggregate Auction Sales, Private Sales and Dealer revenues.
- (e) Represents total auction commission revenues as a percentage of Net Auction Sales.
- (f) Represents the average loan portfolio of Sotheby's Finance segment.
- (g) See "Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures" above and "Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures" below.
- (h) Represents EBITDA as a percentage of total revenues.
- (i) Represents the amount of cash and cash equivalents that would remain assuming all accounts receivable were collected and that all consignor payables, accounts payable and current accrued liabilities were paid as of each balance sheet date.

Revenues

In 2011 and 2010, revenues consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | | | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Auction and related revenues: | | | | |
| Auction commission revenues | \$ 701,776 | \$ 667,033 | \$ 34,743 | 5.2 % |
| Private sale commission revenues | 67,848 | 44,240 | 23,608 | 53.4 % |
| Principal activities | 125 | (1,890) | 2,015 | ** |
| Other auction and related revenues* | 21,989 | 21,638 | 351 | 1.6 % |
| Total auction and related revenues | 791,738 | 731,021 | 60,717 | 8.3 % |
| Other revenues: | | | | |
| Finance revenues | 12,038 | 9,685 | 2,353 | 24.3 % |
| Dealer revenues | 21,790 | 29,092 | (7,302) | (25.1)% |
| License fee revenues | 5,228 | 3,682 | 1,546 | 42.0 % |
| Other | 1,042 | 829 | 213 | 25.7 % |
| Total other revenues | 40,098 | 43,288 | (3,190) | (7.4)% |
| Total revenues | \$ 831,836 | \$ 774,309 | \$ 57,527 | 7.4 % |

* Principally includes fees charged to clients for catalogue production and insurance, catalogue subscription revenues, advertising revenues and commissions earned on private sales brokered by third-parties.

** Represents a change in excess of 100%.

Auction and Related Revenues

In 2011, auction and related revenues improved \$60.7 million (8%) almost entirely due to a higher level of auction and private sale commissions, as well as improved results from principal activities. The comparison to the prior year is also favorably impacted by changes in foreign currency exchange rates which increased auction and related revenues by \$22.3 million. See the discussion below for a more detailed explanation of the factors contributing to the improvement in auction and related revenues.

Auction Commission Revenues—In its role as auctioneer, Sotheby's represents sellers of artworks by accepting property on consignment and by matching sellers to buyers through the auction process. Sotheby's invoices the buyer for the purchase price of the property (including the commission owed by the buyer), collects payment from the buyer and remits to the seller the net sale proceeds after deducting its commissions, expenses and applicable taxes and royalties. Sotheby's commissions include those paid by the buyer ("buyer's premium") and those paid by the seller ("seller's commission") (collectively, "auction commission revenue"), both of which are calculated as a percentage of Net Auction Sales.

In 2011, auction commission revenues improved \$34.7 million (5%) due to a 16% increase in Net Auction Sales, partially offset by a decline in Auction Commission Margin from 18.3% to 16.6%. The comparison to the prior year is also favorably impacted by changes in foreign currency exchange rates which increased auction commission revenues by \$20.2 million. See "Net Auction Sales" and "Auction Commission Margin" below for a more detailed discussion of these key performance indicators.

Net Auction Sales—In 2011, Net Auction Sales increased \$595.8 million (16%), reflecting a surge in activity from buyers and sellers from emerging markets, especially China, and significantly higher single-owner sale results. More specifically, the increase in Net Auction Sales is primarily attributable to the following factors:

- An increase of \$343.9 million (68%) in worldwide sales of Asian Art due in part to several unprecedented sales of single-owner collections conducted in Hong Kong, including *The Meiyintang Collection of Chinese Porcelain* (\$139.2 million) and *The Mei Yun Tang Collection of Paintings by Chang Dai-chien* (\$76.4 million). Recurring various-owner sales of Asian Art also performed well in 2011, with an increase of \$172.4 million (52%).
- An increase of \$115.2 million (7%) in sales of Impressionist Art and Contemporary Art. This increase was driven by the single-owner sale *Looking Closely - A Private Collection* (\$128.5 million).

- The favorable impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates, which increased Net Auction Sales by \$115.2 million.

Auction Commission Margin—Auction Commission Margin represents total auction commission revenues as a percentage of Net Auction Sales. Typically, the Auction Commission Margin is higher for lower value works of art or collections, while higher valued property earns a lower Auction Commission Margin. For example, in salesrooms in the U.S., the buyer's premium rate structure is 25% on the first \$50,000 of hammer (sale) price; 20% on the portion of hammer price above \$50,000 up to and including \$1 million; and 12% on any remaining amount above \$1 million.

In certain situations, Auction Commission Margin is adversely impacted by arrangements whereby Sotheby's buyer's premium is shared with a consignor. In such situations, Sotheby's may share its buyer's premium with a consignor in order to secure a high value consignment without issuing an auction guarantee.

Auction Commission Margin may also be adversely impacted by the use of auction guarantees. For example, when issuing an auction guarantee, Sotheby's may enter into a risk and reward sharing arrangement with a counterparty whereby Sotheby's financial exposure under the auction guarantee is reduced in exchange for sharing its auction commission. Also, in situations when the guaranteed property sells for less than the guaranteed price, all or a portion of Sotheby's auction commissions are used to reduce the principal loss on the transaction. (See Note R of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on Sotheby's use of auction guarantees.)

In 2011, Auction Commission Margin decreased 10% (from 18.3% to 16.6%) because of continued competitive pressures to win high value consignments, which resulted in a higher level of auction commissions shared with consignors and a lower level of seller's commission revenues.

Private Sale Commission Revenues—In 2011, private sale commission revenues improved by \$23.6 million (53%) due to increased sales of high value property. For example, in 2011, the number of private sale transactions brokered by Sotheby's with an aggregate sale price in excess of \$5 million increased by approximately 70%. Private sales continue to be a strategic focus for management and have become increasingly important to Sotheby's overall financial performance with private sale commission revenues increasing by 24% over the 5 year period since the previous peak of the art market in 2007.

Principal Activities—Auction segment principal activities consist of gains and losses related to auction guarantees including: (i) Sotheby's share of overage or shortfall related to guaranteed property offered or sold at auction, (ii) subsequent writedowns to the carrying value of guaranteed property that initially failed to sell at auction and (iii) subsequent recoveries and losses on the sale of guaranteed property that initially failed to sell at auction. Auction segment principal activities also include gains and losses related to the sale of other Auction segment inventory, as well as writedowns to the carrying value of such inventory, which principally consists of objects obtained as a result of purchaser defaults in situations when Sotheby's has paid the consignor.

In 2011, principal activities improved \$2.0 million primarily due to a lower level of inventory writedowns and better results from the sale of guaranteed property that previously failed to sell at auction, partially offset by a lower share of overage earned from guaranteed property initially offered at auctions in 2011 than earned in 2010.

Finance Revenues

In 2011, Finance revenues increased \$2.4 million (24%) due to a higher average loan portfolio balance, which was largely attributable to a \$55 million client loan made in the fourth quarter of 2010, and higher interest rates earned on client loans in 2011. (See Note E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

(Note: For the purposes of MD&A, Finance revenues do not include intercompany revenues earned by the Finance segment from the Auction segment, which are eliminated in consolidation. See Note D of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Dealer Revenues and Cost of Sales

Dealer revenues consist of revenues earned from the sale of Dealer inventory, which includes property owned by Noortman Master Paintings ("NMP") and artworks purchased for investment purposes. To a lesser extent, Dealer revenues also include commissions earned by NMP through the brokering of private art sales. Dealer cost of sales includes the net book value of Dealer inventory sold during the period and any writedowns to the carrying value of Dealer inventory.

The table below summarizes Dealer revenues, cost of sales and gross (loss) profit for 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Dealer revenues | \$ 21,790 | \$ 29,092 | \$ (7,302) | (25.1)% |
| Dealer cost of sales | (23,738) | (24,889) | 1,151 | 4.6 % |
| Dealer gross (loss) profit | \$ (1,948) | \$ 4,203 | \$ (6,151) | * |

* Represents a change in excess of 100%

In the third quarter of 2011, following the fifth anniversary of the acquisition of NMP and the expiration of the related financial performance targets (see Note O of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements), management initiated a plan to restructure NMP's business and sales strategy. Historically, NMP has principally specialized in sales of Dutch and Flemish Old Master Paintings, as well as French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, with a large number of paintings held in inventory at various price points. However, as a result of the restructuring of its business and sales strategy, NMP is greatly reducing its inventory of lower valued Old Master Paintings and shifting its focus to a select group of high-valued works of art. Accordingly, NMP sold a collection of lower valued works at various auction houses in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the ordinary course of NMP's business, these objects would have been held for a longer period and sold in privately negotiated transactions. As a result of the new strategy described above and due in part to a general weakening of the private dealer market for certain categories of Old Master Paintings, as well as a shift in the collecting tastes of NMP's clients, inventory writedowns of \$8.4 million were recorded in 2011, of which \$5.7 million were recorded in the third quarter of 2011. In 2010, Dealer inventory writedowns totaled \$3.1 million.

In 2011, Dealer segment results were also impacted by a significantly lower gross profit earned on NMP sales principally attributable to the weakening of the private dealer market for certain categories of Old Master Paintings, as well as a shift in the collecting tastes of NMP's clients.

Expenses

In 2011 and 2010, expenses consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | Favorable / (Unfavorable) | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|----------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Direct costs of services | \$ 69,507 | \$ 60,940 | \$ (8,567) | (14.1)% |
| Dealer cost of sales | 23,738 | 24,889 | 1,151 | 4.6 % |
| Marketing expenses | 15,059 | 12,207 | (2,852) | (23.4)% |
| Salaries and related costs | 268,530 | 253,271 | (15,259) | (6.0)% |
| General and administrative expenses | 161,097 | 132,566 | (28,531) | (21.5)% |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 17,604 | 16,492 | (1,112) | (6.7)% |
| Restructuring charges, net | 4,830 | (54) | (4,884) | * |
| Total expenses | \$ 560,365 | \$ 500,311 | \$ (60,054) | (12.0)% |

* Represents a change in excess of 100%

Direct Costs of Services

Direct costs of services consists largely of sale specific marketing costs such as auction catalogue production and distribution expenses, sale advertising and promotion expenses, and traveling exhibition costs. Also included in direct costs of services are sale-related shipping expenses. The level of direct costs incurred in any period is generally dependent upon the volume and composition of Sotheby's auction offerings. For example, direct costs attributable to single-owner or other high-value collections are typically higher than those associated with standard various-owner sales, mainly due to higher promotional costs for catalogues, special events and traveling exhibitions, as well as higher shipping expenses.

In 2011, direct costs of services increased \$8.6 million (14%) primarily due to a higher volume of auction offerings and, in particular, a higher level of single-owner sales, which contributed \$3.2 million to the overall increase. Additionally, direct costs of services increased due to fees associated with the broader usage of debit and credit cards by buyers from China. In 2011, direct costs of services were also unfavorably impacted by changes in foreign currency exchange rates, which contributed

\$1.7 million to the increase over the prior year. Partially offsetting the overall increase in direct costs of services is an unexpected recovery of \$0.9 million recognized in the second quarter of 2011 related to a property damage loss initially incurred in the first quarter of 2010.

Marketing Expenses

Marketing expenses are costs related to the promotion of the Sotheby's brand and consist of costs related to Sotheby's corporate marketing activities, client service initiatives and strategic sponsorships of cultural institutions. In 2011, marketing expenses increased by \$2.9 million (23%) due to increased sponsorships of museums and other cultural institutions, as well as a higher level of costs incurred to support certain strategic initiatives, including brand promotion activities in China and other emerging markets and the enhancement of the sothebys.com website.

Salaries and Related Costs

In 2011 and 2010, salaries and related costs consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | Favorable / (Unfavorable) | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Full-time salaries | \$ 127,959 | \$ 114,040 | \$ (13,919) | (12.2)% |
| Incentive compensation expense | 68,035 | 68,199 | 164 | 0.2 % |
| Share-based payments | 18,918 | 20,250 | 1,332 | 6.6 % |
| Payroll taxes | 20,722 | 19,051 | (1,671) | (8.8)% |
| Employee benefits | 14,858 | 17,171 | 2,313 | 13.5 % |
| Other compensation expense * | 18,038 | 14,560 | (3,478) | (23.9)% |
| Total salaries and related costs | <u>\$ 268,530</u> | <u>\$ 253,271</u> | <u>\$ (15,259)</u> | <u>(6.0)%</u> |

Key Performance Indicator:

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-----|------|
| Salaries and related costs as a % of revenues | 32.3% | 32.7% | N/A | 1.3% |
|---|-------|-------|-----|------|

* Principally includes expense related to the cost of temporary labor and overtime, and certain employment arrangements.

In 2011, salaries and related costs increased \$15.3 million (6%) due to higher full-time salaries and temporary labor costs (which are classified in the table above within other compensation expense), partially offset by lower employee benefit costs and share-based payments. See below for a detailed discussion of the significant factors contributing to the overall increase in salaries and related costs.

Full-Time Salaries—In 2011, full-time salaries increased \$13.9 million (12%) due to strategic headcount and salary increases and the unfavorable impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates, which contributed \$3 million to the increase.

Other Compensation Expense—Other compensation expense typically includes the cost of temporary labor and overtime, as well as the amortization of expense related to certain employment arrangements. In 2011, other compensation expense increased \$3.5 million (24%) primarily due to higher temporary labor costs in New York and London. The higher temporary labor costs in New York are primarily attributable to the \$1.5 million cost of temporary labor required as a result of the lockout of unionized property handlers in the third and fourth quarters of 2011, which was entirely offset by savings in full-time salaries, employee benefits and payroll taxes resulting from the lockout. (See Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," for more detailed information on Sotheby's lockout of its unionized property handlers.)

Payroll Taxes—In 2011, payroll taxes increased \$1.7 million (9%) primarily due to higher full-time salaries, as discussed above, as well as a higher value of share-based payment awards vesting during the first quarter of 2011.

Incentive Compensation—The amount of incentive compensation expense recorded in a period is largely dependent upon the level of Sotheby's earnings, as measured by EBITDA, and is ultimately paid at the discretion of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors only after assessing Sotheby's full year financial results. In addition, incentive compensation includes amounts specifically awarded to employees for the brokering of certain eligible private sale transactions. In 2011, incentive compensation is flat when compared to the prior year, which is consistent with the comparable level of EBITDA in the periods.

Employee Benefits—Employee benefits include the cost of Sotheby’s retirement plans and health and welfare programs, as well as non-restructuring related employee severance costs. Sotheby’s material retirement plans include defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans for employees in the U.K. and defined contribution and deferred compensation plans for U.S. employees.

Generally, the amount of employee benefit costs is dependent upon headcount and overall compensation levels, as well as Sotheby’s financial performance. Additionally, the level of expense related to Sotheby’s U.K. Pension Plan is significantly influenced by interest rates, investment performance in the debt and equity markets and actuarial assumptions. Also, the expense recorded for Sotheby’s Deferred Compensation Plan (the “DCP”) is dependent upon changes in the fair value of the DCP liability during a period, which result from gains and losses in deemed participant investments. Gains in deemed participant investments increase the DCP liability and, therefore, increase employee benefit costs. Losses in deemed participant investments decrease the DCP liability and, therefore, decrease employee benefit costs.

In 2011, employee benefit costs decreased \$2.3 million (13%) largely as a result of market losses in deemed participant investments associated with the DCP, which reduced employee benefits costs by \$3.1 million. On a consolidated basis, the cost reductions related to the DCP liability are offset by market losses in the trust assets related to the DCP liability, which are reflected within other (expense) income.

Also contributing to the decrease in employee benefit costs in 2011 is an increase of \$1.8 million in the net pension credit related to the U.K. Pension Plan as a result of favorable changes in the market-based assumptions used to determine the net pension credit between the periods. In 2012, the net pension credit related to the U.K. Pension Plan is expected to decrease by approximately \$2.9 million when compared to 2011, primarily as a result of updated market-based assumptions used in determining the net pension credit, in particular, the expected long-term rate of return which is decreasing from 7.7% to 6.3%. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

In 2011, the overall decrease in employee benefits is partially offset by \$1.6 million in non-restructuring related severance costs incurred in 2011, for which there were no comparable costs in the prior year. In addition, the comparison to the prior year is unfavorably impacted by higher employee benefit costs associated with the increase in full-time salaries discussed above.

Share-Based Payments—Share-based payments consist of amortization expense related to performance-based equity compensation awards, restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock options. Equity compensation awards are typically granted annually each February and the value of each annual award is generally dependent upon Sotheby’s financial results for the year prior to the grant date. The amount of compensation expense recognized for share-based payments is based on management’s estimates of the number of shares ultimately expected to vest. In addition, for performance-based equity compensation awards, the amount and timing of expense recognition is significantly impacted by management’s assessment of the likelihood and timing of achieving certain profitability targets. (See Note O of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for more detailed information related Sotheby’s share-based compensation programs.)

In 2011, expense related to share-based payments decreased \$1.3 million (7%) principally as a result of management’s reassessment of the likelihood and timing of achieving the profitability targets for certain performance-based equity awards. In 2012, expense related to share-based payments is expected to increase approximately \$5 million when compared to 2011. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

General and Administrative Expenses

In 2011, general and administrative expenses increased \$28.5 million (22%) primarily due to the following factors:

- A \$9.2 million (22%) increase in professional fees, primarily attributable to a higher level of consulting fees in support of Sotheby’s strategic initiatives, including the development of Sotheby’s presence in emerging markets such as China and the enhancement of Sotheby’s website.
- A \$4.9 million charge recorded in the fourth quarter of 2011 related to a sales tax liability identified during the period (see Note Q of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).
- A \$4 million (17%) increase in travel and entertainment expenses in response to consignment opportunities throughout the year.
- A \$2.9 million (7%) increase in facilities-related expenses, due in part to \$1.1 million in security costs incurred to minimize the business disruption associated with protests by Sotheby’s unionized property handlers in New York (see Part I, Item 1, “Description of Business” and 1A, “Risk Factors,” for more detailed information on the lockout of Sotheby’s unionized employees). The increase in facilities-related expenses is also partially attributable to a \$0.8

million increase in rent expense primarily due to the expansion of Sotheby's premises in Hong Kong.

- A \$2.3 million increase in bad debt expense due to losses from uncollectible Auction segment receivables in the U.K. and the U.S.
- A \$2.2 million increase in litigation claims and client goodwill gestures.
- A \$3 million increase due to unfavorable changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

Restructuring Plans and Related Charges

In 2011, Sotheby's recorded net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$4.8 million. In 2010, Sotheby's recorded a benefit to net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$0.1 million.

On June 27, 2011, the Executive Committee of Sotheby's Board of Directors approved a restructuring plan (the "2011 Restructuring Plan") impacting Sotheby's operations in Italy and the Netherlands. The 2011 Restructuring Plan streamlined Sotheby's European selling operations, with a renewed emphasis on relationships with key clients and the sourcing of important collections. The 2011 Restructuring Plan has also allowed Sotheby's global management to focus resources on growing markets, especially China, and other strategic priorities. In the Netherlands, the 2011 Restructuring Plan resulted in the cessation of all local auction sales. In Italy, Sotheby's significantly reduced its auction sales calendar, but plans to continue to conduct auctions of Contemporary and Modern Art. Sotheby's streamlined European operations will continue to source property to its other selling locations throughout the world, as well as pursue private sale opportunities.

The 2011 Restructuring Plan will ultimately reduce staff by 24, which represents approximately 46% of Sotheby's current headcount in Italy and the Netherlands and 2% of its global headcount. The 2011 Restructuring Plan also allowed Sotheby's to completely exit its leased Amsterdam salesroom, replacing it with a smaller local office, and significantly reduce the cost associated with its Milan premises.

The charges associated with the 2011 Restructuring Plan consist of \$2.8 million in lease termination costs related to the Amsterdam salesroom and \$2 million in employee termination benefits and other restructuring related charges. Accrued restructuring costs of \$0.8 million are recorded within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities on Sotheby's December 31, 2011 balance sheet. Total cash expenditures related to the 2011 Restructuring Plan are expected to be approximately \$5 million, a substantial portion of which were made in the fourth quarter of 2011, with the remaining payments to be made in 2012.

Following its implementation, beginning in 2012, the 2011 Restructuring Plan is expected to result in reductions to Net Auction Sales, Revenues and Expenses of approximately \$50 million, \$10 million and \$7 million, respectively, when compared to 2010. Accordingly, the 2011 Restructuring Plan is not expected to result in incremental profitability in 2012 as compared to 2010 and in fact, these actions would have had a dilutive impact of approximately \$3 million on 2010 pre-tax income. However, 2010 results for the Netherlands included Net Auction Sales and Revenues of \$19 million and \$3 million, respectively, related to unique sales of single-owner collections not likely to be repeated in the near term. Accordingly, excluding restructuring charges, these actions are not expected to have a dilutive impact on Sotheby's future results.

(See statement on Forward Looking Statements and Note J of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Net Interest Expense

In 2011, net interest expense decreased \$7.6 million (17%) primarily due to Sotheby's repurchase of \$48.3 million of its 7.75% Senior Notes in the fourth quarter of 2010, which resulted in a \$3.7 million reduction in interest expense. Additionally, net interest expense also decreased due to lower credit facility related fees (see Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements). Also impacting the comparison of net interest expense to the prior year is \$2.2 million of interest income recognized in the first quarter of 2011 as a result of the resolution of a legal matter related to a delinquent client account.

Extinguishment of Debt, Net

On December 21, 2010, Sotheby's repurchased an aggregate principal amount of \$48.3 million of its 7.75% Senior Notes for a purchase price of \$53.1 million (representing 110% of the aggregate principal amount repurchased). This repurchase resulted in a loss of approximately \$6.3 million, including fees, which was recognized in the fourth quarter of 2010.

On April 1, 2011, the trustee for the Convertible Notes notified bondholders that the Convertible Notes would be convertible at their option for a period beginning on April 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2011 as a result of the closing price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeding \$44.20 for 20 trading days in the 30 consecutive trading days ending on March 31, 2011. In June 2011, Sotheby's received conversion requests totaling a principal amount of \$18.1 million from holders of the

Convertible Notes. The conversion obligation of \$22.5 million related to these conversion requests, which consisted of \$18.1 million related to principal and approximately \$4.4 million related to the conversion premium, was settled entirely in cash in August 2011. Sotheby's simultaneously received \$4.4 million in cash to fund the conversion premium through its exercise of a portion of the Convertible Note Hedges (see discussion below). In the third quarter of 2011, Sotheby's recognized a \$1.5 million loss representing the write-off of a proportionate amount of the unamortized discount and deferred transaction costs related to the Convertible Notes redeemed.

(See Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Other (Expense) Income

Sotheby's results in 2011 include other expense of \$1.1 million as compared to other income of \$3.0 million in 2010. The unfavorable comparison versus the prior year is largely the result of the investment performance of the trust assets related to the DCP liability, which resulted in a loss of \$1.3 million in 2011 and a gain of \$1.8 million in 2010. On a consolidated basis, gains and losses in the trust assets related to the DCP are largely offset by corresponding adjustments to employee benefits costs (see "Salaries and Related Expenses" above).

Income Tax Expense

Sotheby's effective income tax rate was approximately 26% in 2011, compared to approximately 29% in 2010. The 2011 effective income tax rate was favorably impacted by the reversal of a \$13.6 million valuation allowance against certain state and local deferred tax assets. The 2010 effective income tax rate was favorably impacted by the reversal of \$5.9 million of federal tax reserves in connection with the expiration of the statute of limitations. Sotheby's effective income tax rate was also influenced in each year by the level and mix of earnings and losses by taxing jurisdiction in combination with the applicable differences between U.S. and foreign tax rates. Accordingly, changes in the jurisdictional mix of pre-tax income could result in pre-tax income being higher or lower than the current and prior year in countries with lower statutory tax rates, which could cause Sotheby's effective income tax rate to fluctuate. The impact of such changes could be meaningful in countries with statutory income tax rates that are significantly lower than the U.S. statutory income tax rate of 35%. This is particularly true in countries where Sotheby's has significant auction operations, including the U.K., Hong Kong and Switzerland, where the statutory income tax rates are approximately 26%, 17%, and 23%, respectively. In 2011, pre-tax income in the U.K., Hong Kong and Switzerland was \$82.8 million, \$63.8 million, and \$21.5 million, respectively, which cumulatively comprised 90% of foreign pre-tax income and 73% of consolidated pre-tax income. In 2010, pre-tax income in the U.K., Hong Kong and Switzerland was \$87.3 million, \$47.1 million, and \$18.5 million, respectively, which cumulatively comprised 81% of foreign pre-tax income and 68% of consolidated pre-tax income. (See Notes L and M of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for a more detailed discussion of Income Taxes and Uncertain Tax Positions. In addition, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors.")

Impact of Changes in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates

In 2011, changes in foreign currency exchange rates had a net favorable impact of approximately \$10.5 million on Sotheby's results, as summarized in the following table (in thousands of dollars):

| | Favorable/ (Unfavorable) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Total revenues | \$ 23,431 |
| Total expenses | (12,971) |
| Operating income | 10,460 |
| Net interest expense and other | 42 |
| Impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates | <u>\$ 10,502</u> |

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The following is a reconciliation of net income to EBITDA for 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net income | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 |
| Income tax expense | 60,032 | 65,273 |
| Income tax expense related to earnings from equity investees | 48 | 528 |
| Interest income | (4,002) | (1,739) |
| Interest expense | 41,498 | 46,819 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 17,604 | 16,492 |
| EBITDA | <u>\$ 286,596</u> | <u>\$ 288,323</u> |

The following is a reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents to Net Liquidity as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 890,633 | \$ 483,663 |
| Add: Restricted cash | 28,143 | 18,812 |
| Add: Accounts receivable | 553,502 | 681,800 |
| Subtract: Due to consignors | (774,535) | (675,586) |
| Subtract: Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities | (189,262) | (201,516) |
| Net Liquidity | <u>\$ 508,481</u> | <u>\$ 307,173</u> |

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

This discussion should be read in conjunction with Note D (“Segment Reporting”) of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Overview

In 2010, Sotheby’s reported net income of \$161 million, representing the second most profitable year in its history. These results represented a dramatic improvement in comparison to 2009 when Sotheby’s reported a net loss of (\$6.5) million. This improvement was primarily due to higher auction commission revenues resulting from a 91% increase in Net Auction Sales attributable to the recovery of the global art market, which was aided, in part, by the increased buying activity of clients from emerging markets. Sotheby’s revenue growth and return to substantial profitability in 2010 was achieved with a lower risk profile than in the previous peak years of 2006 and 2007, as the Company was highly selective in its use of auction guarantees and only issued such guarantees in tandem with risk sharing arrangements that very significantly reduced its financial exposure to guarantees. Sotheby’s 2010 results reflected increased incentive compensation, due to the substantial improvement in earnings, as well as a higher level of direct costs of services, consistent with the level and composition of auction offerings during the period. See the discussion below for greater detail on the significant factors impacting Sotheby’s 2010 results and the comparison to 2009.

Results of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

The table below presents a summary of Sotheby's results of operations for 2010 and 2009, as well as a comparison between the two periods (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2010 | 2009 | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 731,021 | \$ 448,768 | \$ 282,253 | 62.9 % |
| Finance revenues | 9,685 | 9,073 | 612 | 6.7 % |
| Dealer revenues | 29,092 | 22,339 | 6,753 | 30.2 % |
| License fee revenues | 3,682 | 3,270 | 412 | 12.6 % |
| Other revenues | 829 | 1,508 | (679) | (45.0)% |
| Total revenues | 774,309 | 484,958 | 289,351 | 59.7 % |
| Expenses ** | 500,311 | 431,824 | (68,487) | (15.9)% |
| Operating income | 273,998 | 53,134 | 220,864 | * |
| Net interest expense | (45,080) | (40,351) | (4,729) | (11.7)% |
| Extinguishment of debt, net | (6,291) | 1,039 | (7,330) | * |
| Write-off of credit facility amendment fees | — | (3,750) | 3,750 | 100.0 % |
| Other income | 2,952 | 5,323 | (2,371) | (44.5)% |
| Income before taxes | 225,579 | 15,395 | 210,184 | * |
| Equity in earnings of investees, net of taxes | 644 | 239 | 405 | * |
| Income tax expense | 65,273 | 22,162 | (43,111) | * |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) | \$ 167,478 | * |
| Key performance indicators: | | | | |
| Aggregate Auction Sales (a) | \$ 4,287,176 | \$ 2,278,525 | \$ 2,008,651 | 88.2 % |
| Net Auction Sales (b) | \$ 3,644,764 | \$ 1,912,589 | \$ 1,732,175 | 90.6 % |
| Private Sales (c) | \$ 494,505 | \$ 472,603 | \$ 21,902 | 4.6 % |
| Consolidated Sales (d) | \$ 4,810,773 | \$ 2,773,467 | \$ 2,037,306 | 73.5 % |
| Auction Commission Margin (e) | 18.3% | 20.7% | N/A | (11.6)% |
| Direct Costs as a percentage of Net Auction Sales | 1.7% | 2.3% | N/A | 26.4 % |
| Average Loan Portfolio (f) | \$ 181,585 | \$ 154,619 | \$ 26,966 | 17.4 % |
| EBITDA (g) | \$ 288,323 | \$ 77,674 | \$ 210,649 | * |
| EBITDA Margin (g) (h) | 37.2% | 16.0% | N/A | * |

Legend:

* Represents a change in excess of 100%.

** Expenses for 2009 include net restructuring charges of \$12.2 million.

(a) Represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction plus buyer's premium.

(b) Represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction.

(c) Represents the total purchase price of property sold in private sales brokered by Sotheby's.

(d) Represents the sum of Aggregate Auction Sales, Private Sales and Dealer revenues.

(e) Represents total auction commission revenues as a percentage of Net Auction Sales.

(f) Represents the average loan portfolio of the Sotheby's Finance segment.

(g) See "Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures" above and "Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures" below.

(h) Represents EBITDA as a percentage of total revenues.

Revenues

In 2010 and 2009, revenues consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| Year Ended December 31 | 2010 | 2009 | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Auction and related revenues: | | | | |
| Auction commission revenues | \$ 667,033 | \$ 396,772 | \$ 270,261 | 68.1 % |
| Private sale commission revenues | 44,240 | 37,462 | 6,778 | 18.1 % |
| Principal activities | (1,890) | (5,735) | 3,845 | 67.0 % |
| Other auction and related revenues* | 21,638 | 20,269 | 1,369 | 6.8 % |
| Total auction and related revenues | 731,021 | 448,768 | 282,253 | 62.9 % |
| Other revenues: | | | | |
| Finance revenues | 9,685 | 9,073 | 612 | 6.7 % |
| Dealer revenues | 29,092 | 22,339 | 6,753 | 30.2 % |
| License fee revenues | 3,682 | 3,270 | 412 | 12.6 % |
| Other | 829 | 1,508 | (679) | (45.0)% |
| Total other revenues | 43,288 | 36,190 | 7,098 | 19.6 % |
| Total revenues | \$ 774,309 | \$ 484,958 | \$ 289,351 | 59.7 % |

* Principally includes fees charged to clients for catalogue production and insurance, catalogue subscription revenues, advertising revenues and commissions earned on private sales brokered by third-parties.

Auction and Related Revenues

In 2010, auction and related revenues improved \$282.3 million (63%) due to a significant increase in auction commission revenues and, to a much lesser extent, a higher level of private sale commissions and a lower level of principal activity losses. See the discussion below for a more detailed explanation of the factors contributing to the significant improvement in auction and related revenues.

Auction Commission Revenues—In 2010, auction commission revenues improved \$270.3 million (68%) due to a substantial increase in Net Auction Sales, partially offset by a decline in Auction Commission Margin. See “Net Auction Sales” and “Auction Commission Margin” below for a more detailed discussion of these key performance indicators.

Net Auction Sales—In 2010, Net Auction Sales increased \$1.7 billion (91%) due to the recovery of the global art market in 2010, which resulted in a greater volume of property sold and the achievement of higher average selling prices across almost all collecting categories. Specifically, the increase in 2010 Net Auction Sales was attributable to the following factors:

- An \$828 million (108%) increase in various-owner sales of Impressionist and Contemporary Art. In these sales, more works of art were offered and higher prices were achieved than in 2009.
- A \$240 million (159%) increase in sales of Asian Art conducted in Hong Kong, primarily attributable to higher average selling prices achieved in recurring sales throughout 2010. Also favorably impacting the comparison to 2009 were two single-owner sales of Chinese Ceramics (the Qing Imperial Porcelain from J.T. Tai and Co. and An Important Private Collection of Qing Historical Works of Art) that totaled \$84 million and for which there were no comparable sales in 2009.
- A \$156 million (146%) increase in single-owner sales conducted in the U.S. and Europe with 2010 results including the sales of Antiquities From the Collection of the Late Clarence Day, the Hesketh Collection of Books and Manuscripts, the British American Tobacco Artventure Collection and the Collection of Patricia Kluge, amongst others.
- A \$182 million (113%) increase in sales of jewelry, which included substantial improvements in recurring sales in Switzerland (\$75 million), Hong Kong (\$51 million) and the U.S. (\$44 million), with a significant portion of the increase (\$100 million) resulting from fourth quarter sales. In particular, fourth quarter results include the sale of a superb pink diamond for \$38.2 million in Switzerland, for which there was no comparable item sold in 2009.
- Smaller increases in recurring various-owner sales in other collecting categories, most notably in 19th Century Paintings (\$67 million), Old Master Paintings (\$47 million) and sales of Islamic Art in the U.K. (\$38 million).

Auction Commission Margin—In 2010, Sotheby's was highly selective in its use of auction guarantees and issued auction guarantees only when it was able to enter into risk and reward sharing arrangements to significantly reduce its financial exposure. In 2010, Auction Commission Margin decreased 12% (from 20.7% to 18.3%) almost entirely due to a lower average buyer's premium rate achieved on 2010 sales when compared to 2009 sales, resulting from a change in sales mix, as a significantly higher portion of Net Auction Sales were at the high-end of Sotheby's business. Specifically, in 2010, there was a 105% increase in the number of lots sold with a hammer (sale) price over \$1 million, the price point at which the buyer's premium rate decreases from 20% to 12%. To a lesser extent, Auction Commission Margin was adversely impacted by competitive pressures, which resulted in a lower seller's commission rate and a higher level of shared auction commissions.

The following table provides a comparison between 2010 and 2009 of the volume and value of lots sold with a hammer (sale) price over \$1 million (in thousands of dollars, except for lot volume):

| Year Ended December 31 | 2010 | 2009 | \$ Change | % Change |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Lots with a hammer (sale) price of greater than \$1 million | 530 | 259 | 271 | 105% |
| Total hammer (sale) price | \$ 2,030,545 | \$ 743,943 | \$ 1,286,602 | 173% |

Private Sale Commissions—In 2010, private sale commissions increased \$6.8 million (18%) when compared to 2009 primarily due to improved commission margins as well as a higher volume of property sold.

Principal Activities—In 2010, principal activity losses included \$5.6 million in writedowns of Auction segment inventory primarily related to guaranteed property that failed to sell at auction in prior periods, substantially offset by Sotheby's share of overages earned on guaranteed property sold in the fourth quarter of 2010. The favorable comparison of principal activities to 2009 was principally due to the overages earned on these transactions.

Finance Revenues

In 2010, Finance revenues increased \$0.6 million (7%) primarily due to \$0.7 million of interest income recognized in the first quarter of 2010 that was previously considered to be uncollectible. The overall increase in Finance revenues was partially offset by lower rates of return on the loan portfolio, which in 2010, included a higher proportion of short-term, interest-free advances to consignors (with maturities typically ranging between 3 and 6 months) that were issued during the first nine months of 2010 in order to secure high-value property for auctions. However, fourth quarter Finance revenues increased \$0.9 million, due in part to an interest-bearing \$55 million client loan that was made in October 2010.

(Note: For the purposes of Management's Discussion and Analysis, Finance revenues do not include intercompany revenues earned by the Finance segment from the Auction segment, which are eliminated in consolidation. See Note D of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Dealer Revenues and Cost of Sales

The table below summarizes Dealer revenues, cost of sales and gross profit (loss) for 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2010 | 2009 | Favorable/(Unfavorable) | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Dealer revenues | \$ 29,092 | \$ 22,339 | \$ 6,753 | 30.2 % |
| Dealer cost of sales | (24,889) | (24,516) | (373) | (1.5)% |
| Dealer gross profit (loss) | \$ 4,203 | \$ (2,177) | \$ 6,380 | N/A |

In 2010, Dealer segment results improved significantly primarily due to the performance of Noortman Master Paintings, which reported more profitable inventory sales and a higher level of commissions earned from the brokering of private art sales. Also impacting the comparison to 2009 was a \$1.6 million decrease in inventory writedowns in 2010 (from \$4.7 million to \$3.1 million).

Expenses

In 2010 and 2009, expenses consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2010 | 2009 | Favorable / (Unfavorable) | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Direct costs of services | \$ 60,940 | \$ 43,429 | \$ (17,511) | (40.3)% |
| Dealer cost of sales | 24,889 | 24,516 | (373) | (1.5)% |
| Marketing expenses | 12,207 | 10,541 | (1,666) | (15.8)% |
| Salaries and related costs | 253,271 | 196,269 | (57,002) | (29.0)% |
| General and administrative expenses | 132,566 | 123,350 | (9,216) | (7.5)% |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 16,492 | 21,560 | 5,068 | 23.5 % |
| Restructuring charges, net | (54) | 12,159 | 12,213 | * |
| Total expenses | <u>\$ 500,311</u> | <u>\$ 431,824</u> | <u>\$ (68,487)</u> | <u>(15.9)%</u> |

* Represents a change in excess of 100%

Direct Costs of Services

In 2010, direct costs of services increased \$17.5 million (40%), which was consistent with the level and composition of Sotheby's auction offerings in the year. For example, in 2010, there was a \$6.3 million increase in costs to promote a substantially higher level of single-owner sales, as discussed above under "Net Auction Sales," and a \$2.2 million increase in traveling exhibition costs, due in part to traveling exhibitions for property offered in Sotheby's Impressionist and Contemporary Art sales in response to heightened interest from buyers in emerging markets. Also contributing to the higher level of direct costs was a \$1.5 million increase in property loss and damage claims. Despite the overall increase when compared to 2009, direct costs of services as a percentage of Net Auction Sales decreased from 2.3% in 2009 to 1.7% in 2010.

Marketing Expenses

In 2010, marketing expenses increased by \$1.7 million (16%) principally due to higher costs to promote the Sotheby's brand in emerging markets and a higher level of museum sponsorships.

Salaries and Related Costs

In 2010 and 2009, salaries and related costs consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2010 | 2009 | Favorable / (Unfavorable) | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | | \$ Change | % Change |
| Full-time salaries | \$ 114,040 | \$ 114,467 | \$ 427 | 0.4 % |
| Incentive compensation expense | 68,199 | 18,255 | (49,944) | ** |
| Share-based payments | 20,250 | 20,750 | 500 | 2.4 % |
| Payroll taxes | 19,051 | 14,369 | (4,682) | (32.6)% |
| Employee benefits | 17,171 | 17,679 | 508 | 2.9 % |
| Other* | 14,560 | 10,749 | (3,811) | (35.5)% |
| Total salaries and related costs | <u>\$ 253,271</u> | <u>\$ 196,269</u> | <u>\$ (57,002)</u> | <u>(29.0)%</u> |

Key Performance Indicator:

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Salaries and related costs as a % of revenues | 32.7% | 40.5% | N/A | 19.2% |
|---|-------|-------|-----|-------|

* Principally includes expense related to the cost of temporary labor and overtime, and certain employment arrangements.

** Represents a change in excess of 100%.

In 2010, salaries and related costs increased \$57 million (29%), almost entirely due to a higher level of incentive compensation. See below for a detailed discussion of the significant factors contributing to the overall increase in salaries and related costs.

Incentive Compensation—The substantial increase in incentive compensation expense in 2010 was due to the significant improvement in Sotheby's earnings.

Payroll Taxes—In 2010, payroll taxes increased \$4.7 million (33%) primarily due to higher incentive compensation expense, as discussed above.

Full-Time Salaries—In 2010, full-time salaries remained relatively flat as the impact of headcount reductions resulting from restructuring initiatives implemented throughout 2009 was offset by strategic salary and headcount increases in 2010, as well as the impact of one-time unpaid employee furloughs and temporary pay reductions for certain senior employees that were implemented in 2009 in response to a downturn in the international art market. (See "Restructuring Plans and Related Charges" below.)

Other Compensation—The increase in other compensation was due to non-refundable cash payments made in connection with employment arrangements entered into in 2010, as well as a \$1.8 million (25%) increase in temporary employee and overtime costs.

Employee Benefits—In 2010, employee benefit costs decreased \$0.5 million (3%) primarily due to lower gains from deemed participant investments related to the DCP, which reduced employee benefit costs by \$1.9 million. The cost reduction related to the DCP was largely offset by a corresponding reduction in the value of the trust assets held by Sotheby's to fund the DCP liability, the impact of which was reflected below operating income within other income (expense). Also contributing to the decrease in employee benefit costs was an increase of \$1.4 million in the net pension credit related to the U.K. Pension Plan. This increase was attributable to differences in the market-based assumptions used to determine the net pension credit between the periods.

The factors discussed above impacting employee benefits were almost entirely offset by a higher level of contributions to Sotheby's U.S. retirement plans, which was primarily due to increased profit-sharing and incentive compensation related accruals associated with the substantial improvement in Sotheby's financial performance, when compared to 2009. The impact of these costs was partially offset by a decrease in the rate of contributions to the U.S. retirement plans as a result of a May 2009 amendment to the Sotheby's, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan, which reduced matching contributions by 50%.

Share-Based Payments—In 2010, share-based payments decreased \$0.5 million (2%), principally due to lower expense related to prior years' equity awards almost entirely offset by \$2.5 million in expense related to stock options granted to certain senior executives in February 2010. Prior to this grant, no stock options had been awarded by Sotheby's since 2005.

General and Administrative Expenses

In 2010, general and administrative expenses increased \$9.2 million (8%) to \$132.6 million, primarily due to the following factors:

- A \$6.8 million (42%) increase in travel and entertainment expenses in response to a higher level of consignment opportunities.
- A \$3.5 million increase in bad debt expense primarily attributable to an unusually high level of recoveries occurring in 2009.
- Smaller individual increases in various other general and administrative expenses aggregating to \$2.3 million.

The overall increase in general and administrative expenses was partially offset by a decrease in facility related costs (\$1.5 million) as 2009 results included rent and moving expenses related to Sotheby's former middle-market salesroom in London, which was vacated in June 2009. Also partially offsetting the overall increase in general and administrative expenses was a \$1 million decrease in authenticity claims, goodwill gestures and other litigation-related matters and a \$0.9 million decrease in professional fees primarily due to lower costs associated with Sotheby's previously outsourced tax compliance function.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

In 2010, depreciation and amortization expense decreased \$5.1 million (24%) principally due to a lower level of recurring capital spending in 2010 and 2009 than in prior years, as well as certain tangible and intangible assets becoming fully depreciated and amortized in 2009. In 2010 and 2009, a substantial portion of capital spending was devoted to assets that were not placed into service until the second half of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011.

Restructuring Plans and Related Charges

In 2010, Sotheby's recorded a benefit to net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$0.1 million. In 2009, Sotheby's recorded net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$12.2 million. See below for brief descriptions of the 2008 Restructuring Plan and 2009 Restructuring Plan.

2008 Restructuring Plan—Due to a downturn in the international art market, on December 1, 2008 and February 26, 2009, Sotheby's Board of Directors approved restructuring actions impacting the Auction segment, as well as certain corporate departments. These restructuring actions (collectively, the "2008 Restructuring Plan") were the result of a strategic review of Sotheby's operations conducted by management between November 2008 and February 2009. The 2008 Restructuring Plan resulted in a 15% decrease in global headcount, a reduction in Sotheby's selling activities and leased premises in Amsterdam and the vacating of other premises principally in the U.K.

The 2008 Restructuring Plan included \$2.1 million of facility related costs associated with exiting certain leased facilities in the Netherlands and the U. K. These facility related Restructuring Charges, which were recognized in 2009, represented the future rental costs (net of estimated sub-lease income) that Sotheby's remained obligated to pay subsequent to the cease use date for each facility.

2009 Restructuring Plan—In March and April 2009, in response to a continued downturn in the international art market, management conducted a further strategic review of Sotheby's operations, and on April 27, 2009, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved additional restructuring actions (the "2009 Restructuring Plan"). The 2009 Restructuring Plan impacted all areas of Sotheby's global operations through additional significant cost reductions that resulted from a further 5% decrease in global headcount.

In total, the 2008 Restructuring Plan and the 2009 Restructuring Plan resulted in aggregate annual cost savings of approximately \$25 million when compared to 2008. The aggregate annual cost savings was almost entirely due to the headcount reductions discussed above.

(See Note J of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

Net Interest Expense

In 2010, net interest expense increased \$4.7 million (12%) primarily due to a \$4.1 million decrease in interest income related to previously delinquent client accounts that were determined to be collectible. To a lesser extent, the increase in net interest expense was due to a higher level of discount amortization related to Sotheby's 3.125% Convertible Notes and higher amortization of arrangement and amendment fees related to Sotheby's revolving credit facility.

Extinguishment of Debt, Net

On January 27, 2009, Sotheby's repurchased an aggregate principal amount of \$2.8 million of its 7.75% Senior Notes for a purchase price of \$1.6 million (representing 59% of the aggregate principal amount repurchased). This repurchase resulted in a non-cash gain of approximately \$1 million, net of fees, which was recognized in the first quarter of 2009.

On December 21, 2010, Sotheby's repurchased an aggregate principal amount of \$48.3 million of its 7.75% Senior Notes for a purchase price of \$53.1 million (representing 110% of the aggregate principal amount repurchased). This repurchase resulted in a loss of approximately \$6.3 million, including fees, which was recognized in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Other Income

The comparison of other income to 2009 was significantly impacted by a gain of approximately \$4 million related to the sale of Sotheby's Australia. The majority of this gain was the result of the realization of the cumulative translation adjustment related to this entity. There was no comparable event in 2010.

Write-Off of Credit Facility Amendment Fees

On August 31, 2009, Sotheby's terminated its senior secured revolving credit facility with Bank of America, N.A. (the "BofA Credit Agreement"). As a result, Sotheby's recorded a \$2.5 million non-cash charge in the third quarter of 2009 to write-off the remaining balance of arrangement and amendment fees related to the BofA Credit Agreement. Additionally, as a result of amendments to the BofA Credit Agreement made in the first half of 2009, Sotheby's recorded a \$1.3 million non-cash charge in the second quarter of 2009 to write-off a portion of arrangement and amendment fees related to this facility.

Income Tax Expense

Sotheby's effective tax rate was approximately 29% in 2010, compared to approximately 144% in 2009. In 2009, the effective tax rate was unusually high due to the recording of a valuation allowance of \$18.2 million against certain state, local, and foreign deferred tax assets and loss carryforwards for which there was no comparable item in 2010. The 2009 effective tax rate was also impacted by the relative impact of book to tax differences (i.e., non-deductible expenses) on significantly lower pre-tax results in various taxing jurisdictions as compared to 2010. In 2010, the effective tax rate was affected by the release of certain federal tax reserves of \$5.9 million in conjunction with the expiration of the statute of limitations. The rate in 2010 was also significantly influenced by the level and mix of 2010 earnings and losses by taxing jurisdiction and foreign tax rate differentials as well as the mix of income earned at tax rates lower than the U.S. tax rate. (See Notes L and M of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for a more detailed discussion of Income Taxes and Uncertain Tax Positions. In addition, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors.")

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The following is a reconciliation of net income (loss) to EBITDA for 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Net income (loss) | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) |
| Income tax expense | 65,273 | 22,162 |
| Income tax expense related to earnings from equity investees | 528 | 129 |
| Interest income | (1,739) | (5,357) |
| Interest expense | 46,819 | 45,708 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 16,492 | 21,560 |
| EBITDA | <u>\$ 288,323</u> | <u>\$ 77,674</u> |

FINANCIAL CONDITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

This discussion should be read in conjunction with Sotheby's Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. In 2011, total cash and cash equivalents increased \$407 million to \$890.6 million primarily due to the factors discussed below.

Cash Provided by Operating Activities—The amount of cash provided or used by Sotheby's operating activities in a period is generally a reflection of the volume of Net Auction Sales, the timing of auction sale settlements (see Note E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements), the amount and timing of payments made to vendors, the amount and timing of compensation-related payments and the amount and timing of the collection and/or payment of tax-related amounts. Net cash provided by operating activities of \$403 million in 2011 is principally attributable to the cash flows associated with Sotheby's profitable results during the period and net cash inflows of \$191.5 million associated with the timing of the settlement of auction sales, due in part to the collection of receivables related to certain high-value fourth quarter sales in 2011 for which payment to the consignor was made in 2012. These cash inflows are partially offset by net income tax payments of \$56.6 million and the funding of 2010 incentive compensation-related payments in February 2011.

Cash Provided by Investing Activities—Net cash provided by investing activities of \$50.1 million in 2011 is principally attributable to net cash inflows related to the collection of client loans totaling \$76.3 million, as settlements of loan and auction guarantee advances to consignors exceeded new loans issued during the period. This net cash inflow is partially offset by capital expenditures of \$17.1 million made during 2011, a portion of which were made to support certain strategic initiatives, including the further enhancement of the sothebys.com website and investments made to enhance Sotheby's private sale exhibition space.

Cash Used by Financing Activities—Net cash used by financing activities of \$45.1 million in 2011 is principally due to the settlement of Convertible Note redemptions (\$18.1 million, net of proceeds received from the exercise of the Convertible Note Hedges, as discussed in Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements), the funding of employee tax obligations upon the vesting of share-based payments during the period (\$18.6 million) and dividend payments of \$14.9 million. These financing cash outflows are partially offset by \$7 million in excess tax benefits resulting from the vesting and exercise of share-based payments during the period. Due to the appreciation of Sotheby's stock price, such share-based payments vested at values higher than what was recorded as expense in Sotheby's statements of operations, resulting in a higher tax deduction for Sotheby's. (See Note O of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

The following table summarizes Sotheby's material contractual obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2011 (in thousands of dollars):

| | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Total | Less Than One Year | 1 to 3 Years | 3 to 5 Years | After 5 Years |
| York Property Mortgage (1) | | | | | |
| Principal payments | \$ 230,502 | \$ 2,976 | \$ 7,068 | \$ 220,458 | \$ — |
| Interest payments | 43,693 | 11,694 | 24,940 | 7,059 | — |
| Sub-total | 274,195 | 14,670 | 32,008 | 227,517 | — |
| Unsecured debt (2) | | | | | |
| Principal payments | 261,839 | — | 181,868 | 79,971 | — |
| Interest payments | 30,251 | 11,881 | 15,253 | 3,117 | — |
| Sub-total | 292,090 | 11,881 | 197,121 | 83,088 | — |
| Other commitments: | | | | | |
| Operating lease obligations (3) | 110,868 | 15,390 | 26,772 | 25,226 | 43,480 |
| Employment arrangements (4) | 20,585 | 9,385 | 8,602 | 2,066 | 532 |
| Auction guarantees (5) | 18,666 | 18,666 | — | — | — |
| Uncertain tax positions (6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sub-total | 150,119 | 43,441 | 35,374 | 27,292 | 44,012 |
| Total | \$ 716,404 | \$ 69,992 | \$ 264,503 | \$ 337,897 | \$ 44,012 |

- (1) Represents the outstanding principal and monthly interest payments due on the York Property Mortgage. The York Property Mortgage matures on July 1, 2035, has an optional pre-payment date of July 1, 2015, and bears an annual interest rate of approximately 5.6%, which increases subsequent to July 1, 2015. It is Sotheby's current intention to either pre-pay or refinance the mortgage on or about July 1, 2015, subject to economic and financial market conditions and available cash balances.
- (2) Represents the aggregate outstanding principal and semi-annual interest payments due on Sotheby's \$80 million 7.75% Senior Notes (the "Senior Notes") and \$182 million 3.125% Convertible Notes (the "Convertible Notes"). The Senior Notes are due on June 15, 2015. The Convertible Notes are due on June 15, 2013, but may be converted at any time beginning on March 15, 2013 and ending on the close of business on June 14, 2013. Prior to March 15, 2013, the Convertible Notes may only be converted: (i) during any fiscal quarter (and only during such fiscal quarter), if the closing price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds \$44.20 per share (i.e., 130% of the conversion price of the Convertible Notes) for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days at the end of the previous quarter, (ii) if the trading price of the Convertible Notes falls below a certain threshold over a defined period, or (iii) upon the occurrence of certain specified corporate transactions (as set forth in the Convertible Notes Indenture). It is Sotheby's current intent and policy to settle up to the principal amount of the Convertible Notes in cash. (See Note K of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on the Convertible Notes and the Senior Notes.)
- (3) Represents rental payments due under Sotheby's operating lease obligations.
- (4) Represents the remaining commitment for future salaries and other cash compensation (excluding any participation in Sotheby's incentive compensation and share-based payment programs) related to employment arrangements with certain senior employees, which expire at various points between February 2012 and March 2017. Such arrangements may provide, among other benefits, for minimum salary levels and for incentive compensation under Sotheby's incentive compensation programs which is payable only if specified company and individual goals are attained. Additionally, certain of these arrangements provide for annual equity grants, the accelerated vesting of certain equity grants, severance payments, other cash compensation, and continuation of benefits upon termination of employment under certain circumstances.
- (5) From time to time in the ordinary course of its business, Sotheby's will guarantee to consignors a minimum price in connection with the sale of property at auction (an "auction guarantee"). As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had outstanding auction guarantees totaling \$18.7 million. Each of these auction guarantees had a minimum guaranteed price that is within the range of the pre-sale auction estimates for the underlying property. Sotheby's financial exposure under these auction guarantees is reduced by irrevocable bids from unrelated third parties. If each of these irrevocable bids was

the winning bid at auction, the total purchase price owed to Sotheby's, including buyer's premium, would be no less than \$18.7 million. The property related to these auction guarantees was sold at auction in February 2012 for a sale price (including buyer's premium) which exceeded the minimum guaranteed price. (See Note R of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information and "Off Balance Sheet Arrangements" below for more detailed information related to auction guarantees.)

- (6) Excludes the \$22.3 million liability recorded for uncertain tax positions that would be settled by cash payments to the respective taxing authorities, which are classified as long-term assets and liabilities on Sotheby's December 31, 2011 balance sheet. This liability is excluded from the table above because management is unable to make reliable estimates of the period of settlement with the respective taxing authorities. (See Note M of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for more detailed information on uncertain tax positions.)

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

Auction Guarantees

From time to time in the ordinary course of its business, Sotheby's will guarantee to consignors a minimum sale price in connection with the sale of property at auction. In the event that the property sells for less than the guaranteed price, Sotheby's must perform under the auction guarantee by funding the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee. Sotheby's is generally entitled to a share of the excess proceeds (the "overage") if the property under the auction guarantee sells above the guaranteed price. If the property does not sell, the amount of the auction guarantee must be paid, but Sotheby's has the right to recover such amount through the future sale of the property. In these situations, the guaranteed property is recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet at the lower of cost (i.e., the amount paid under the auction guarantee) or management's estimate of the property's net realizable value (i.e., expected sale price upon disposition). The sale proceeds ultimately realized by Sotheby's in these situations may equal, exceed or be less than the amount recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet.

Sotheby's may reduce its financial exposure under auction guarantees through risk and reward sharing arrangements, which include:

- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to bid a predetermined price on the guaranteed property (an "irrevocable bid"). If the irrevocable bid is the winning bid, the counterparty purchases the property at the predetermined price plus the applicable buyer's premium, which is the same amount that any other successful bidder would pay at that price. If the irrevocable bid is not the winning bid, the counterparty is generally entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned on the sale and/or a share of any overage.
- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to fund: (i) a share of the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee if the property sells for less than the guaranteed price or (ii) a share of the guaranteed price if the property does not sell while taking ownership of a proportionate share of the unsold property. In exchange for accepting a share of the financial exposure under the auction guarantee, the counterparty is entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned and/or a share of any overage if the property sells.

The counterparties to these auction guarantee risk and reward sharing arrangements are typically major international art dealers or major art collectors. Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event any of these counterparties do not perform according to the terms of these contractual arrangements.

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had outstanding auction guarantees totaling \$18.7 million. Each of these auction guarantees had a minimum guaranteed price that is within the range of the pre-sale auction estimates for the underlying property. Sotheby's financial exposure under these auction guarantees is reduced by irrevocable bids from unrelated third parties. If each of these irrevocable bids was the winning bid at auction, the total purchase price owed to Sotheby's, including buyer's premium, would be no less than \$18.7 million. The property related to these auction guarantees was sold at auction in February 2012 for a sale price (including buyer's premium) which exceeded the minimum guaranteed price.

As of December 31, 2011, \$7.5 million of the aggregate guaranteed amount had been advanced to the consignors and is recorded within Notes Receivable on Sotheby's balance sheet (see Note E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements). As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of the liability representing the estimated fair value of Sotheby's obligation to perform under its auction guarantees totaled \$0.9 million and \$0.1 million, respectively, and is recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities.

As of February 24, 2012, Sotheby's had outstanding auction guarantees totaling \$11.5 million. Each of these auction guarantees has a minimum guaranteed price that is within the range of the pre-sale auction estimates for the underlying

property. Sotheby's financial exposure under these auction guarantees is reduced by irrevocable bids from unrelated third parties. If each of these irrevocable bids is the winning bid at auction, the total purchase price owed to Sotheby's, including buyer's premium, would be no less than \$11.5 million. The property related to these auction guarantees will be offered at auction in the second and third quarters of 2012. As of February 24, 2012, \$3.5 million of the aggregate guaranteed amount had been advanced to a consignor.

DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

For information related to derivative financial instruments, see Note S of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

CONTINGENCIES

For information related to Contingencies, see Notes G, M, Q and R of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS

For information related to Uncertain Tax Positions, see Note M of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

NET LIQUIDITY

Sotheby's defines Net Liquidity as the amount of cash and cash equivalents that would remain assuming that all accounts receivable were collected and that all consignor payables, accounts payable and current accrued liabilities were paid as of each balance sheet date. (See Note B of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.) This measure, among others, is used by management to assess the amount of available short-term liquidity, excluding available borrowings under Sotheby's revolving credit facility, in consideration of the fact that Sotheby's is predominantly an agency business that collects and remits cash on behalf of its clients. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Net Liquidity was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 890,633 | \$ 483,663 |
| Add: Restricted cash | 28,143 | 18,812 |
| Add: Accounts receivable | 553,502 | 681,800 |
| Subtract: Due to consignors | (774,535) | (675,586) |
| Subtract: Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities | (189,262) | (201,516) |
| Net Liquidity | <u>\$ 508,481</u> | <u>\$ 307,173</u> |

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash and Cash Equivalents—As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$890.6 million, of which \$337.6 million was held in the U.S. and \$553 million was held by foreign subsidiaries. The focus of Sotheby's current investment policy is to preserve principal and ensure liquidity. Accordingly, current cash balances are invested in the highest rated overnight deposits.

Revolving Credit Facility—On August 31, 2009, Sotheby's and certain of its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, the "Borrowers") entered into a credit agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with an international syndicate of lenders led by General Electric Capital Corporation ("GE Capital"). The Credit Agreement was amended by Sotheby's, GE Capital and the lenders named therein (collectively, the "Lenders") on November 23, 2010. This amendment, among other things, extended the maturity date of the Credit Agreement, reduced borrowing costs and fees, and provided additional flexibility to Sotheby's.

The following summary does not purport to be a complete summary of the Credit Agreement, as amended, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Credit Agreement and each of the respective amendments, copies of which were filed as exhibits to previous SEC filings. Terms used, but not defined in this summary, have the meanings set forth in the Credit Agreement and each of the respective amendments.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, provides for a \$200 million revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility") and has a feature whereby any time on or before March 1, 2014 the Borrowers may request, subject to Lenders' approval, an increase to the facility by an amount not to exceed \$50 million. The amount of borrowings available under the Revolving Credit Facility is limited by a borrowing base which is calculated primarily based upon the level of Sotheby's loan portfolio and art inventory balances. In addition, up to \$10 million of the borrowing capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility may be used to issue letters of credit. As of December 31, 2011, no Revolving Credit Facility borrowings were outstanding and the amount of borrowings available under the Revolving Credit Facility was approximately \$115.2 million, as

calculated under the borrowing base. Sotheby's has not borrowed or issued any letters of credit under the Revolving Credit Facility since its inception.

Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility are available in either Dollars to U.S. Borrowers or Pounds Sterling to U.K. Borrowers. The U.S. Borrowers and, subject to certain limitations, the U.K. Borrowers, are jointly and severally liable for all obligations under the Credit Agreement, as amended. In addition, certain subsidiaries of the Borrowers guarantee the obligations of the Borrowers under the Credit Agreement, as amended. The obligations under the Credit Agreement, as amended, are secured by liens on all or substantially all of the personal property of the Borrowers and the Guarantors.

Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility may be designated by the Borrowers as either Dollar Index Rate Loans (for U.S. Borrowers only) or LIBOR Rate Loans. Dollar Index Rate Loans bear interest at an annual rate equal to (a) the highest of (i) the "Prime Rate" as quoted in The Wall Street Journal, (ii) the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.50%, or (iii) the LIBOR Rate plus 1.0%, *plus* (b) the Applicable Margin, which is generally between 1.50% and 2.00% dependent upon the level of outstanding borrowings. The LIBOR Rate for Dollars or Sterling, as the case may be, for an interest period is equal to (x) the offered rate for deposits in such currency for a period equal to such interest period on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page, *plus* (y) the Applicable Margin, which is generally between 2.50% and 3.00% dependent upon the level of outstanding borrowings.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, contains certain customary affirmative and negative covenants including, but not limited to, limitations on capital expenditures, limitations on net outstanding auction guarantees (i.e., auction guarantees less the impact of related risk and reward sharing arrangements) and limitations on the use of proceeds from borrowings under the Credit Agreement, as amended. The Credit Agreement, as amended, also restricts quarterly dividend payments to the lesser of \$0.10 per share or \$8 million. However, the maximum level of quarterly dividend payments may be increased depending upon the achievement of a certain Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio in any period. Management believes that Sotheby's is in compliance with the covenants and terms of the Credit Agreement, as amended.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, also contains certain financial covenants, which are only applicable during certain defined compliance periods. These financial covenants were not applicable for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2011.

The maturity date of the Credit Agreement, as amended, is September 1, 2014, subject to Sotheby's meeting certain liquidity requirements during the period commencing on December 15, 2012 and ending on the date Sotheby's 3.125% Convertible Notes are fully converted or fully discharged, which will be no later June 15, 2013. Management expects to meet these liquidity requirements throughout this period.

Liquidity and Capital Requirements—Sotheby's generally relies on operating cash flows and existing cash balances, supplemented by Revolving Credit Facility borrowings, if needed, to meet its liquidity and capital requirements. The timing and extent of any borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility is dependent upon a number of factors including, but not limited to, the cyclical nature of the global art market, the seasonality of Sotheby's business, the timing of auction sale settlements, the funding of notes receivable and consignor advances and the geographic mix of cash and cash equivalent balances.

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$890.6 million, of which \$337.6 million was held in the U.S. and \$553 million was held by foreign subsidiaries. Of the \$553 million in foreign cash balances, approximately \$472 million would be subject to additional income taxes if repatriated. Based on current projections and management's planned use of foreign cash balances, it is expected that this \$472 million in foreign cash will be indefinitely reinvested outside of the U.S. and will not need to be repatriated to fund Sotheby's U.S. operations or debt repayments. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Sotheby's short-term operating needs and capital requirements include the funding of working capital, the funding of notes receivable and consignor advances, the funding of mortgage repayments, the funding of capital expenditures and the payment of dividends, as well as the funding of the other short-term commitments due on or before December 31, 2012 as summarized in the table of contractual obligations and commitments above. Capital expenditures are expected to be in the range of \$21 million to \$26 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, including a planned investment of approximately \$8 million for the expansion of Sotheby's premises in Hong Kong. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Sotheby's long-term operating needs and capital requirements include the funding of working capital, the funding of notes receivable and consignor advances, the funding of capital expenditures and the payment of dividends, as well as the funding of the presently anticipated long-term contractual obligations and commitments summarized in the table of contractual obligations and commitments above.

Management believes that operating cash flows and existing cash balances, supplemented by Revolving Credit Facility borrowings, if needed, will be adequate to meet Sotheby's anticipated short-term and long-term commitments (including the

repayments of the Convertible Notes) operating needs and capital requirements through the September 1, 2014 expiration of the Credit Agreement, as amended.

On November 7, 2011, Sotheby's Board of Directors approved a 60% increase to the quarterly dividend rate (from \$0.05 per share to \$0.08 per share) and declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share (approximately \$5.4 million) that was paid to shareholders of record as of December 1, 2011 on December 15, 2011. On February 28, 2012, Sotheby's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share (approximately \$5.4 million), to be paid on March 15, 2012 to shareholders of record as of March 9, 2012.

The declaration and payment of future dividends to shareholders is at the discretion of Sotheby's Board of Directors and will depend on many factors, including Sotheby's financial condition, cash flows, legal requirements and other factors as the Board of Directors deems relevant. It is the intention of Sotheby's to continue to pay quarterly dividends at a rate of at least \$0.08 per share, subject to Board approval and depending on economic, financial, market and other conditions at the time. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

Sotheby's has accumulated significant cash balances and has strong liquidity. In the near term, management will actively evaluate its options to optimize the use of Sotheby's excess cash, and will consider future debt maturities, the cost of repatriating foreign cash, and operational and capital needs (in particular, future expenditures related to emerging markets such as China). As part of this evaluation, management is also considering traditional corporate finance alternatives, including additional repurchases of the 7.75% Senior Notes, as well as additional actions with respect to Sotheby's dividend and/or a repurchase of shares of Sotheby's Common Stock, subject to prevailing financial markets, and economic and business conditions.

IMPACT OF RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In October 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2009-13, *Multiple-Deliverable Revenue Arrangements*, which is codified in ASC 605, *Revenue Recognition*. This update addresses the unit of accounting for arrangements involving multiple deliverables and how to allocate arrangement consideration to one or more units of accounting. It eliminates the criteria that objective and reliable evidence of the fair value of any undelivered items must exist for the delivered items to be considered separate units of accounting. This update was effective starting in the first quarter of 2011 and did not impact Sotheby's financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, which is codified in ASC 220, *Comprehensive Income*. This update eliminates the option for entities to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in shareholder's equity and requires entities to report the components of comprehensive income (i.e., net income and other comprehensive income) in either: (1) a single, continuous statement of comprehensive income or (2) two separate, but consecutive, statements. ASU 2011-05 does not change the items that must be reported in other comprehensive income and does not require incremental disclosures in addition to those already required by ASC 220. This update will be effective for Sotheby's quarterly and annual financial statements beginning in the first quarter of 2012. In the first quarter of 2012, Sotheby's will present the components of comprehensive income in two separate, but consecutive, statements.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-08, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other: Testing Goodwill for Impairment*, which is codified in ASC 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*. This update gives entities testing goodwill for impairment the option of performing a qualitative assessment before calculating the fair value of a reporting unit in step 1 of the goodwill impairment test. If entities determine, on the basis of qualitative factors, that the fair value of a reporting unit is more likely than not less than the carrying amount, the two-step impairment test would be required. Otherwise, further testing would not be needed. This update will be effective for Sotheby's quarterly and annual financial statements beginning in the first quarter of 2012. Early adoption is permitted. Sotheby's did not early adopt this standard in 2011 and is currently evaluating whether to perform the qualitative assessment allowed under ASU 2011-08 beginning in 2012.

RECENT LEGISLATION

In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 were signed into law in the U.S. This legislation expands health care coverage to many uninsured individuals and expands coverage to those already insured. The changes required by this legislation could result in additional health care and other costs for Sotheby's, but management does not expect any material short-term impact on Sotheby's financial results as a result of the legislation and is currently assessing the extent of any long-term impact. Sotheby's does not provide retiree health benefits, and therefore will not be impacted by the elimination of the tax deductibility of the Medicare Part D subsidy resulting from this legislation. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

In July 2010, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") was signed into

law in the U.S. This legislation will significantly change the current banking and financial institution regulatory structure and affect the lending, deposit, investment, trading and operating activities of such financial institutions. Management continues to review the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, many of which are phased-in over the next several months and years, and to assess its impact on Sotheby's operations. However, the ultimate effect of the Dodd-Frank Act on the financial services industry in general, and Sotheby's in particular, is uncertain at this time. (See statement on Forward Looking Statements.)

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Form 10-K contains certain forward looking statements; as such term is defined in Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, relating to future events and the financial performance of Sotheby's. Such statements are only predictions and involve risks and uncertainties, resulting in the possibility that the actual events or performance will differ materially from such predictions. Major factors which could cause the actual results to differ materially from the predicted results in the forward looking statements include, but are not limited to, the factors listed above under Item 1A, "Risk Factors," which are not ranked in any particular order.

ITEM 7A: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Sotheby's continually evaluates the market risk associated with its financial instruments in the normal course of its business. As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's material financial instruments include: (i) cash and cash equivalents, (ii) restricted cash, (iii) notes receivable, (iv) the trust assets related to its deferred compensation liability, (v) the York Property Mortgage, (vi) the Senior Notes, (vii) the Convertible Notes, (viii) the deferred compensation liability and (ix) outstanding forward exchange contracts.

Management believes that the interest rate risk associated with its financial instruments is minimal as a hypothetical 10% increase or decrease in interest rates is immaterial to its cash flow, earnings, and the fair value related to its financial instruments. As of December 31, 2011, a hypothetical 10% strengthening or weakening of the U.S. dollar relative to all other currencies would result in a decrease or increase in cash flow of approximately \$49 million.

Sotheby's utilizes forward exchange contracts to hedge cash flow exposures related to foreign currency exchange rate movements, which primarily arise from short-term foreign currency denominated intercompany balances and, to a much lesser extent, foreign currency denominated client payable balances. Such forward exchange contracts are typically short-term with settlement dates less than six months from their inception. Additionally, on rare occasions, Sotheby's may purchase foreign currency option contracts to hedge risks associated with foreign currency denominated client payable balances. All derivative financial instruments are entered into by Sotheby's global treasury function, which is responsible for monitoring and managing Sotheby's exposure to foreign currency exchange rate movements. As of December 31, 2011, the notional value of outstanding forward exchange contracts was \$22.9 million. Notional values do not quantify risk or represent assets or liabilities of Sotheby's, but are used to calculate cash settlements under outstanding forward exchange contracts. Sotheby's is exposed to credit-related risks in the event of nonperformance by the three counterparties to its outstanding forward exchange contracts. Sotheby's does not expect any of these counterparties to fail to meet their obligations, given their high short-term (A1/P1) credit ratings. (See Note S of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.)

ITEM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Sotheby's
New York, New York

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Sotheby's and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related consolidated statements of operations, cash flows, and changes in shareholders' equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15. These consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sotheby's and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2011, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 29, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

New York, New York
February 29, 2012

SOTHEBY'S
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Thousands of dollars, except per share data)

| Year Ended December 31 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenues: | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 791,738 | \$ 731,021 | \$ 448,768 |
| Finance revenues | 12,038 | 9,685 | 9,073 |
| Dealer revenues | 21,790 | 29,092 | 22,339 |
| License fee revenues | 5,228 | 3,682 | 3,270 |
| Other revenues | 1,042 | 829 | 1,508 |
| Total revenues | 831,836 | 774,309 | 484,958 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Direct costs of services | 69,507 | 60,940 | 43,429 |
| Dealer cost of sales | 23,738 | 24,889 | 24,516 |
| Marketing expenses | 15,059 | 12,207 | 10,541 |
| Salaries and related costs | 268,530 | 253,271 | 196,269 |
| General and administrative expenses | 161,097 | 132,566 | 123,350 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 17,604 | 16,492 | 21,560 |
| Restructuring charges, net | 4,830 | (54) | 12,159 |
| Total expenses | 560,365 | 500,311 | 431,824 |
| Operating income | 271,471 | 273,998 | 53,134 |
| Interest income | 4,002 | 1,739 | 5,357 |
| Interest expense | (41,498) | (46,819) | (45,708) |
| Extinguishment of debt, net | (1,529) | (6,291) | 1,039 |
| Write-off of credit facility amendment fees | — | — | (3,750) |
| Other (expense) income | (1,057) | 2,952 | 5,323 |
| Income before taxes | 231,389 | 225,579 | 15,395 |
| Equity in earnings of investees, net of taxes | 59 | 644 | 239 |
| Income tax expense | 60,032 | 65,273 | 22,162 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | \$ 2.52 | \$ 2.37 | \$ (0.10) |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | \$ 2.46 | \$ 2.34 | \$ (0.10) |
| Cash dividends paid per common share | \$ 0.23 | \$ 0.20 | \$ 0.30 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SOTHEBY'S
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Thousands of dollars)

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| A S S E T S | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 890,633 | \$ 483,663 |
| Restricted cash | 28,143 | 18,812 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$7,163 and \$4,716 | 553,502 | 681,800 |
| Notes receivable, net of allowance for credit losses of \$875 and \$971 | 63,501 | 101,850 |
| Inventory | 113,606 | 126,534 |
| Deferred income taxes | 16,987 | 15,057 |
| Income tax receivable | 3,956 | 5,108 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 22,968 | 17,580 |
| Total Current Assets | <u>1,693,296</u> | <u>1,450,404</u> |
| Notes receivable | 169,182 | 175,423 |
| Fixed assets, net | 370,721 | 372,692 |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets, net | 14,566 | 15,012 |
| Equity method investments | 14,942 | 15,154 |
| Deferred income taxes | 43,749 | 39,703 |
| Trust assets related to deferred compensation liability | 42,010 | 39,024 |
| Pension asset | 27,194 | 55,180 |
| Income tax receivable | 9,665 | — |
| Other long-term assets | 14,089 | 16,036 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 2,399,414</u> | <u>\$ 2,178,628</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Due to consignors | \$ 774,535 | \$ 675,586 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 64,121 | 66,846 |
| Accrued salaries and related costs | 82,630 | 85,471 |
| Accrued income taxes | 33,576 | 40,109 |
| Deferred income taxes | 515 | 282 |
| Other current liabilities | 8,935 | 9,090 |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>964,312</u> | <u>877,384</u> |
| Long-term debt, net | 464,552 | 472,862 |
| Deferred income taxes | 970 | 8,913 |
| Accrued income taxes | 19,159 | 4,932 |
| Deferred compensation liability | 40,092 | 36,176 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 6,662 | 6,853 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>1,495,747</u> | <u>1,407,120</u> |
| Commitments and contingencies (see Note Q) | | |
| Shareholders' Equity: | | |
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value | 675 | 673 |
| Authorized shares at December 31, 2011—200,000,000 | | |
| Issued and outstanding shares - 67,407,473 and 67,320,667 | | |
| Additional paid-in capital | 355,628 | 345,066 |
| Retained earnings | 601,282 | 444,717 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (53,918) | (18,948) |
| Total Shareholders' Equity | <u>903,667</u> | <u>771,508</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | <u>\$ 2,399,414</u> | <u>\$ 2,178,628</u> |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SOTHEBY'S
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Thousands of dollars)

| Year Ended December 31 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Activities: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 17,604 | 16,492 | 21,560 |
| Gain on sale of business | — | — | (4,146) |
| Loss (gain) on extinguishment of debt | 1,529 | 6,291 | (1,039) |
| Deferred income tax (benefit) expense | (5,176) | 6,269 | 13,707 |
| Share-based payments | 18,918 | 20,250 | 20,586 |
| Net pension benefit | (5,508) | (3,700) | (2,288) |
| Asset provisions | 14,736 | 9,151 | 6,480 |
| Amortization of debt discount | 11,359 | 11,109 | 10,255 |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based payments | (6,982) | (2,555) | — |
| Other | 1,086 | 154 | 564 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts receivable | 92,430 | (316,110) | 178,670 |
| Due to consignors | 99,032 | 334,032 | (74,472) |
| Inventory | (883) | 3,966 | 35,857 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (7,108) | (2,447) | 2,979 |
| Other long-term assets | (1,378) | (4,411) | (4,861) |
| Income tax receivable and deferred income tax assets | (2,725) | 4,270 | 20,223 |
| Accrued income taxes and deferred income tax liabilities | 8,872 | 28,933 | (16,722) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other liabilities | (4,239) | 69,094 | (42,304) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>402,983</u> | <u>341,738</u> | <u>158,521</u> |
| Investing Activities: | | | |
| Funding of notes receivable | (208,921) | (306,905) | (152,179) |
| Collections of notes receivable | 285,223 | 198,307 | 179,289 |
| Capital expenditures | (17,111) | (17,999) | (100,879) |
| Proceeds from the sale of land and buildings | — | — | 2,450 |
| Distributions from equity investees | 320 | 3,140 | 1,664 |
| (Increase) decrease in restricted cash | (9,436) | 3,777 | 1,404 |
| Proceeds from sale of business | — | — | 2,462 |
| Net cash provided (used) by investing activities | <u>50,075</u> | <u>(119,680)</u> | <u>(65,789)</u> |
| Financing Activities: | | | |
| Repayments of Convertible Notes | (22,465) | — | — |
| Proceeds from the settlement of Convertible Note Hedges | 4,350 | — | — |
| Repayments of senior unsecured debt | — | (53,153) | (1,647) |
| Dividends paid | (14,851) | (13,620) | (20,434) |
| Repayments of York Property Mortgage | (3,077) | (1,423) | — |
| Decrease in York Property capital lease obligation | — | — | (49) |
| Proceeds from exercise of employee stock options | 2,566 | 14,031 | 1,269 |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based payments | 6,982 | 2,555 | — |
| Funding of employee tax obligations upon the vesting of share-based payments | (18,575) | (6,601) | (3,385) |
| Net cash used by financing activities | <u>(45,070)</u> | <u>(58,211)</u> | <u>(24,246)</u> |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (1,018) | (1,763) | (375) |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents | 406,970 | 162,084 | 68,111 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 483,663 | 321,579 | 253,468 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | <u>\$ 890,633</u> | <u>\$ 483,663</u> | <u>\$ 321,579</u> |

Supplemental information on non-cash investing and financing activities:

On February 6, 2009, Sotheby's purchased the York Property, which was financed in part, through the assumption of an existing \$235 million mortgage (see Note K).

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SOTHEBY'S
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011, 2010 AND 2009
(Thousands of dollars, except per share data)

| | Common Stock | Additional Paid-In Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|------------|
| Balance at January 1, 2009 | \$ 672 | \$ 298,984 | \$ 323,665 | \$ (51,228) | \$ 572,093 |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | | | | | |
| Net loss | | | (6,528) | | (6,528) |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | | | | 20,159 | 20,159 |
| Realized gain from cumulative translation adjustment on disposal of foreign business | | | | (3,414) | (3,414) |
| Net unrealized losses related to defined benefit pension plans | | | | (3,873) | (3,873) |
| Amortization of previously unrecognized prior service costs and net losses related to defined benefit pension plans | | | | 9 | 9 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | 6,353 |
| Stock options exercised | 3 | 5,335 | | | 5,338 |
| Common stock shares withheld to satisfy employee tax obligations | (3) | (3,382) | | | (3,385) |
| Restricted stock units issued as per contractual employment arrangements | | 848 | | | 848 |
| Amortization of share-based payments | | 19,330 | 876 | | 20,206 |
| Net tax shortfall associated with the vesting of restricted stock shares and stock option exercises | | (4,472) | | | (4,472) |
| Shares issued to directors | | 438 | | | 438 |
| Cash dividends declared, \$0.30 per common share | | | (20,434) | | (20,434) |
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | 672 | 317,081 | 297,579 | (38,347) | 576,985 |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | | | | | |
| Net income | | | 160,950 | | 160,950 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax: | | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | | | | (4,342) | (4,342) |
| Net unrealized gains related to defined benefit pension plans | | | | 23,732 | 23,732 |
| Amortization of previously unrecognized prior service costs and net losses related to defined benefit pension plans | | | | 9 | 9 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | 180,349 |
| Stock options exercised | 6 | 9,956 | | | 9,962 |
| Common stock shares withheld to satisfy employee tax obligations | (3) | (6,598) | | | (6,601) |
| Net restricted stock forfeited and restricted stock units vested | (2) | 2 | | | — |
| Restricted stock units issued as per contractual employment arrangements | | 1,035 | | | 1,035 |
| Amortization of share-based payments | | 20,381 | (192) | | 20,189 |
| Net tax benefit associated with stock option exercises and the vesting of restricted stock shares and units | | 2,555 | | | 2,555 |
| Shares issued to directors | | 654 | | | 654 |
| Cash dividends declared, \$0.20 per common share | | | (13,620) | | (13,620) |
| Balance at December 31, 2010 | 673 | 345,066 | 444,717 | (18,948) | 771,508 |
| Comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | |
| Net income | | | 171,416 | | 171,416 |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax: | | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | | | | (7,006) | (7,006) |
| Net unrealized losses related to defined benefit pension plans | | | | (27,964) | (27,964) |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | 136,446 |
| Stock options exercised | 1 | 2,565 | | | 2,566 |
| Common stock shares withheld to satisfy employee tax obligations | (2) | (18,573) | | | (18,575) |
| Net restricted stock forfeited and restricted stock units vested | 3 | (3) | | | — |
| Restricted stock units issued as per contractual employment arrangements | | 149 | | | 149 |
| Amortization of share-based payments | | 18,918 | | | 18,918 |
| Net tax benefit associated with the vesting of restricted stock shares and units and stock option exercises | | 6,982 | | | 6,982 |
| Net impact of Convertible Notes conversions and Convertible Note Hedge exercises | | (374) | | | (374) |
| Shares issued to directors | | 898 | | | 898 |
| Cash dividends declared, \$0.23 per common share | | | (14,851) | | (14,851) |
| Balance at December 31, 2011 | \$ 675 | \$ 355,628 | \$ 601,282 | \$ (53,918) | \$ 903,667 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SOTHEBY'S
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note A—Business

Sotheby's (or "the Company") is one of the world's two largest auctioneers of authenticated fine and decorative art, jewelry and collectibles (collectively, "art" or "works of art" or "artwork"). Sotheby's operations are organized under three segments: Auction, Finance and Dealer. The Auction segment functions principally as an agent by offering works of art for sale at auction. In addition, the Auction segment provides a number of related services including the brokering of private sales of artwork. Sotheby's also operates as a dealer in works of art through its Dealer segment, conducts art-related financing activities through its Finance segment and is engaged, to a lesser extent, in brand licensing activities. (See Note D for additional information related to Sotheby's segments.)

Note B—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation—The Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of Sotheby's and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated. Equity investments in which Sotheby's has significant influence over the investee, but is not the primary beneficiary and does not have a controlling financial interest are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, Sotheby's share of investee earnings or losses is recorded, net of taxes, within Equity in Earnings of Investees in Sotheby's statements of operations. Additionally, Sotheby's interest in the net assets of its equity method investees is reflected within Equity Method Investments on Sotheby's balance sheets. (See Note G for more detailed information related to Sotheby's equity method investments.)

Foreign Currency Translation—Assets and liabilities of Sotheby's foreign subsidiaries are translated at year-end exchange rates. Revenues, expenses, gains and losses are translated using weighted average monthly exchange rates during the year. Gains and losses resulting from translating foreign currency financial statements are recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet within Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) until the subsidiary is sold or liquidated.

Restricted Cash—Restricted Cash consists of amounts or deposits whose use is restricted by law, contract or management statement of intention. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Restricted Cash included \$23.2 million and \$11.5 million, respectively, of net auction proceeds owed to consignors in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions. As of December 31, 2010, Restricted Cash also included \$6.6 million awarded to Sotheby's in a legal action (see Note Q).

Valuation of Art—The art market is not a highly liquid trading market. As a result, the valuation of art is inherently subjective, and the realizable value of art often fluctuates over time. Accordingly, certain amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes are dependent upon management's estimates of the realizable value of art held in inventory and art pledged as collateral for client loans. In estimating the realizable value of art, management relies on the opinions of Sotheby's specialists, who consider the following complex array of factors when valuing art: (i) whether the artwork is expected to be offered at auction or sold privately, in the ordinary course of business; (ii) the supply and demand for works of art, taking into account economic conditions and changing trends in the art market as to which collecting categories and artists are most sought after; and (iii) recent sale prices achieved in the art market for comparable works of art within a particular collecting category and/or by a particular artist. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in estimating the realizable value of art, management's judgments about the estimated realizable value of art held in inventory and the estimated realizable value of art pledged as collateral for client loans may prove, with the benefit of hindsight, to be different than the amount ultimately realized upon the sale of the art. (See below for a more detailed discussion of Sotheby's accounting policies with respect to Notes Receivable and Inventory.)

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts—In its role as auctioneer, Sotheby's represents sellers of artworks by accepting property on consignment and by matching sellers to buyers through the auction process. Sotheby's invoices the buyer for the purchase price of the property (including the commission owed by the buyer), collects payment from the buyer and remits to the seller the net sale proceeds after deducting its commissions, expenses and applicable taxes and royalties. The amounts billed to buyers are recorded as Accounts Receivable in Sotheby's balance sheets.

Under the standard terms and conditions of its auction sales, Sotheby's is not obligated to pay consignors for property that has not been paid for by buyers. If a buyer defaults on payment, the sale may be cancelled, and the property will be returned to the consignor. Alternatively, the consignor may reoffer the property at a future Sotheby's auction or negotiate a private sale with Sotheby's acting as its agent. However, on a limited basis and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, the consignor may be paid the net sale proceeds before payment is collected from the buyer and/or the buyer may be allowed to take possession of the property before making payment. In situations when the buyer takes possession of the property before making payment, Sotheby's is liable to the seller for the net sale proceeds whether or not the buyer makes payment. The Allowance for Doubtful Accounts principally includes management's estimate of losses related to situations when Sotheby's

has paid the net sale proceeds to the consignor and it is probable that payment will not be collected from the buyer. The Allowance for Doubtful Accounts also includes an estimate of probable losses inherent in the remainder of the accounts receivable balance. The amount of the required allowance is based on the facts available to management, including the value of any property held as collateral, and is reevaluated and adjusted as additional information is received. Based on available information, management believes that the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts as of December 31, 2011 is adequate to cover uncollectible balances. However, actual losses related to uncollected debts may ultimately exceed the recorded allowance. (See Note E for more detailed information related to Accounts Receivable.)

Notes Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses—Through its Finance segment, Sotheby's provides certain collectors and art dealers with financing secured by works of art that it either has in its possession or permits borrowers to possess. The determination of whether a specific secured loan is impaired and the amount of any required allowance is based on the facts available to management and is reevaluated and adjusted as additional information is received. A secured loan is considered to be impaired when management determines that it is probable that a portion of the principal and interest owed by the borrower is not expected to be recovered after taking into account the estimated realizable value of the collateral securing the loan, as well as the ability of the borrower to repay any shortfall between the value of the collateral and the amount of the loan. An allowance is also established for probable losses inherent in the remainder of the loan portfolio based on historical data related to loan losses. (See Note E for more detailed information related to Notes Receivable.)

Inventory—Inventory consists of works of art owned by the Dealer and Auction segments. Dealer inventory is art owned by Noortman Master Paintings, as well as other artworks purchased for the purpose of investment and resale. Auction segment inventory consists principally of artworks obtained as a result of the failure of guaranteed property to sell at auction.

Inventory is valued on a specific identification basis at the lower of cost or management's estimate of realizable value. If there is evidence that the estimated realizable value of a specific artwork held in inventory is less than its carrying value, a writedown is recorded to reflect management's revised estimate of realizable value. Writedowns to the carrying value of Dealer segment Inventory are recorded within Dealer Cost of Sales. Writedowns to the carrying value of Auction segment Inventory are recorded within Auction and Related Revenues (see "Principal Activities" below).

Although all of the items held in Inventory are available for immediate sale, the timing of the eventual sale is difficult to predict due to the high value and unique nature of each item, as well as the cyclical nature of the global art market. Management expects that the items held in Inventory will be sold in the ordinary course of Sotheby's business during the normal operating cycle for works of art. (See Note F for more detailed information related to Inventory.)

Fixed Assets—Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the lesser of the life of the related lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement. Computer software consists of the capitalized cost of purchased computer software, as well as direct external and internal computer software development costs incurred in the acquisition or development of software for internal use. These costs are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the software. (See Note H for more detailed information related to Fixed Assets.)

Goodwill—Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price paid over the fair value of net assets acquired in a business combination. Goodwill is not amortized, but it is tested annually for impairment at the reporting unit level as of October 31 and between annual tests if indicators of potential impairment exist. These indicators could include a decline in Sotheby's stock price and market capitalization, a significant change in the outlook for the reporting unit's business, lower than expected operating results, increased competition, legal factors, or the sale or disposition of a significant portion of a reporting unit. An impairment loss is recognized for any amount by which the carrying amount of a reporting unit's goodwill exceeds its fair value. The fair value of a reporting unit is estimated by management using a discounted cash flow methodology. (See Note I for more detailed information related to Goodwill.)

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets—Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. In such situations, long-lived assets are considered impaired when estimated future cash flows (undiscounted and without interest charges) resulting from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition are less than the asset's carrying amount. In such situations, the asset is written down to the present value of the estimated future cash flows. Factors that are considered when evaluating long-lived assets for impairment include a current expectation that it is more likely than not that the long-lived asset will be sold significantly before the end of its useful life, a significant decrease in the market price of the long-lived asset and a significant change in the extent or manner in which the long-lived asset is being used.

Valuation of Deferred Tax Assets—A valuation allowance is recorded to reduce Sotheby's deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. In assessing the need for the valuation allowance, management considers,

among other things, previous losses in certain jurisdictions, projections of future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. If management determines that sufficient negative evidence exists (for example, if Sotheby's experiences cumulative three-year losses in a certain jurisdiction), then management will consider recording a valuation allowance against a portion or all of the deferred tax assets in that jurisdiction. If, after recording a valuation allowance, management's projections of future taxable income and other positive evidence considered in evaluating the need for a valuation allowance prove, with the benefit of hindsight, to be inaccurate, it will be more difficult to support the realization of its deferred tax assets. As a result, an additional valuation allowance may be required.

Conversely, if, after recording a valuation allowance, management determines that sufficient positive evidence exists in the jurisdiction in which it recorded the valuation allowance (for example, Sotheby's is no longer in a three-year cumulative loss position in the jurisdiction and management expects to have future taxable income in that jurisdiction based upon its forecasts and the expected timing of deferred tax asset reversals), management may reverse a portion or all of the valuation allowance in that jurisdiction. (See Note L for more detailed information related to Income Taxes.)

Auction Guarantees—The liability related to auction guarantees represents the estimated fair value of Sotheby's obligation to perform under its auction guarantees and is recorded within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The fair value of the auction guarantee liability is estimated based on an analysis of historical loss experience related to auction guarantees and does not include the impact of risk-sharing arrangements that may have mitigated all or a portion of any historical losses. (See Note R for more detailed information related to Auction Guarantees.)

Financial Instruments—Sotheby's financial instruments include Cash and Cash Equivalents, Restricted Cash, Notes Receivable, the Deferred Compensation Liability, the Trust Assets related to the Deferred Compensation Liability, Long-Term Debt and forward exchange contracts. The carrying amounts of Cash and Cash Equivalents, Restricted Cash and Notes Receivable do not materially differ from their estimated fair values due to their nature and the variable interest rates associated with each of these financial instruments. (See Notes K, P and S for information on the fair value of financial instruments.)

Revenue Recognition (Auction and Related Revenues)—Sotheby's Auction segment functions principally as an agent by offering authenticated works of art for sale at auction and by brokering private art sales. Sotheby's principal role as an agent is to stimulate buyer interest through professional marketing techniques and to match sellers and buyers through the auction or private sale process. Prior to offering a work of art for sale, Sotheby's experts perform significant due diligence activities to authenticate and determine the ownership history of the property being sold. The principal components of Auction and Related Revenues are: (1) auction commission revenue, (2) private sale commissions and (3) principal activities. The revenue recognition policy for each of these is described below.

(1) Auction Commission Revenue—In its role as auctioneer, Sotheby's represents sellers of artworks by accepting property on consignment and by matching sellers to buyers through the auction process. Sotheby's invoices the buyer for the purchase price of the property (including the commission owed by the buyer), collects payment from the buyer and remits to the seller the net sale proceeds after deducting its commissions, expenses and applicable taxes and royalties. Sotheby's commissions include those paid by the buyer ("buyer's premium") and those paid by the seller ("seller's commission") (collectively, "auction commission revenue"), both of which are calculated as a percentage of the hammer price of the property sold at auction.

On the fall of the auctioneer's hammer, the highest bidder becomes legally obligated to pay the full purchase price, which includes the hammer price of the property purchased plus the buyer's premium, and the seller is legally obligated to relinquish the property in exchange for the hammer price less any seller's commissions. Auction commission revenue is recognized at the time of the auction sale (i.e., when the auctioneer's hammer falls), which is the point in time when Sotheby's has substantially accomplished what it must do to be entitled to the benefits represented by the auction commission revenue. Subsequent to the date of the auction sale, Sotheby's remaining obligations for its auction services relate only to the collection of the purchase price from the buyer and the remittance of the net sale proceeds to the seller. These remaining service obligations are not an essential part of the auction services provided by Sotheby's.

As discussed above, under the standard terms and conditions of its auction sales, Sotheby's is not obligated to pay consignors for property that has not been paid for by buyers. If a buyer defaults on payment, the sale may be cancelled, and the property will be returned to the consignor. Management continually evaluates the collectability of amounts due from buyers and only recognizes auction commission revenue when the collection of the amount due from the buyer is reasonably assured. If management determines that it is probable that the buyer will default, a cancelled sale is recorded in the period in which that determination is made and the amount of any auction commission revenues previously recognized are reversed in Sotheby's statements of operations. Historically, the level of cancelled sales has not been material.

Auction commission revenue is recorded net of commissions owed to third parties. Commissions owed to third parties are principally the result of situations when auction commissions are shared with consignors or with Sotheby's partners in

auction guarantees (see Note R). Additionally, in certain situations, commissions are shared with third parties who introduce Sotheby's to consignors who sell property at auction or otherwise facilitate a sale of property through Sotheby's.

(2) Private Sale Commissions—Private sale commissions are earned through the direct brokering of purchases and sales of art. Similar to auction sales, the principal service that Sotheby's provides in a private sale transaction is the matching of the seller to a buyer. Private sales are initiated either by a client wishing to sell property with Sotheby's acting as its exclusive agent in the transaction or a prospective buyer who is interested in purchasing a certain work of art privately. Such arrangements are evidenced by a legally binding agreement between Sotheby's and the seller (a "Seller Agreement"), which outlines the terms of the arrangement including the desired sale price and the amount or rate of commission to be earned. In certain situations, Sotheby's also executes a legally binding agreement with the buyer stipulating the terms of the transaction (a "Buyer Agreement").

The timing of revenue recognition for private sale commissions is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in large part is dependent upon whether an executed Buyer Agreement is in place. Additionally, a careful analysis of the individual facts and circumstances is performed for each transaction to fully understand Sotheby's obligations and performance requirements related to the transaction.

In transactions with a Buyer Agreement, Sotheby's services are performed on the date that the Buyer Agreement is executed. At this point, any remaining service obligations are considered to be inconsequential and perfunctory. Such remaining service obligations normally relate only to the collection of the purchase price from the buyer and the remittance of the net sale proceeds to the seller. These remaining service obligations are not an essential part of the services that Sotheby's provides in a private sale transaction. In the absence of an executed Buyer Agreement, revenue recognition is deferred until Sotheby's has performed its substantive service obligations in the transaction and the buyer has paid the full purchase price evidencing the terms of the arrangement.

(3) Principal Activities—Principal activities consist mainly of gains and losses related to auction guarantees including: (i) Sotheby's share of overage or shortfall related to guaranteed property offered or sold at auction, (ii) subsequent writedowns to the carrying value of guaranteed property that initially failed to sell at auction and (iii) subsequent recoveries and losses on the sale of guaranteed property that initially failed to sell at auction.

The overage or shortfall related to guaranteed property is generally recognized in the period in which the property is offered at auction. However, a shortfall is recognized prior to the date of the auction if management determines that a loss related to an auction guarantee is probable. In such situations, the amount of the loss is estimated by management based on the difference between the amount of the auction guarantee and the expected selling price of the property, including buyer's premium.

Writedowns to the carrying value of previously guaranteed property that is held in inventory by Sotheby's are recognized in the period in which management determines that the estimated realizable value of a specific artwork is less than its carrying value. Recoveries or losses resulting from the subsequent sale of previously guaranteed property are recognized in the period in which the sale is completed, title to the property passes to the purchaser and Sotheby's has fulfilled its obligations with respect to the transaction. The amount of any such recovery or loss, which is recorded on a net basis within Auction and Related Revenues, is calculated as the difference between the proceeds received from the subsequent sale and the carrying value of the property held in inventory.

Revenue Recognition (Finance Revenues)—Finance Revenues consist principally of interest income earned on Notes Receivable. Such interest income is recognized when earned, based on the amount of the outstanding loan, the applicable interest rate on the loan and the length of time the loan is outstanding during the period. A non-accrual loan is a loan for which future Finance Revenue is not recorded due to management's determination that it is probable that future interest on the loan is not collectible. Any cash receipts subsequently received on non-accrual loans are first applied to reduce the recorded principal balance of the loan, with any proceeds in excess of the principal balance then applied to interest owed by the borrower. The recognition of Finance Revenue may resume on a non-accrual loan if sufficient additional collateral is provided by the borrower or if management becomes aware of other circumstances that indicate that it is probable that the borrower will make future interest payments on the loan.

Revenue Recognition (Dealer Revenues)—Dealer revenues consist principally of proceeds from the sale of Dealer segment inventory and are recognized in the period in which the sale is completed, title to the property passes to the purchaser and Sotheby's has fulfilled any other obligations that may be relevant to the transaction. The carrying value of Dealer Inventory sold during a period is recorded within Dealer Cost of Sales.

Sales, Use and Value-Added Taxes—Sales, use and value-added taxes assessed by governmental authorities that are both imposed on and concurrent with revenue-producing transactions between Sotheby's and its clients are reported on a net basis within revenues.

Direct Costs of Services—Direct costs of services, which consist largely of sale-specific marketing costs such as auction catalogue production and distribution expenses and sale advertising and promotion expenses, are expensed in the period of the corresponding auction sale. Also included in direct costs of services are sale-related shipping expenses, which are expensed when incurred.

Share-Based Payments—Sotheby's grants share-based payment awards as compensation to certain employees. Certain of these awards vest only if Sotheby's achieves established profitability targets. The amount and timing of compensation expense recognized for such performance-based awards is dependent upon management's assessment of the likelihood and timing of achieving these profitability targets. In addition, in 2010, Sotheby's granted 0.5 million stock options to certain senior executives. The compensation expense recognized for these stock options is dependent upon management's estimate of the grant-date fair value of the underlying awards. Inherent in management's estimate of fair value are assumptions, including the expected life of the award, the expected volatility of Sotheby's stock price, Sotheby's dividend yield and employee forfeitures. In developing these assumptions, management considers current market conditions, historical data and other relevant data.

Compensation expense related to share-based payments is amortized according to a graded vesting schedule over the requisite employee service period. Compensation expense is also recognized for dividends and dividend equivalents related to unvested performance-based equity awards, as recipients of such awards are only entitled to receive such dividends and dividend equivalents if the award vests. (See Note O for more detailed information related to share-based payments.)

Comprehensive Income (Loss)—Comprehensive Income (Loss) reflects the net income (loss) for the period, as well as Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), and is reported in the Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity. Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) principally includes unrealized gains and losses related to Sotheby's defined benefit pension plans, as well as the change in the foreign currency translation adjustment account during the period. Such amounts are reported on a cumulative basis in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) on Sotheby's balance sheets. Unrealized gains or losses recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) related to Sotheby's defined benefit plans are adjusted as they are subsequently recognized as components of net pension cost. (See Note U for information on a new accounting standard that will change the presentation of Comprehensive Income (Loss) beginning in 2012.)

Use of Estimates—The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates and could change in the short-term.

Note C—Earnings (Loss) Per Share

Basic earnings (loss) per share—Basic earnings (loss) per share attributable to Sotheby's common shareholders is computed under the two-class method using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. The two-class method requires that the amount of net income attributable to participating securities be deducted from consolidated net income in the computation of basic earnings per share. In periods with a net loss, the net loss attributable to participating securities is not deducted from consolidated net loss in the computation of basic loss per share as the impact would be anti-dilutive. Sotheby's participating securities include any unvested share-based payments to employees that have non-forfeitable rights to dividends, such as restricted stock and restricted stock units.

Diluted earnings (loss) per share—Diluted earnings (loss) per share attributable to Sotheby's common shareholders is computed in a similar manner to basic earnings (loss) per share under the two-class method, using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period and, if dilutive, potential common shares outstanding during the period. Sotheby's potential common shares include the following:

- Unvested performance share units and incremental common shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options. Unvested performance share units are included in the computation of diluted earnings per share using the treasury stock method to the extent that the profitability targets inherent in such awards are met as of the balance sheet date. Incremental common shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options are included in the computation of diluted earnings per share using the treasury stock method in quarterly periods when the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds the exercise price of the stock options.
- Deferred stock units issued pursuant to the Sotheby's Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors.
- In reporting periods during which the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds the \$34 per share conversion price of its 3.125% Convertible Notes (the "Convertible Notes"), the net shares that would be delivered to settle the conversion premium assuming all of the Convertible Notes are redeemed.

- In reporting periods during which the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds the \$44.905 per share exercise price of the warrants that were sold in conjunction with the issuance of the Convertible Notes (the "Warrants"), the net shares that would be delivered to settle the Warrants as calculated under the treasury stock method.

During each of the first three quarters of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2010, the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeded the \$34 per share conversion price of the Convertible Notes. As a result, for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, 0.9 million and 0.3 million shares of Sotheby's Common Stock, respectively, were included in the calculation of weighted average diluted shares outstanding. In the fourth quarter of 2011 and during each of the quarterly reporting periods prior to the fourth quarter of 2010, the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock did not exceed the \$34 per share conversion price of the Convertible Notes. Accordingly, the Convertible Notes did not have an impact on the calculation of weighted average diluted shares outstanding during those periods. (See Note K for additional information related to the Convertible Notes.)

During the first quarter of 2011, the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeded the \$44.905 per share exercise price of the Warrants. As a result, for the year ended December 31, 2011, 15,000 shares of Sotheby's Common Stock were included in the calculation of weighted average diluted shares outstanding related to the Warrants. Prior to the first quarter of 2011 and during each of the subsequent quarterly reporting periods, the average price of Sotheby's Common Stock did not exceed the \$44.905 exercise price of the Warrants. Accordingly, the Warrants did not have an impact on the calculation of weighted average diluted shares outstanding during those periods. (See Note K for additional information related to the Warrants.)

In 2011, 0.5 million potential common shares related to unvested performance share units were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as the profitability targets inherent in such awards were not met as of the balance sheet date. In 2010, no potential common shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share. In 2009, 3.4 million shares of potentially dilutive common shares were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share because Sotheby's reported a net loss and their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

The table below summarizes the computation of basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share for 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars, except per share amounts):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Basic: | | | |
| <i>Numerator:</i> | | | |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Sotheby's | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) |
| Less: Net income attributable to participating securities | 1,988 | 3,779 | N/A |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 169,428</u> | <u>\$ 157,171</u> | <u>\$ (6,528)</u> |
| <i>Denominator:</i> | | | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 67,282 | 66,318 | 65,208 |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 2.52</u> | <u>\$ 2.37</u> | <u>\$ (0.10)</u> |
| Diluted: | | | |
| <i>Numerator:</i> | | | |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Sotheby's | \$ 171,416 | \$ 160,950 | \$ (6,528) |
| Less: Net income attributable to participating securities | 1,949 | 3,729 | N/A |
| Net income (loss) attributable to Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 169,467</u> | <u>\$ 157,221</u> | <u>\$ (6,528)</u> |
| <i>Denominator:</i> | | | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 67,282 | 66,318 | 65,208 |
| Weighted average effect of Sotheby's dilutive potential common shares: | | | |
| Convertible Notes | 858 | 285 | N/A |
| Performance share units | 436 | 363 | N/A |
| Non-employee director share deferrals | 157 | 137 | N/A |
| Stock options | 102 | 219 | N/A |
| Warrants | 15 | — | N/A |
| Weighted average dilutive potential common shares outstanding | 1,568 | 1,004 | N/A |
| Denominator for calculation of diluted earnings (loss) per share | <u>68,850</u> | <u>67,322</u> | <u>65,208</u> |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 2.46</u> | <u>\$ 2.34</u> | <u>\$ (0.10)</u> |

Note D—Segment Reporting

Sotheby's operations are organized under three segments—Auction, Finance and Dealer. Each segment is a business unit that offers different services and requires different resources and strategies. Sotheby's chief operating decision making group, which consists of its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and certain other senior executives, regularly evaluates financial information about each segment in deciding how to allocate resources and assess performance. The performance of each segment is measured based on its pre-tax income (loss), excluding the unallocated items highlighted below in the reconciliation of segment income before taxes to income before taxes.

The Auction segment functions principally as an agent by offering authenticated works of art for sale at auction and by brokering private art sales. Sotheby's principal role as an agent is to stimulate buyer interest through professional marketing techniques and to match sellers and buyers through the auction or private sale process. Prior to offering a work of art for sale, Sotheby's experts perform significant due diligence activities to authenticate and determine the ownership history of the property being sold.

The Finance segment provides certain collectors and art dealers with financing, generally secured by works of art it either has in its possession or permits borrowers to possess. (See Note E.) The activities of the Dealer segment principally include the activities of Noortman Master Paintings (or "NMP"), an art dealer that sells works of art from inventory directly to private collectors and museums and, from time-to-time, acts as a broker in private purchases and sales of art (see Note F.). To a lesser extent, Dealer segment activities also include the investment in and resale of artworks directly by Sotheby's and the activities of certain equity investees, including Acquavella Modern Art (see Note G).

All Other primarily includes the results of Sotheby's brand licensing activities and other ancillary businesses, which are not material to Sotheby's consolidated financial statements.

The accounting policies of Sotheby's segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies (see Note B). Auction segment revenues are attributed to geographic areas based on the location of the actual sale. Dealer segment revenues are attributed to geographic areas based on the location of the entity that holds legal title to the property sold. Finance segment revenues are attributed to geographic areas based on the location of the entity that originated the loan.

The following table presents Sotheby's segment information for each of the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| Year ended December 31, 2011 | Auction | Finance | Dealer | All Other | Reconciling items | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Revenues | \$ 791,738 | \$ 16,265 | \$ 21,790 | \$ 6,270 | \$ (4,227) | \$ 831,836 |
| Interest income | \$ 4,622 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ (620) | \$ 4,002 |
| Interest expense | \$ 41,492 | \$ — | \$ 6 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 41,498 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 17,228 | \$ 113 | \$ 231 | \$ 32 | \$ — | \$ 17,604 |
| Segment income (loss) before taxes | \$ 225,600 | \$ 12,110 | \$ (9,289) | \$ 4,604 | \$ (1,636) | \$ 231,389 |
| Year ended December 31, 2010 | | | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 731,021 | \$ 17,200 | \$ 29,092 | \$ 4,511 | \$ (7,515) | \$ 774,309 |
| Interest income | \$ 2,217 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ (478) | \$ 1,739 |
| Interest expense | \$ 46,814 | \$ — | \$ 5 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 46,819 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 15,605 | \$ 101 | \$ 757 | \$ 29 | \$ — | \$ 16,492 |
| Segment income (loss) before taxes | \$ 217,227 | \$ 14,776 | \$ (1,697) | \$ 2,737 | \$ (7,464) | \$ 225,579 |
| Year ended December 31, 2009 | | | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 448,768 | \$ 12,671 | \$ 22,339 | \$ 4,778 | \$ (3,598) | \$ 484,958 |
| Interest income | \$ 5,952 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 1 | \$ (596) | \$ 5,357 |
| Interest expense | \$ 45,616 | \$ — | \$ 92 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 45,708 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 18,594 | \$ 140 | \$ 2,810 | \$ 16 | \$ — | \$ 21,560 |
| Segment income (loss) before taxes | \$ 15,427 | \$ 7,244 | \$ (10,359) | \$ 2,413 | \$ 670 | \$ 15,395 |

For the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, Finance segment income before taxes includes \$1 million, \$3.4 million and (\$2) million, respectively, in non-operating gains (losses) related to the remeasurement of foreign currency denominated client loans and intercompany balances.

In the table above, the reconciling item related to Revenues represents charges from the Finance segment to the Auction segment for short-term, interest-free or other below market consignor advances with maturities typically ranging between 3 and 6 months (see Note E). The reconciling item related to Interest Income represents charges from the Auction segment to the Finance segment for intercompany borrowing costs.

The reconciling items related to segment income (loss) before taxes are shown in the table below, which presents total segment income (loss) before taxes, as well as a reconciliation of segment income (loss) before taxes for each of the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Auction | \$ 225,600 | \$ 217,227 | \$ 15,427 |
| Finance | 12,110 | 14,776 | 7,244 |
| Dealer | (9,289) | (1,697) | (10,359) |
| All Other | 4,604 | 2,737 | 2,413 |
| Segment income before taxes | 233,025 | 233,043 | 14,725 |
| Unallocated amounts and reconciling items: | | | |
| Extinguishment of debt (see Note K) | (1,529) | (6,291) | 1,039 |
| Equity in earnings of investees | (107) | (1,173) | (369) |
| Income before taxes | \$ 231,389 | \$ 225,579 | \$ 15,395 |

Equity in earnings of investees in the table above represents Sotheby's pre-tax share of earnings related to its equity investees. Such amounts are included in the table above as part of Dealer segment loss, but are presented net of taxes in the Consolidated Statements of Operations below Income Before Taxes.

The table below presents geographic information about Sotheby's revenues for each of the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| United States | \$ 319,364 | \$ 318,135 | \$ 203,092 |
| United Kingdom | 243,032 | 233,785 | 145,301 |
| China | 156,361 | 111,651 | 50,061 |
| France | 49,688 | 44,764 | 29,217 |
| Other Countries | 67,618 | 73,489 | 60,885 |
| Reconciling item: | | | |
| Intercompany revenue earned by Finance from Auction | (4,227) | (7,515) | (3,598) |
| Total | <u>\$ 831,836</u> | <u>\$ 774,309</u> | <u>\$ 484,958</u> |

No other individual country exceeds 5% of total revenues for any of the periods presented.

The table below presents assets for Sotheby's segments, as well as a reconciliation of segment assets to consolidated assets as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Auction | \$ 2,005,177 | \$ 1,784,045 |
| Finance | 225,244 | 244,463 |
| Dealer | 93,588 | 88,845 |
| All Other | 1,048 | 1,407 |
| Total segment assets | <u>2,325,057</u> | <u>2,118,760</u> |
| Unallocated amounts: | | |
| Deferred tax assets and income tax receivable | 74,357 | 59,868 |
| Consolidated assets | <u>\$ 2,399,414</u> | <u>\$ 2,178,628</u> |

Note E—Receivables

Accounts Receivable—In its role as auctioneer, Sotheby's represents sellers of artworks by accepting property on consignment and by matching sellers to buyers through the auction process. Sotheby's invoices the buyer for the purchase price of the property (including the commission owed by the buyer), collects payment from the buyer and remits to the seller the net sale proceeds after deducting its commissions, expenses and applicable taxes and royalties. Sotheby's commissions include those paid by the buyer ("buyer's premium") and those paid by the seller ("seller's commission") (collectively, "auction commission revenue"), both of which are calculated as a percentage of the hammer price of the property sold at auction.

Under Sotheby's standard payment terms, payments from buyers are due no more than 30 days from the sale date and consignor payments are made 35 days from the sale date. However, extended payment terms are sometimes provided to buyers in order to support and market a sale. Such terms typically extend the payment due date from 30 days to a date that is no greater than one year from the sale date. When providing extended payment terms, Sotheby's attempts to match the timing of receipt from the buyer with payment to the consignor, but is not always successful in doing so.

Under the standard terms and conditions of its auction sales, Sotheby's is not obligated to pay consignors for property that has not been paid for by buyers. However, on a limited basis and subject to approval under Sotheby's policy, the consignor may be paid the net sale proceeds before payment is collected from the buyer and/or the buyer may be allowed to take possession of the property before making payment. In situations when the buyer takes possession of the property before making payment, Sotheby's is liable to the seller for the net sale proceeds whether or not the buyer makes payment. As of December 31, 2011, net Accounts Receivable of \$553.5 million includes \$69.6 million related to situations in which the buyer has taken possession of the property before making payment to Sotheby's. Included in the \$69.6 million is \$24.4 million associated with purchases made by a related party (see Notes G and T). As of February 22, 2012, \$6.5 million of this related party receivable had been collected.

Management believes that adequate allowances have been established to provide for probable losses on any Accounts Receivable balances.

Notes Receivable —Through its Finance segment, Sotheby's provides certain collectors and art dealers with financing secured by works of art that Sotheby's either has in its possession or permits borrowers to possess. The Finance segment generally makes two types of secured loans: (1) advances secured by consigned property to borrowers who are contractually committed, in the near term, to sell the property at auction (a "consignor advance"); and (2) general purpose term loans secured by property not presently intended for sale (a "term loan"). A consignor advance allows a seller to receive funds upon consignment for an auction that will typically occur up to one year in the future, while preserving for the benefit of the seller the potential of the auction process. Term loans allow Sotheby's to establish or enhance mutually beneficial relationships with borrowers and may generate future auction consignments or may be used to facilitate certain auction or private purchases. On rare occasions, in order to attract future consignments, Sotheby's also makes unsecured loans to clients.

The collection of secured loans can be adversely impacted by a decline in the art market in general or in the value of the particular collateral. In addition, in situations with competing claims on the collateral and/or when a borrower becomes subject to bankruptcy or insolvency laws, Sotheby's ability to realize on its collateral may be limited or delayed.

Sotheby's target loan-to-value ("LTV") ratio, which is defined as principal loan amount divided by the low auction estimate of the collateral, is 50% or lower. However, loans are sometimes made at an initial LTV higher than 50%. In addition, as a result of the periodic revaluation of loan collateral, the LTV ratio of certain loans may increase above the 50% target due to decreases in the low auction estimates of the collateral. The revaluation of loan collateral is performed by Sotheby's specialists on an annual basis or more frequently if there is a material change in circumstances related to the loan or the disposal plans for the collateral. Management believes that the LTV ratio is the critical credit quality indicator for Finance segment secured loans. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the aggregate LTV ratio of Finance segment secured loans was 42% and 45%, respectively. As of December 31, 2011, Finance segment secured loans with an LTV ratio above 50% totaled \$134.3 million and the collateral related to these loans had a low auction estimate of \$225.2 million. As of December 31, 2010, Finance segment secured loans with an LTV ratio above 50% totaled \$133 million and the collateral related to these loans had a low auction estimate of \$191 million.

From 2009 through 2011, Sotheby's recognized \$0.1 million of cumulative losses related to specific impaired Finance segment secured loans. The tables below provide other credit quality information regarding Finance segment secured loans as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| | December 31, 2011 | December 31, 2010 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total secured loans | \$ 223,029 | \$ 241,631 |
| Loans past due | \$ 5,388 | \$ 23,888 |
| Loans more than 90 days past due accruing interest | \$ 1,287 | \$ 19,663 |
| Non-accrual loans | \$ — | \$ 1,028 |
| Impaired loan | \$ — | \$ 137 |
| Allowance for credit losses: | | |
| Allowance for credit losses - impaired loans | \$ — | \$ 137 |
| Allowance for credit losses based on historical data | 875 | 834 |
| Total allowance for credit losses - secured loans | <u>\$ 875</u> | <u>\$ 971</u> |

Sotheby's is obligated under the terms of certain auction guarantees to advance a portion of the guaranteed amount prior to auction. Such Auction segment consignor advances are recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet within Notes Receivable. The table above does not include \$7.5 million and \$33.5 million of such advances as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively (see Note R). On rare occasions, in order to attract future consignments, Sotheby's also makes unsecured loans to clients. The table above also does not include unsecured loans of \$2.1 million as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

Management considers a loan to be past due when principal payments are not paid in accordance with the stated terms of the loan. As of December 31, 2011, \$5.4 million of the net notes receivable balance was considered to be past due, of which \$1.3 million was more than 90 days past due and still accruing interest. The collateral related to these secured loans has low auction estimates of approximately \$27.3 million and \$16.8 million, respectively. In consideration of the collateral related to these loans, current collateral disposal plans and negotiations with the borrowers, management believes that the principal and interest amounts due for these loans will be collected.

A non-accrual loan is a loan for which future Finance Revenue is not recorded due to management's determination that it is probable that future interest on the loan is not collectible. Any cash receipts subsequently received on non-accrual loans are first applied to reduce the recorded principal balance of the loan, with any proceeds in excess of the principal balance then applied to interest owed by the borrower. The recognition of Finance Revenue may resume on a non-accrual loan if sufficient

additional collateral is provided by the borrower or if management becomes aware of other circumstances that indicate that it is probable that the borrower will make future interest payments on the loan.

A loan is considered to be impaired when management determines that it is probable that a portion of the principal and interest owed by the borrower will not be recovered. If a loan is considered to be impaired, Finance Revenue is no longer recognized and bad debt expense is recorded for any principal or interest that is deemed uncollectible.

As of December 31, 2010, the balance of non-accrual loans was \$1.0 million, which included an impaired loan of \$0.1 million. As of December 31, 2011, there were no impaired or non-accrual loans.

During the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011, activity related to the allowance for credit losses was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| Allowance for credit losses as of January 1, 2010 | \$ | 1,028 |
| Change in loan loss provision | | (57) |
| Allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2010 | | 971 |
| Change in loan loss provision | | 41 |
| Write-offs | | (137) |
| Allowance for credit losses as of December 31, 2011 | \$ | 875 |

Finance segment loans are predominantly variable interest rate loans; however, short-term, interest-free advances with maturities typically ranging between three and six months are provided to certain consignors in order to secure high-value property for auctions and can represent a significant portion of the client loan portfolio as of the end of certain quarterly reporting periods in advance of peak selling seasons. In 2011 and 2010, the weighted average interest rates earned on Notes Receivable were 5.3% and 5.1%, respectively. The carrying value of the loan portfolio approximates its fair value.

As of December 31, 2011, loans to one borrower, which totaled \$50.2 million, comprised approximately 21.6% of the net Notes Receivable balance. As of December 31, 2011, loans to two other borrowers totaling \$30.6 million and \$28.2 million comprised approximately 13.2% and 12.1% of the net Notes Receivable balance, respectively. The LTV ratio for each of these significant loans is 60% or less.

Note F—Inventory

Inventory consists of works of art owned by the Dealer and Auction segments. Included in Dealer inventory is art owned by NMP, as well as other artworks purchased for the purpose of investment and resale. Auction inventory consists principally of artworks obtained as a result of the failure of guaranteed property to sell at auction and, to a much lesser extent, artworks obtained incidental to the auction process primarily as a result of buyers defaulting on payment after consignors have been paid and the settlement of authenticity claims made by buyers. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Inventory consisted of the following balances by segment (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| Dealer | \$ 75,313 | \$ 71,467 |
| Auction | 38,293 | 55,067 |
| Total | \$ 113,606 | \$ 126,534 |

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Inventory writedowns by segment were as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Auction | \$ 4,101 | \$ 5,622 | \$ 5,160 |
| Dealer | 8,375 | 3,100 | 4,680 |
| Total | \$ 12,476 | \$ 8,722 | \$ 9,840 |

In the third quarter of 2011, following the fifth anniversary of the acquisition of NMP and the expiration of the related financial performance targets (see Note O), management initiated a plan to restructure NMP's business and sales strategy. Historically, NMP has principally specialized in sales of Dutch and Flemish Old Master Paintings, as well as French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, with a large number of paintings held in inventory at various price points. However, as a result of the restructuring of its business and sales strategy, NMP is greatly reducing its inventory of lower

valued Old Master Paintings and shifting its focus to a select group of high-valued works of art. Accordingly, NMP sold a collection of lower valued works at various auction houses in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the ordinary course of NMP's business, these objects would have been held for a longer period and sold in privately negotiated transactions. As a result of the new strategy described above and due in part to a general weakening of the private dealer market for certain categories of Old Master Paintings, as well as a shift in the collecting tastes of NMP's clients, inventory writedowns of \$8.4 million were recorded in 2011, of which \$5.7 million were recorded in the third quarter of 2011.

Note G—Equity Method Investments

On May 23, 1990, Sotheby's purchased the common stock of the Pierre Matisse Gallery Corporation ("Matisse") for approximately \$153 million. The assets of Matisse consisted of a collection of fine art (the "Matisse Inventory"). Upon consummation of the purchase, Sotheby's entered into an agreement with Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc. ("ACA") to form Acquavella Modern Art ("AMA"), a partnership through which the Matisse Inventory would be sold. Sotheby's contributed the Matisse Inventory to AMA in exchange for a 50% interest in the partnership. Although the original term of the AMA partnership agreement was for ten years and was due to expire in 2000, it has been renewed on an annual basis since then.

Pursuant to the AMA partnership agreement, upon the death of the majority shareholder of ACA, the successors-in-interest to ACA have the right, but not the obligation, to require Sotheby's to purchase their interest in AMA at a price equal to the fair market value of such interest. The fair market value shall be determined pursuant to a process and a formula set forth in the partnership agreement that includes an appraisal of the works of art held by AMA at such time. Upon dissolution of AMA, if Sotheby's and ACA elect not to liquidate the property and assets of AMA, any assets remaining after the payment of expenses and any other liabilities of AMA will be distributed to Sotheby's and AMA as tenants-in-common or in some other reasonable manner. The net assets of AMA consist almost entirely of the Matisse Inventory. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of the Matisse Inventory was \$46.9 million and \$47.6 million, respectively.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of Sotheby's investment in AMA was \$11.4 million and \$11.3 million, respectively. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Sotheby's share of AMA's earnings, net of taxes, was \$0.2 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. From time-to-time, Sotheby's transacts with the principal shareholder of ACA in the normal course of its business.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of Sotheby's investment in another affiliate was \$3.5 million and \$3.8 million, respectively. Sotheby's does not control this affiliate; consequently, it uses the equity method to account for its investment. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Sotheby's share of this affiliate's earnings (losses), net of taxes, was \$(0.1) million, \$0.1 million, and \$(0.2) million, respectively.

Note H—Fixed Assets

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Fixed Assets consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Land | \$ 93,300 | \$ 93,313 |
| Buildings and building improvements | 214,138 | 210,583 |
| Leasehold improvements | 70,025 | 64,935 |
| Computer hardware and software | 70,333 | 66,423 |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 72,401 | 69,185 |
| Construction in progress | 3,927 | 14,016 |
| Other | 2,300 | 1,517 |
| Sub-total | 526,424 | 519,972 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (155,703) | (147,280) |
| Total | <u>\$ 370,721</u> | <u>\$ 372,692</u> |

In 2011, the decrease in construction in progress in the table above is mostly due to capital expenditures made in 2010 related to Sotheby's new warehouse facility in London and the enhancement of the sothebys.com website, both of which were placed into service in 2011. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Depreciation and Amortization Expense related to Fixed Assets was \$17.2 million, \$15.6 million and \$19.8 million, respectively.

Note I—Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Goodwill | \$ 14,157 | \$ 14,253 |
| Other intangible assets | 409 | 759 |
| Total Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets | <u>\$ 14,566</u> | <u>\$ 15,012</u> |

Goodwill—As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Goodwill was entirely attributable to the Auction segment. During 2011 and 2010, changes in the carrying value of Goodwill were attributable solely to foreign currency exchange rate movements. Since the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (“SFAS”) No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, (now codified under Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 350, *Intangibles-Goodwill and Other*), Sotheby’s has recognized cumulative goodwill impairment losses of \$18.4 million, all of which are attributable to goodwill resulting from its June 2006 acquisition of NMP, a reporting unit in the Dealer segment.

Intangible Assets—Intangible Assets are principally the result of Sotheby’s acquisition of a retail wine business in 2008 and an auction house in Paris, France in March 2007. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, intangible assets consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Indefinite lived intangible assets: | | |
| License | \$ 324 | \$ 324 |
| Amortizable intangible assets: | | |
| Customer Relationships | 6,080 | 6,281 |
| Accumulated amortization | (5,995) | (5,846) |
| Customer Relationships (net) | 85 | 435 |
| Total | <u>\$ 409</u> | <u>\$ 759</u> |

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, amortization expense related to Intangible Assets was approximately \$0.4 million, \$0.9 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. The customer relationships will be fully amortized by May 2012 and the related amortization expense is expected to be approximately \$0.1 million.

Note J—Restructuring Plans and Related Charges

In 2011, Sotheby’s recorded net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$4.8 million. In 2010, Sotheby’s recorded a benefit to net Restructuring Charges of approximately \$0.1 million. In 2009, Sotheby’s recorded a net Restructuring charge of approximately \$12.2 million. See below for a brief description of Sotheby’s restructuring plans.

2008 Restructuring Plan—Due to a downturn in the international art market, on December 1, 2008 and February 26, 2009, Sotheby’s Board of Directors approved restructuring actions impacting the Auction segment, as well as certain corporate departments. These restructuring actions (collectively, the “2008 Restructuring Plan”) were the result of a strategic review of Sotheby’s operations conducted by management between November 2008 and February 2009. The 2008 Restructuring Plan resulted in a 15% decrease in global headcount, a reduction in Sotheby’s selling activities and leased premises in Amsterdam and the vacating of other premises principally in the United Kingdom (“U.K.”).

The 2008 Restructuring Plan included \$2.1 million of facility related costs associated with exiting certain leased facilities in the Netherlands and the U. K. These facility related Restructuring Charges, which were recognized in 2009, represented the future rental costs (net of estimated sub-lease income) that Sotheby’s remained obligated to pay subsequent to the cease use date for each facility. Under the business assumptions that existed in 2009, the cease use date for the portion of the Amsterdam facility that was abandoned in conjunction with the 2008 Restructuring Plan was December 2009. The cease use date for the U.K. facility was in June 2009 and the underlying lease expired in December 2009.

2009 Restructuring Plan—In March and April 2009, in response to a continued downturn in the international art market, management conducted a further strategic review of Sotheby’s operations, and on April 27, 2009, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved additional restructuring actions (the “2009 Restructuring Plan”). The 2009 Restructuring Plan impacted all areas of Sotheby’s global operations through additional significant cost reductions that resulted

from a further 5% decrease in global headcount.

2011 Restructuring Plan—On June 27, 2011, the Executive Committee of Sotheby’s Board of Directors approved a restructuring plan (the “2011 Restructuring Plan”) impacting Sotheby’s operations in Italy and the Netherlands. The 2011 Restructuring Plan streamlined Sotheby’s European selling operations, with a renewed emphasis on relationships with key clients and the sourcing of important collections. The 2011 Restructuring Plan has also allowed Sotheby’s global management to focus resources on growing markets, especially China, and other strategic priorities. In the Netherlands, the 2011 Restructuring Plan resulted in the cessation of all local auction sales. In Italy, Sotheby’s significantly reduced its auction sales calendar, but plans to continue to conduct auctions of Contemporary and Modern Art. Sotheby’s streamlined European operations will continue to source property to its other selling locations throughout the world, as well as pursue private sale opportunities.

The 2011 Restructuring Plan will ultimately reduce staff by 24, which represents approximately 46% of Sotheby’s current headcount in Italy and the Netherlands and 2% of its global headcount. The 2011 Restructuring Plan also allowed Sotheby’s to completely exit its leased Amsterdam salesroom, replacing it with a smaller local office, and significantly reduce the cost associated with its Milan premises.

Restructuring activities resulting from the 2008 Restructuring Plan, 2009 Restructuring Plan and 2011 Restructuring Plan are summarized in the table below (in thousands of dollars):

| | Employee Termination Benefits | Facility Related Costs | Other Costs | Total |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Liability at January 1, 2009 | \$ 4,312 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 4,312 |
| Charges for 2008 Restructuring Plan | 6,446 | 2,085 | 427 | 8,958 |
| Charges for 2009 Restructuring Plan | 3,578 | — | 3 | 3,581 |
| Cash payments | (12,844) | (1,144) | (359) | (14,347) |
| Adjustments to liability | (251) | (129) | — | (380) |
| Foreign currency exchange rate changes | 317 | 54 | 5 | 376 |
| Liability at December 31, 2009 | 1,558 | 866 | 76 | 2,500 |
| Charges for 2008 Restructuring Plan | — | 57 | 147 | 204 |
| Cash payments | (846) | (348) | (52) | (1,246) |
| Adjustments to liability | (370) | 124 | 40 | (206) |
| Foreign currency exchange rate changes | (93) | (63) | (6) | (162) |
| Liability at December 31, 2010 | 249 | 636 | 205 | 1,090 |
| Charges for 2011 Restructuring Plan | 1,921 | 2,792 | 117 | 4,830 |
| Cash payments | (1,490) | (3,420) | (112) | (5,022) |
| Adjustments to liability | — | — | — | — |
| Foreign currency exchange rate changes | (91) | (8) | (16) | (115) |
| Liability at December 31, 2011 | <u>\$ 589</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 194</u> | <u>\$ 783</u> |

The facility related charges recognized in 2011 are the result of a lease termination fee incurred in September 2011 related to Sotheby’s Amsterdam salesroom, which was vacated as of December 31, 2011. Accrued restructuring costs of \$0.8 million are recorded within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities on Sotheby’s December 31, 2011 balance sheet. Total cash expenditures related to the 2011 Restructuring Plan are expected to be approximately \$5 million, a substantial portion of which were made in the fourth quarter of 2011, with the remaining payments to be made in 2012.

Note K—Debt

Revolving Credit Facility—On August 31, 2009, Sotheby’s and certain of its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively, the “Borrowers”) entered into a credit agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) with an international syndicate of lenders led by General Electric Capital Corporation (“GE Capital”). The Credit Agreement was amended by Sotheby’s, GE Capital and the lenders named therein (collectively, the “Lenders”) on November 23, 2010. This amendment, among other things, extended the maturity date of the Credit Agreement, reduced borrowing costs and fees, and provided additional flexibility to Sotheby’s.

The following summary does not purport to be a complete summary of the Credit Agreement, as amended, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Credit Agreement and each of the respective amendments, copies of which were

filed as exhibits to previous SEC filings. Terms used, but not defined in this summary, have the meanings set forth in the Credit Agreement and each of the respective amendments.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, provides for a \$200 million revolving credit facility (the “Revolving Credit Facility”) and has a feature whereby any time on or before March 1, 2014 the Borrowers may request, subject to Lenders' approval, an increase to the facility by an amount not to exceed \$50 million. The amount of borrowings available under the Revolving Credit Facility is limited by a borrowing base which is calculated primarily based upon the level of Sotheby's loan portfolio and art inventory balances. In addition, up to \$10 million of the borrowing capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility may be used to issue letters of credit. As of December 31, 2011, no Revolving Credit Facility borrowings were outstanding and the amount of borrowings available under the Revolving Credit Facility was approximately \$115.2 million, as calculated under the borrowing base. Sotheby's has not borrowed or issued any letters of credit under the Revolving Credit Facility since its inception.

Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility are available in either Dollars to U.S. Borrowers or Pounds Sterling to U.K. Borrowers. The U.S. Borrowers and, subject to certain limitations, the U.K. Borrowers, are jointly and severally liable for all obligations under the Credit Agreement, as amended. In addition, certain subsidiaries of the Borrowers guarantee the obligations of the Borrowers under the Credit Agreement, as amended. The obligations under the Credit Agreement, as amended, are secured by liens on all or substantially all of the personal property of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility may be designated by the Borrowers as either Dollar Index Rate Loans (for U.S. Borrowers only) or LIBOR Rate Loans. Dollar Index Rate Loans bear interest at an annual rate equal to (a) the highest of (i) the “Prime Rate” as quoted in The Wall Street Journal, (ii) the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.50%, or (iii) the LIBOR Rate plus 1.0%, *plus* (b) the Applicable Margin, which is generally between 1.50% and 2.00% dependent upon the level of outstanding borrowings. The LIBOR Rate for Dollars or Sterling, as the case may be, for an interest period is equal to (x) the offered rate for deposits in such currency for a period equal to such interest period on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page, *plus* (y) the Applicable Margin, which is generally between 2.50% and 3.00% dependent upon the level of outstanding borrowings.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, contains certain customary affirmative and negative covenants including, but not limited to, limitations on capital expenditures, limitations on net outstanding auction guarantees (i.e., auction guarantees less the impact of related risk and reward sharing arrangements) and limitations on the use of proceeds from borrowings under the Credit Agreement, as amended. The Credit Agreement, as amended, also restricts quarterly dividend payments to the lesser of \$0.10 per share or \$8 million. However, the maximum level of quarterly dividend payments may be increased depending upon the achievement of a certain Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio in any period. Management believes that Sotheby's is in compliance with the covenants and terms of the Credit Agreement, as amended.

The Credit Agreement, as amended, also contains certain financial covenants, which are only applicable during certain defined compliance periods. These financial covenants were not applicable for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2011.

The maturity date of the Credit Agreement, as amended, is September 1, 2014, subject to Sotheby's meeting certain liquidity requirements during the period commencing on December 15, 2012 and ending on the date Sotheby's 3.125% Convertible Notes are converted or discharged (see “Convertible Notes” below). Management expects to meet these liquidity requirements throughout this period.

Sotheby's has incurred approximately \$9.9 million in life-to-date fees related to the Credit Agreement, as amended, including \$1.3 million related to the amendment, which are being amortized on a straight-line basis to Interest Expense over the term of the facility. Additionally, commitment fees are 0.625% per year for undrawn amounts committed under the Revolving Credit Facility.

Long-Term Debt—As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, Long-Term Debt consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| York Property Mortgage, net of unamortized discount of \$12,475 and \$16,039 | \$ 218,027 | \$ 217,538 |
| Senior Notes, net of unamortized discount of \$755 and \$898 | 79,216 | 79,073 |
| Convertible Notes, net of unamortized discount of \$11,583 and \$20,665 | 170,285 | 179,335 |
| Less current portion: | | |
| York Property Mortgage | (2,976) | \$ (3,084) |
| Total | <u>\$ 464,552</u> | <u>\$ 472,862</u> |

(See the captioned sections below for detailed information related to the York Property Mortgage, the Senior Notes and

the Convertible Notes.)

York Property Mortgage—On February 6, 2009, Sotheby's purchased the land and building located at 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York (the "York Property") from RFR Holding Corp. ("RFR") for a purchase price of \$370 million. The York Property is home to Sotheby's sole North American auction salesroom and its principal North American exhibition space, as well as its corporate headquarters.

Sotheby's financed the \$370 million purchase price through an initial \$50 million cash payment made in conjunction with the signing of the related purchase and sale agreement on January 11, 2008, an \$85 million cash payment made when the purchase was consummated on February 6, 2009 and the assumption of an existing \$235 million mortgage on the York Property (the "York Property Mortgage").

The York Property Mortgage matures on July 1, 2035, but has an optional pre-payment date of July 1, 2015 and bears an annual rate of interest of approximately 5.6%, which increases subsequent to July 1, 2015. It is Sotheby's current intention to either pre-pay or refinance the mortgage on or about July 1, 2015, subject to economic and financial market conditions and available cash balances. In conjunction with the final accounting for the York Property purchase in February 2009, the York Property Mortgage was recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet at its \$212.1 million fair value. The fair value of the York Property Mortgage was computed using a discounted cash flow approach based on a market rate of interest, which was estimated by management. The resulting \$22.9 million debt discount is being amortized to Interest Expense over the remaining expected term of the loan. Sotheby's paid fees of \$2.4 million in conjunction with the assumption of the York Property Mortgage, which are also being amortized to Interest Expense over the remaining expected term of the loan. As of December 31, 2011, the fair value of the York Property Mortgage was approximately \$230 million and is based on a present value calculation utilizing an interest rate obtained from a third party source.

The York Property and the York Property Mortgage are held by 1334 York, LLC, a separate legal entity of Sotheby's that maintains its own books and records and whose results are ultimately consolidated into Sotheby's financial statements. The assets of 1334 York, LLC are not available to satisfy the obligations of other Sotheby's affiliates or any other entity.

Senior Notes—On June 17, 2008, Sotheby's issued \$150 million aggregate principal amount of 7.75% Senior Notes, due June 15, 2015. The net proceeds from the issuance of the Senior Notes were approximately \$145.9 million, after deducting the initial purchasers' discounts and fees. Each of Sotheby's existing and future domestic subsidiaries have jointly, severally, fully and unconditionally guaranteed the Senior Notes on a senior unsecured basis to the extent such subsidiaries guarantee borrowings under the Credit Agreement, as amended. The Senior Notes have an effective interest rate of 8%. Interest on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually in cash on June 15 and December 15 of each year.

Through December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had repurchased an aggregate principal amount of \$70 million of its Senior Notes for an aggregate purchase price of \$65.3 million. These repurchases have resulted in a life-to-date non-cash net gain of approximately \$2.5 million, net of fees, consisting of a \$7.8 million gain recognized in the fourth quarter of 2008, a \$1 million gain recognized in the first quarter of 2009 and a \$6.3 million loss recognized in the fourth quarter of 2010. There were no Senior Notes repurchases in 2011. As of December 31, 2011, the \$80 million of Senior Notes that remain outstanding had a fair value of approximately \$84.8 million based on a broker quoted price.

Convertible Notes—On June 17, 2008, Sotheby's issued \$200 million aggregate principal amount of 3.125% Convertible Notes, due June 15, 2013. The net proceeds from the issuance of the Convertible Notes were approximately \$194.3 million, after deducting transaction costs. Each of Sotheby's existing and future domestic subsidiaries have jointly, severally, fully and unconditionally guaranteed the Convertible Notes on a senior unsecured basis to the extent such subsidiaries guarantee borrowings under the Credit Agreement, as amended. Interest on the Convertible Notes is payable semi-annually in cash on June 15 and December 15 of each year. Sotheby's may not redeem the Convertible Notes prior to their stated maturity date. As of December 31, 2011, the principal amount of the \$181.9 million of Convertible Notes that remain outstanding had a fair value of \$207.1 million based on a broker quoted price.

Upon conversion, the principal amount of the Convertible Notes is payable in cash, shares of Sotheby's Common Stock, or a combination thereof, at the option of Sotheby's, based on an initial conversion rate of 29.4122 shares of Common Stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Convertible Notes, which is equivalent to a conversion price of approximately \$34 per share (the "Conversion Price"). The maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued upon conversion is approximately 5.3 million shares. The conversion rate for the Convertible Notes is subject to adjustment for certain events.

The Convertible Notes may be converted at any time beginning on March 15, 2013 and ending on the close of business on June 14, 2013. Prior to March 15, 2013, the Convertible Notes may only be converted under certain conditions, including, if during any fiscal quarter (and only during such fiscal quarter), the closing price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeds \$44.20 per share (i.e., 130% of the Conversion Price) for at least 20 trading days in the period of 30 consecutive trading days at the end of the previous quarter (the "Stock Price Trigger"). Upon conversion, Sotheby's will pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash,

shares of Common Stock, or a combination thereof, at its election. It is Sotheby's current intent and policy to settle up to the principal amount of the Convertible Notes in cash. Additionally, depending on the level of available cash and liquidity, as well as the amount of conversion requests received at any one time, Sotheby's may elect to settle the entire conversion obligation (i.e., principal amount redeemed plus any conversion premium) in cash.

On April 1, 2011, the trustee for the Convertible Notes notified bondholders that the Convertible Notes would be convertible at their option for a period beginning on April 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2011 as a result of the closing price of Sotheby's Common Stock exceeding \$44.20 for 20 trading days in the 30 consecutive trading days ending on March 31, 2011.

In June 2011, Sotheby's received conversion requests totaling a principal amount of \$18.1 million from holders of the Convertible Notes. In accordance with the terms of the Convertible Notes, the conversion obligation was based on a formula, which is the sum of 1/30th of the product of the applicable conversion rate and the daily per share volume weighted average stock price for 30 consecutive trading days beginning three days after the conversion request is received from the trustee. The conversion obligation of \$22.5 million related to these conversion requests, which consisted of \$18.1 million related to principal and approximately \$4.4 million related to the conversion premium, was settled entirely in cash in August 2011. Sotheby's simultaneously received \$4.4 million in cash to fund the conversion premium through its exercise of a portion of the Convertible Note Hedges (see discussion below). In the third quarter of 2011, Sotheby's recognized a \$1.5 million loss representing the write-off of a proportionate amount of the unamortized discount and deferred transaction costs related to the Convertible Notes redeemed.

On January 1, 2009, upon the adoption of ASC 470-20, *Debt - Debt With Conversion and Other Options*, the liability and equity components of the Convertible Notes were separately accounted for in Sotheby's financial statements. The liability component was initially valued at \$161.8 million using Sotheby's nonconvertible debt borrowing rate, which was estimated to be 7.75% at the date of adoption, and was accounted for as Long-Term Debt. The equity component (i.e., the embedded conversion option) was initially valued at \$38.2 million (\$21 million, net of taxes) and was accounted for as a component of Additional Paid-In Capital within Shareholders' Equity. The corresponding debt discount is being amortized to Interest Expense over the life of the Convertible Notes using the effective interest rate method. The amount recorded in Shareholders' Equity is not remeasured as long as it continues to meet the conditions for equity classification.

As a result of the cash settlement of the June 2011 conversion requests, \$8.2 million (\$5.4 million, net of taxes) of the amount originally attributed to the embedded conversion option and recorded in Shareholders' Equity no longer met the conditions for equity classification. As a result, this amount was reclassified to Other Current Liabilities and settled in August 2011.

As of December 31, 2011, the unamortized discount related to the Convertible Notes was \$11.6 million and the carrying value of the embedded conversion option recorded in Shareholders' Equity was \$30 million (\$15.3 million, net of taxes). As of December 31, 2011, management evaluated the remaining embedded conversion option and concluded that it continued to meet the conditions for equity classification. Accordingly, the carrying value of the remaining embedded conversion option was not remeasured as of December 31, 2011 and remains recorded as a component of Additional Paid-In Capital within Shareholders' Equity.

The Stock Price Trigger inherent in the Convertible Notes was not met during the fourth quarters of 2011 and 2010. Therefore, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the entire carrying value of the unamortized Convertible Notes (\$170.3 million and \$179.3 million, respectively) is reflected within Long-Term Debt on Sotheby's balance sheet.

Convertible Note Hedges and Warrant Transactions —On June 11, 2008, in conjunction with the issuance of the Convertible Notes, Sotheby's entered into convertible note hedge transactions (the "Convertible Note Hedges") that allow Sotheby's to purchase its Common Stock from affiliates of Bank of America and Goldman Sachs & Co. (collectively, the "Counterparties") at a price equal to the Conversion Price of the Convertible Notes. The Convertible Note Hedges will cover, subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments, approximately 5.3 million shares of Common Stock. The Convertible Note Hedges may be settled in cash, Sotheby's Common Stock, or a combination thereof, and are intended to offset the impact of any conversion premium upon potential future conversions of the Convertible Notes. In the event that Sotheby's elects to settle the conversion premium related to any Convertible Note redemptions in cash, the Convertible Note Hedges allow Sotheby's to recover this amount in cash. In the event that Sotheby's elects to settle the conversion premium related to any Convertible Note redemptions in shares of its Common Stock, the Convertible Note Hedges offset the dilutive impact of any shares issued. The Convertible Note Hedges expire upon the maturity of the Convertible Notes.

As previously discussed, in June 2011, Sotheby's received conversion requests totaling a principal amount of \$18.1 million from holders of the Convertible Notes. As a result, in June 2011, Sotheby's exercised the portion of the Convertible Note Hedges related to these conversion requests, which enabled it to receive \$4.4 million in cash, which was equal to the

amount of the conversion premium paid upon settlement of the Convertible Notes in August 2011.

The Convertible Note Hedges initially met the conditions for equity classification and, as a result, in June 2008, the related \$40.6 million cost (\$22.5 million, net of taxes) was recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet as a component of Additional Paid-In Capital within Shareholders' Equity. As a result of the cash settlement of the Convertible Note Hedges exercised in June 2011, \$8.2 million (\$5.3 million, net of taxes) of the amount originally recorded in Shareholders' Equity no longer met the conditions for equity classification. As a result, this amount was reclassified to Other Current Assets and settled in August 2011.

As of December 31, 2011, the carrying value of the Convertible Note Hedges recorded in Shareholders' Equity was \$32.4 million (\$17.2 million, net of taxes). As of December 31, 2011, management evaluated the remaining Convertible Note Hedges and concluded that they continued to meet the conditions for equity classification. Accordingly, the carrying value of the remaining Convertible Note Hedges was not remeasured as of December 31, 2011 and remains recorded as a component of Additional Paid-In Capital within Shareholders' Equity.

On June 11, 2008, Sotheby's also entered into warrant transactions, whereby it sold to the Counterparties warrants (the "Warrants") to acquire, subject to customary anti-dilution adjustments, approximately 5.8 million shares of Common Stock at \$44.905 per share that may only be exercised beginning on the June 15, 2013 maturity date of the Convertible Notes. As of June 11, 2008, the Warrants met all of the applicable criteria for equity classification and, as a result, the \$22.3 million in net proceeds received from the sale of the Warrants was recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet within Additional Paid-In Capital in Shareholders' Equity. As of December 31, 2011, management evaluated the Warrants and concluded that they should not be accounted for separately as a derivative financial instrument because they continue to be indexed to Sotheby's Common Stock. Accordingly, the \$22.3 million in net proceeds received from the sale of the Warrants remains recorded as a component of Additional Paid-In Capital within Shareholders' Equity.

Future Principal and Interest Payments—As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate future principal and interest payments due under the York Property Mortgage, the Convertible Notes and the Senior Notes are as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 2012 | \$ 26,551 |
| 2013 | 206,927 |
| 2014 | 22,202 |
| 2015 | 310,605 |
| 2016 and thereafter | — |
| Total future principal and interest payments | <u>\$ 566,285</u> |

The York Property Mortgage matures on July 1, 2035, but has an optional pre-payment date of July 1, 2015 and bears an annual rate of interest of approximately 5.6%, which increases subsequent to July 1, 2015. It is Sotheby's current intention to either pre-pay or refinance the mortgage on or about July 1, 2015, subject to economic and financial market conditions and available cash balances.

Interest Expense—In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Interest Expense consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revolving credit facility: | | | |
| Amortization of amendment and arrangement fees | \$ 1,737 | \$ 2,695 | \$ 2,346 |
| Commitment fees | 1,267 | 1,937 | 1,703 |
| Sub-total | 3,004 | 4,632 | 4,049 |
| York Property capital lease obligation | — | — | 1,657 |
| York Property Mortgage | 16,868 | 17,007 | 15,400 |
| Senior Notes | 6,342 | 10,049 | 10,154 |
| Convertible Notes | 13,689 | 13,586 | 13,041 |
| Other interest expense | 1,595 | 1,545 | 1,407 |
| Total interest expense | <u>\$ 41,498</u> | <u>\$ 46,819</u> | <u>\$ 45,708</u> |

Other interest expense consists primarily of the amortization of debt issuance costs related to the Senior Notes and Convertible Notes.

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, Interest Expense related to the Convertible Notes consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contractual coupon interest expense | \$ 6,038 | \$ 6,250 | \$ 6,250 |
| Discount amortization | 7,651 | 7,336 | 6,791 |
| Total | <u>\$ 13,689</u> | <u>\$ 13,586</u> | <u>\$ 13,041</u> |

Interest Paid—In 2011, 2010 and 2009, interest paid totaled \$26.7 million, \$33.3 million and \$42.3 million, respectively. Interest paid primarily consists of cash payments related to the York Property Mortgage, Sotheby's long-term debt securities, credit facility borrowings (including fees), and, in 2009, the portion of the payments for the York Property capital lease attributable to interest.

Note L—Income Taxes

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, the significant components of income tax expense consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Income (loss) before taxes: | | | |
| Domestic | \$ 44,876 | \$ 36,276 | \$ (33,709) |
| Foreign | 186,513 | 189,303 | 49,104 |
| Total | <u>\$ 231,389</u> | <u>\$ 225,579</u> | <u>\$ 15,395</u> |
| Income tax expense (benefit) — current: | | | |
| Domestic | \$ 13,051 | \$ 9,362 | \$ (5,138) |
| State and Local | 7,397 | 3,820 | 945 |
| Foreign | 44,760 | 45,822 | 12,648 |
| Sub-total | <u>65,208</u> | <u>59,004</u> | <u>8,455</u> |
| Income tax expense (benefit)—deferred: | | | |
| Domestic | 12,467 | 4,451 | (9,880) |
| State and Local | (18,428) | 202 | 25,054 |
| Foreign | 785 | 1,616 | (1,467) |
| Sub-total | <u>(5,176)</u> | <u>6,269</u> | <u>13,707</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 60,032</u> | <u>\$ 65,273</u> | <u>\$ 22,162</u> |

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, income tax expense related to Sotheby's equity in earnings of investees was approximately \$0.1 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the components of Deferred Tax Assets and Liabilities consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Deferred Tax Assets: | | |
| Asset provisions and accrued liabilities | \$ 53,071 | \$ 57,818 |
| Tax loss and credit carryforwards | 7,097 | 6,868 |
| Difference between book and tax basis of depreciable and amortizable assets | 15,988 | 19,322 |
| Sub-total | 76,156 | 84,008 |
| Valuation allowance | (6,000) | (19,106) |
| Total deferred tax assets | 70,156 | 64,902 |
| Deferred Tax Liabilities: | | |
| Step up in acquired assets | 26 | 475 |
| Pension obligations | 5,917 | 13,798 |
| Basis differences in equity method investments | 4,962 | 5,064 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 10,905 | 19,337 |
| Total | \$ 59,251 | \$ 45,565 |

Sotheby's has deferred tax assets related to various foreign and state loss and tax credit carryforwards totaling \$7.1 million that begin to expire in 2013.

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's has provided valuation allowances of \$6 million for foreign tax credits and certain foreign loss carryforwards. As of December 31, 2010, Sotheby's had provided valuation allowances of \$19.1 million for foreign tax credits, certain state and local net deferred tax assets, and certain state and local and foreign loss carryforwards. In 2011, \$13.6 million of the valuation allowance related to certain state and local deferred tax assets was reversed based on management's conclusion that it is more likely than not that these deferred tax assets will be realized. This determination was made in the third quarter of 2011 when Sotheby's was no longer in a cumulative three-year loss position in the state and local jurisdictions in which it had established the valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets. As a result, at that time, management assessed whether there was sufficient positive evidence to conclude that it is more likely than not that these deferred tax assets would be realized and that the valuation allowance was no longer required. This sufficient positive evidence included, but was not limited to, recent profitability, management's expectation of future profitability, the expected timing of the reversals of the deferred tax assets and the present economic conditions as compared to the economic conditions when the valuation allowance was established in 2009.

As of December 31, 2009, Sotheby's had provided valuation allowances of \$19.5 million for foreign tax credits, certain state and local net deferred tax assets, and certain state and local and foreign loss carryforwards. During 2010, the valuation allowance decreased by \$0.4 million primarily due to the utilization of net operating losses in foreign and state and local jurisdictions. This decrease was almost entirely offset by the recording of an additional valuation allowance against foreign tax credit carryforwards, which are not more likely than not to be realized.

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, the effective income tax rate varied from the statutory tax rate as follows:

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|---------|---------|----------|
| Statutory federal income tax rate | 35.00 % | 35.00 % | 35.00 % |
| State and local taxes, net of federal tax benefit | (3.10)% | 1.16 % | 109.77 % |
| Foreign taxes at rates different from U.S. rates | (9.70)% | (9.09)% | (45.17)% |
| Deemed income from foreign subsidiaries, net | 2.00 % | 1.90 % | 42.86 % |
| Tax Reserves | 0.70 % | (2.95)% | 0.79 % |
| Corporate Owned Life Insurance | 0.20 % | (0.28)% | (8.05)% |
| Valuation Allowance | 0.25 % | 1.97 % | 2.48 % |
| Other-Non Deductible Expenses | 0.29 % | 0.80 % | 1.89 % |
| Non-Deductible Compensation | 0.33 % | 0.46 % | 3.36 % |
| Other | (0.03)% | (0.03)% | 1.03 % |
| Effective income tax rate | 25.94 % | 28.94 % | 143.96 % |

The 2011 state and local tax benefit rate in the table above is primarily attributable to the reversal of a state and local valuation allowance of approximately \$13.6 million, as discussed above. This valuation allowance was originally established in 2009.

The comparison of the effective income tax rate between periods is significantly influenced by the level and mix of earnings and losses by taxing jurisdiction, foreign tax rate differentials, the relative impact of permanent book to tax differences (i.e., non-deductible expenses) on significant changes in pre-tax results by taxing jurisdiction, and changes in valuation allowance and tax reserves. In 2011, the effective income tax rate was impacted by a tax benefit recognized due to the reversal of a valuation allowance against certain state and local deferred tax assets. In 2010, the effective income tax rate was impacted by a tax benefit recognized due to the expiration of the federal statute of limitations related to 2006. In 2009, the effective income tax rate was unusually high due to the recording of a valuation allowance against certain state, local, and foreign deferred tax assets and loss carryforwards and was also affected by the relative impact of book to tax differences (i.e., foreign taxes at tax rates different from U.S. tax rates, deemed income from foreign subsidiaries, corporate owned life insurance, etc.) on significantly lower pre-tax results in various tax jurisdictions as compared to 2010 and 2011.

Income taxes have not been provided on a cumulative total of \$487.5 million and \$370.9 million of undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries that are intended to be indefinitely reinvested outside of the U.S. as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. It is not practicable to determine the income tax liability that might be incurred if these earnings were to be distributed. As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's has provided income taxes of \$0.1 million on undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries that are not intended to be indefinitely reinvested outside of the U.S.

Total net income tax payments during 2011, 2010 and 2009 were \$56.6 million, \$21.1 million and \$6.8 million, respectively.

Note M—Uncertain Tax Positions

As of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, the long-term liability for unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, was \$34.7 million, \$29.2 million and \$50.1 million, respectively, consisting of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Deferred income taxes (contra assets) | \$ 12,445 | \$ 12,445 | \$ 14,390 |
| Accrued income taxes | 22,244 | 16,749 | 35,674 |
| Total liability for unrecognized tax benefits | <u>\$ 34,689</u> | <u>\$ 29,194</u> | <u>\$ 50,064</u> |

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits that, if recognized, would favorably affect Sotheby's effective tax rate are \$18.2 million and \$15.1 million, respectively.

The table below presents a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the liability for unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010, and 2009 (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Balance at January 1 | \$ 29,194 | \$ 50,064 | \$ 43,625 |
| Increases in unrecognized tax benefits related to the current year | 5,928 | 3,596 | 6,373 |
| Increases in unrecognized tax benefits related to prior years | 1,488 | 1,218 | 3,546 |
| Decreases in unrecognized tax benefits related to prior years | (1,317) | (17,411) | (137) |
| Decreases in unrecognized tax benefits related to settlements | (350) | (473) | (3,200) |
| Decreases in unrecognized tax benefits due to lapse of the applicable statute of limitations | (254) | (7,800) | (143) |
| Balance at December 31 | <u>\$ 34,689</u> | <u>\$ 29,194</u> | <u>\$ 50,064</u> |

In 2011, the net increase to the liability for unrecognized tax benefits related to current and prior years is primarily attributable to increased reserves related to transfer pricing and other U.S. federal and state and non-U.S. matters, partially offset by the reduction of the liability for unrecognized benefits due to settlement of state and local tax audits. In 2010, the net decrease in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits related to current and prior years is primarily attributable to certain state and local loss carryforwards which are no longer available due to 2010 taxable income and the expiration of the 2006 federal statutory period, partially offset by an increase in the reserves related to foreign earnings, the settlement of certain state and local audits,

and various transfer pricing and other non-U.S. and state matters.

Sotheby's recognizes interest expense and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as a component of income tax expense (benefit) in its statements of operations. During 2011, 2010 and 2009, Sotheby's recognized a benefit of \$0.6 million, an expense of \$1.1 million and a benefit of \$0.6 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009, the liability for tax related interest and penalties included in Sotheby's balance sheets was \$1.3 million, \$0.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. The net increase in 2011 is primarily due to the accrual of an additional year of interest. The net decrease in 2010 is primarily due to the expiration of the federal statutory period for 2006.

Sotheby's is subject to taxation in the U.S. and various state and foreign jurisdictions and as a result, is subject to ongoing tax audits in various jurisdictions. Sotheby's U.S. federal and various state and foreign tax returns are currently under examination by taxing authorities. Sotheby's tax years that are open for audit for federal purposes and for major state, local and foreign jurisdictions are as follows:

Federal:

- 2008 to 2011

Major state and local jurisdictions:

- New York State: 2007 to 2011
- New York City: 2007 to 2011
- California: 2005 to 2011

Major foreign jurisdictions:

- Hong Kong: 2005 to 2011
- U.K.: 2005 to 2011

Management believes it is reasonably possible that a decrease of \$2.6 million in the balance of unrecognized tax benefit can occur within 12 months of the December 31, 2011 balance sheet date as a result of the tolling of the statute of limitations and an expected settlement of an ongoing tax audit.

Note N—Lease Commitments

Sotheby's conducts business on premises leased in various locations under long-term operating leases expiring at various dates through 2060. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, net rental expense under Sotheby's operating leases was \$14.7 million, \$13.8 million and \$16.4 million, respectively. Future minimum lease payments due under non-cancelable operating leases in effect at December 31, 2011 are as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------|
| 2012 | \$ | 15,390 |
| 2013 | | 13,378 |
| 2014 | | 13,394 |
| 2015 | | 13,217 |
| 2016 | | 12,009 |
| Thereafter | | 43,480 |
| Total future minimum lease payments | \$ | 110,868 |

The future minimum lease payments in the table above exclude future minimum sublease rental receipts of \$5.3 million owed to Sotheby's under non-cancelable subleases. In addition to the operating lease payments in the table above, under the terms of certain leases, Sotheby's is required to pay real estate taxes and utility costs and may be subject to escalations in the amount of future minimum lease payments based on certain contractual provisions.

Note O—Shareholders' Equity, Dividends and Share-Based Payments

Common Stock—The principal U.S. market for Sotheby's Common Stock is the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") (Symbol: BID). Each share of Sotheby's Common Stock is entitled to one vote.

Preferred Stock—Sotheby's has the authority to issue 50 million shares of no par value preferred stock. No shares of preferred stock were outstanding as of December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Dividends—The following table summarizes dividends declared and paid in 2011, 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars, except per share amounts):

| Year | Dividends Per Common Share | Total Dividends |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | \$ 0.23 | \$ 14,851 |
| 2010 | \$ 0.20 | \$ 13,620 |
| 2009 | \$ 0.30 | \$ 20,434 |

On February 28, 2012, Sotheby's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.08 per share (approximately \$5.4 million) to be paid on March 15, 2012 to shareholders of record as of March 9, 2012.

The declaration and payment of future dividends to shareholders is at the discretion of Sotheby's Board of Directors and will depend on many factors, including Sotheby's financial condition, cash flows, legal requirements and other factors as the Board of Directors deems relevant.

Share-Based Payments—Share-based payments to employees include performance-based stock awards, shares of restricted stock, restricted stock units and stock options. Each of these share-based payments are explained in more detail below. Compensation expense related to share-based payments is recorded as a component of Salaries and Related Costs in the statements of operations. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, compensation expense related to share-based payments was as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Pre-Tax | \$ 18,918 | \$ 20,250 | \$ 20,750 |
| After-Tax | \$ 12,536 | \$ 14,330 | \$ 14,210 |

In 2011 and 2010, Sotheby's realized \$7.0 million and \$2.6 million, respectively, of excess tax benefits related to share-based payment arrangements. These tax benefits represent the amount by which the tax deduction resulting from the exercise or vesting of share-based payments exceeded the tax benefit initially recognized in the financial statements upon the amortization of compensation expense for these awards. Such excess tax benefits are recognized in the balance sheets as an increase to Additional Paid-in Capital and are classified in the statements of cash flows as Cash Provided by Financing Activities.

As of December 31, 2011, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of share-based payments was \$19.7 million. This compensation expense is expected to be amortized over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.9 years. Sotheby's does not capitalize any compensation expense related to share-based payments to employees.

Sotheby's Restricted Stock Unit Plan—The Sotheby's Restricted Stock Unit Plan (the "Restricted Stock Unit Plan") provides for the issuance of unvested shares of Common Stock ("Restricted Stock") and Restricted Stock Units ("RSU's") to employees, subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee of Sotheby's Board of Directors (the "Compensation Committee"). In making awards under the Restricted Stock Unit Plan, the Compensation Committee takes into account the nature of the services rendered by employees, their present and potential contributions to Sotheby's success, and such other factors as the Compensation Committee in its discretion deems relevant.

Restricted Stock and RSU's generally vest evenly over a four year service period. Prior to vesting, holders of Restricted Stock have voting rights and are entitled to receive dividends, while holders of RSU's do not have voting rights, but are entitled to receive dividend equivalents. Dividends and dividend equivalents paid to holders of unvested Restricted Stock and RSU's are not forfeitable. Restricted Stock and RSU's may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise encumbered until they vest.

Performance Share Units—Performance Share Units (or "PSU's") are RSU's which vest ratably, generally over four years, if Sotheby's achieves certain profitability targets. Prior to vesting, holders of PSU's do not have voting rights and are not entitled to receive dividends or dividend equivalents. Dividend equivalents are credited to holders of PSU's and are only paid for the portion of PSU's that vest. PSU's may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise encumbered until they

vest. The Compensation Committee believes that PSU's better align Sotheby's variable compensation strategy with its financial performance and the cyclical nature of the art market and further align the interests of Sotheby's management with its shareholders. Accordingly, Sotheby's intends to grant future share-based payment awards in the form of PSU's with performance and service conditions, rather than RSU's with service conditions only.

In the first quarter of 2011, Sotheby's issued 627,566 PSU's with a grant date fair value of \$26.2 million as follows: (i) 526,903 PSU's with a fair value of \$22 million related to Sotheby's incentive compensation programs and (ii) 100,663 PSU's with a fair value of \$4.25 million issued to William F. Ruprecht, Sotheby's President and Chief Executive Officer, in relation to his September 2010 employment agreement, as discussed below under "Chief Executive Officer Employment Agreement."

In February 2012, Sotheby's issued 716,798 PSU's with a fair value of approximately \$27.5 million as follows: (i) 609,573 PSU's with a fair value of \$23.4 million related almost entirely to Sotheby's incentive compensation programs and (ii) 107,225 PSU's with a fair value of \$4.1 million issued to Mr. Ruprecht in relation to his September 2010 employment arrangement, as discussed below under "Chief Executive Officer Employment Agreement."

Modification of Prior Restricted Stock Awards—In conjunction with employment arrangements entered into with certain senior executives in the third quarter of 2006, Sotheby's granted 427,531 Restricted Stock shares that were scheduled to vest over three and five-year periods if certain company profitability or share price targets were achieved as of June 30, 2009 and/or June 30, 2011. Sotheby's did not meet either of the profitability or share price targets as of June 30, 2009 inherent in these awards. As a result, the 256,519 Restricted Stock shares that were available to vest on June 30, 2009 did not vest. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2010, management determined that the 427,531 Restricted Stock shares that were available to vest on June 30, 2011 were unlikely to vest because the underlying company profitability and/or stock price targets were not expected to be achieved. As a result, on February 9, 2010, the Compensation Committee approved the cancellation of these awards and the simultaneous issuance of 320,500 PSU's with a fair value of \$2.3 million. The purpose of these actions was to provide continued motivation and additional years of retention incentives to the senior executives receiving the awards. These PSU's vest over four years and only if Sotheby's achieves certain profitability targets. Pursuant to the relevant accounting rules regarding share-based payments, the issuance of the PSU's to replace the canceled Restricted Stock shares was accounted for as a modification of the canceled Restricted Stock awards. Accordingly, the compensation expense to be amortized in future periods related to these PSU's was calculated based on the excess of the fair value of the PSU awards over the fair value of the canceled Restricted Stock awards as of the date of the simultaneous cancellation and issuance. Also, pursuant to the relevant accounting rules, the unrecognized compensation expense related to the canceled awards was amortized ratably through June 2011, which was to be the final vesting date of the canceled awards, as discussed above.

Chief Executive Officer Employment Agreement—Effective September 1, 2010, Sotheby's entered into a new employment agreement with William F. Ruprecht, its President and Chief Executive Officer. This employment agreement is for a four-year term ending on August 31, 2014, with one year renewals thereafter unless Sotheby's or Mr. Ruprecht provides notice of non-renewal at least five months prior to the end of the term or an annual extension. Among other things, Mr. Ruprecht's employment agreement entitles him to annual PSU grants beginning in 2011 subject to minimum (\$3.5 million) and maximum (\$4.5 million) levels, the value of which are determined at the discretion of the Compensation Committee.

Summary of Restricted Stock, RSU's and PSU's—In 2011, changes to the number of outstanding Restricted Stock shares, RSU's and PSU's were as follows (shares in thousands):

| | Restricted Stock Shares, RSU's and PSU's | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2011 | 2,370 | \$ 18.86 |
| Granted | 628 | \$ 41.80 |
| Vested | (998) | \$ 23.35 |
| Canceled | (10) | \$ 17.06 |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2011 | 1,990 | \$ 23.89 |

The aggregate fair value of Restricted Stock and RSU's that vested during 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$45.2 million, \$18.4 million and \$8.7 million, respectively, based on the closing stock price on the dates the shares vested.

As of December 31, 2011, 1.6 million shares were available for future awards pursuant to the Restricted Stock Unit Plan.

Stock Options—Stock options issued pursuant to the Sotheby's 1997 Stock Option Plan are exercisable into authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock. Stock options vest evenly over four years and expire ten years after the date of grant.

On February 9, 2010, the Compensation Committee approved a grant of 0.5 million stock options with a grant date fair value of \$10.48 per share to five senior executives. These stock options have an exercise price of \$22.11 and vest evenly over four years. Prior to this grant, no stock options were issued by Sotheby's since 2005, and no stock options were granted in 2011. As of December 31, 2011, 35,000 shares of Common Stock were available for the issuance of stock options under the Stock Option Plan.

The fair value of a stock option is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model, which utilizes assumptions for:

- **Expected life:** The expected life is the length of time the stock option is expected to be outstanding and is estimated by using historical data for exercises and forfeitures. The expected life utilized in determining the fair value of the February 2010 stock option grant was 5 years.
- **Risk-free rate of return:** The risk-free rate of return is based on the available yield for U.S. Treasury securities with a maturity that approximates the expected life of the stock option. The risk-free rate of return utilized in determining the fair value of the February 2010 stock option grant was 2.26%.
- **Expected volatility:** The expected volatility is based on historic stock price volatility for a period approximately equal to the expected life of the stock option. The expected volatility utilized in determining the fair value of the February 2010 stock option grant was 57.28%.
- **Dividend yield:** The dividend yield is the expected rate of dividends to be paid throughout the expected life of the stock option. The dividend yield utilized in determining the fair value of the February 2010 stock option grant was 0.9%.

In 2011, changes to the number of stock options outstanding were as follows (options and aggregate intrinsic value in thousands):

| | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2011 | 512 | \$ 21.82 | | |
| Granted | — | \$ — | | |
| Expired | — | \$ — | | |
| Exercised | (120) | \$ 21.44 | | |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2011 | 392 | \$ 21.94 | 7.9 | \$ 2,582 |
| Exercisable at December 31, 2011 | 16 | \$ 17.84 | 6.0 | \$ 168 |

The aggregate intrinsic value of options exercised during 2011, 2010 and 2009 was \$3.2 million, \$10.2 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. Cash received from stock options that were exercised during 2011, 2010 and 2009 totaled \$2.6 million, \$14.0 million and \$1.3 million, respectively. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, the related excess tax benefit realized from the exercise of stock options was \$0.8 million, \$3.1 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

Noortman Master Paintings ("NMP")—On June 7, 2006, Sotheby's entered into a sale and purchase agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") with Arcimboldo S.A. ("Arcimboldo") pursuant to which Sotheby's acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of NMP. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, Sotheby's paid initial consideration (the "Initial Consideration") in the form of 1,946,849 shares of Common Stock. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, if NMP failed to achieve a minimum level of financial performance during the five years following the closing of the transaction, up to 20% of the Initial Consideration would be returned to Sotheby's. The minimum level of financial performance was not achieved and, as a result, 147,341 shares of Sotheby's Common Stock were returned to Sotheby's in the fourth quarter of 2011. In 2011, Sotheby's recognized a net benefit of \$0.6 million to compensation expense to reflect the final number of shares of Common Stock that were returned to Sotheby's.

Note P—Pension Arrangements

Retirement Savings Plan—Sotheby’s sponsors a qualified defined contribution plan for its U.S. employees who have met certain minimum length of service requirements (the “Retirement Savings Plan”). Participants in the Retirement Savings Plan may elect to contribute between 2% and 20% of their eligible pre-tax compensation, up to the maximum amount allowable under Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) regulations. Prior to May 2009, participant savings were matched by a contribution from Sotheby’s of up to 6% of each participant’s eligible compensation. In May 2009, the Retirement Savings Plan was amended to reduce the level of Sotheby’s maximum matching contributions to 3% of each participant’s eligible compensation. Sotheby’s may also contribute an annual discretionary amount to the Retirement Savings Plan, which varies as a percentage of each participant’s eligible compensation depending on company profitability and subject to the maximum amount allowable under IRS regulations. In 2011 and 2010, Sotheby’s accrued discretionary contributions of \$1.7 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, to the Retirement Savings Plan, which is equal to 3% and 4%, respectively, of each participant’s eligible compensation paid during those years. In 2009, Sotheby’s did not make a discretionary contribution to the Retirement Savings Plan due to the lower level of its financial results in that year. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, pension expense recorded within Salaries and Related Costs related to the Retirement Savings Plan, net of forfeitures, was \$3.6 million, \$4.2 million and \$1.4 million, respectively.

Deferred Compensation Plan—Through December 31, 2006, Sotheby’s sponsored an unfunded deferred compensation plan, the Sotheby’s, Inc. 2005 Benefit Equalization Plan (the “2005 BEP”). The 2005 BEP was available to certain officers of Sotheby’s for whom contributions to the Retirement Savings Plan were limited by IRS regulations. On December 7, 2006, the Sotheby’s Deferred Compensation Plan (the “DCP”) was adopted, effective January 1, 2007. The DCP replaced the 2005 BEP and its predecessor, the Sotheby’s, Inc. 1988 Benefit Equalization Plan. The DCP provides participants with a broad menu of investment crediting options which track a portfolio of various deemed investment funds. Sotheby’s provides matching and discretionary contributions on the same basis as the Retirement Savings Plan, as discussed above. In 2011 and 2010, Sotheby’s accrued discretionary contributions of \$0.9 million and \$0.4 million, respectively, to the DCP, which is equal to 3% and 4%, respectively, of each participant’s eligible compensation paid during those years. In 2009, Sotheby’s did not make a discretionary contribution to the DCP due to the lower level of its financial results in that year.

Employee deferrals and Sotheby’s contributions to the DCP are informally funded into a rabbi trust which provides benefit security by sheltering assets in the event of a change-in-control of Sotheby’s and certain other situations. DCP liabilities are financed through the trust almost entirely by using company-owned variable life insurance (or “COLI”), and, to a much lesser extent, investments in mutual funds. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the DCP liability was \$40.1 million and \$36.2 million, respectively, and the assets held in the rabbi trust consisted of the following (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Company-owned variable life insurance * | \$ 39,489 | \$ 38,807 |
| Mutual fund investments ** | 2,521 | 217 |
| Total | \$ 42,010 | \$ 39,024 |

* The COLI is reflected at its cash surrender value on Sotheby's balance sheets within Trust Assets Related to Deferred Compensation Liability.

** The mutual fund investments are classified as trading securities and reflected at their fair value on Sotheby's balance sheets within Trust Assets Related to Deferred Compensation Liability.

Changes in the fair value of the DCP liability, which result from gains and losses in deemed participant investments, are recognized in earnings within Salaries and Related Costs in the period in which they occur. Gains in deemed participant investments increase the DCP liability, as well as Salaries and Related Costs. Losses in deemed participant investments decrease the DCP liability, as well as Salaries and Related Costs. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, net (losses) gains in deemed participant investments totaled (\$0.5) million, \$2.6 million and \$4.5 million, respectively.

Gains and losses resulting from changes in the fair value of the cash surrender value of the COLI and the mutual fund investments are recognized in earnings below Operating Income within Other (Expense)

Income in the period in which they occur. In 2011, 2010 and 2009, net (losses) gains related to the COLI and the mutual fund investments were (\$1.3) million, \$1.8 million and \$3.6 million, respectively.

U.K. Defined Contribution Plan—Beginning on April 1, 2004, a defined contribution plan was made available to new employees in the U.K. (the "U.K. Defined Contribution Plan"). In 2011, 2010 and 2009, pension expense recorded within Salaries and Related Costs related to the U.K. Defined Contribution Plan was \$0.8 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.6 million, respectively.

U.K. Defined Benefit Plan—Sotheby's sponsors a defined benefit pension plan covering a portion of its U.K. employees (the "U.K. Pension Plan"). Effective April 1, 2004, the U.K. Pension Plan was closed to new employees. The tables below present detailed information related to the U.K. Pension Plan.

Benefit Obligation, Plan Assets and Funded Status

The table below details the changes in the benefit obligation, plan assets and funded status of the U.K. Pension Plan, as well as the net pension asset recognized on Sotheby's balance sheets, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Reconciliation of benefit obligation | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 243,139 | \$ 257,448 |
| Service cost | 4,087 | 3,852 |
| Interest cost | 13,660 | 13,887 |
| Contributions by plan participants | 1,378 | 1,127 |
| Actuarial loss (gain) | 17,730 | (16,251) |
| Benefits paid | (7,663) | (6,570) |
| Foreign currency exchange rate changes | (1,671) | (10,354) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | 270,660 | 243,139 |
| Reconciliation of plan assets | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | 298,319 | 270,237 |
| Actual return on plan assets | 3,657 | 36,564 |
| Employer contributions | 2,866 | 7,802 |
| Contributions by plan participants | 1,378 | 1,127 |
| Benefits paid | (7,663) | (6,570) |
| Foreign currency exchange rate changes | (703) | (10,841) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | 297,854 | 298,319 |
| Funded Status | | |
| Net pension asset recognized | \$ 27,194 | \$ 55,180 |

Components of Net Pension Benefit

In 2011, 2010 and 2009, the components of the net pension benefit related to the U.K. Pension Plan were (in thousands of dollars):

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Service cost | \$ 4,087 | \$ 3,852 | \$ 3,849 |
| Interest cost | 13,660 | 13,887 | 12,334 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (23,255) | (21,450) | (18,878) |
| Amortization of prior service cost | — | 11 | 13 |
| Sub-total | (5,508) | (3,700) | (2,682) |
| Special termination benefits | — | — | 394 |
| Net pension benefit | \$ (5,508) | \$ (3,700) | \$ (2,288) |

In the table above, special termination benefits primarily relate to additional pension benefits contributed to the U.K. Pension Plan for certain plan participants who were impacted by the 2009 Restructuring Plan (see Note J). The cost of such benefits is reflected in Sotheby's statements of operations within

Restructuring Charges (net).

Net Gain (Loss) Recognized in Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The net gain (loss) recognized in comprehensive income represents the after-tax change in the benefit obligation and/or plan assets attributable to: (i) actual results being different from management's assumptions (e.g., return on plan assets) or (ii) changes in actuarial assumptions between valuation dates (e.g., discount rate). In 2011 and 2010, the net (loss) gain related to the U.K. Pension Plan was (\$28) million and \$23.7 million, respectively.

Net Gain (Loss) Included in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Gain (Loss)

Net gains and (losses) recognized in comprehensive income are recorded in the Shareholders' Equity section of Sotheby's balance sheets within Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss. If the amount recorded in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) exceeds 10% of the greater of the market-related value of the U.K. Pension Plan's assets or benefit obligation, that amount is systematically recognized as a component of future net pension expense or benefit over a period of approximately 13.5 years, which represents the average remaining service period of active employees expected to receive benefits under the plan. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the net (loss) gain related to the U.K. Pension Plan recorded in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss was (\$20.4) million and \$6.5 million, respectively.

Assumptions

In 2011 and 2010, the following assumptions were used in determining the benefit obligation and net pension benefit related to the U.K. Pension Plan:

| Benefit Obligation | 2011 | 2010 | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Weighted average discount rate | 4.80% | 5.50% | | |
| Weighted average rate of compensation increase | 5.00% | 5.50% | | |
| Net Pension Benefit | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | |
| Weighted average discount rate | 5.50% | 5.70% | 6.00% | |
| Weighted average rate of compensation increase | 5.50% | 5.50% | 4.80% | |
| Weighted average expected long-term rate of return on plan assets | 7.70% | 8.00% | 7.40% | |

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is based on expected future appreciation, as well as dividend and interest yields currently available on equity and bond markets as of the measurement date and weighted according to the composition of invested assets as of that date.

Plan Assets

The investment policy for the U.K. Pension Plan is established by the Trustees in consultation with the management of Sotheby's. The Trustees' investment objective is to maximize the return on assets while controlling the level of risk so as to ensure that sufficient assets are available to pay participants' benefits as and when they arise. In order to avoid an undue concentration of risk, a diverse spread of assets is held within the portfolio. The diversification is both within and across asset categories. In setting specific asset allocation targets, the Trustees take expert advice as required from professional investment advisors and require that the majority of the assets be realizable at short notice. The Trustees have agreed that a relatively high concentration of growth securities is appropriate, with a current investment strategy that includes target allocation percentages of approximately 68% for growth assets and approximately 32% for debt securities and cash. These target allocation percentages are spread across different categories within each asset class and permit actual allocation percentages to fall within a reasonable range of these targets. Additionally, the Trustees have decided to retain a small holding in real estate, which is not subject to the allocation methodology described above.

The investment managers for the U.K. Pension Plan have full discretion in making investment decisions, subject to broad guidelines established by the Trustees. It is the Trustees' policy not to invest in shares of Sotheby's or any of its subsidiaries. The performance of the investment managers is benchmarked against suitable indices.

The table below presents the fair value U.K. Pension Plan assets, by investment category, as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 (in thousands of dollars):

| December 31 | 2011 | % of Total | 2010 | % of Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Growth assets | \$ 200,787 | 67.4% | \$ 207,373 | 69.5% |
| <u>Debt securities:</u> | | | | |
| Government | 25,115 | 8.4% | 18,620 | 6.2% |
| Corporate | 20,581 | 6.9% | 22,800 | 7.6% |
| Index-linked | 47,486 | 15.9% | 43,946 | 14.7% |
| Total debt securities | 93,182 | 31.3% | 85,366 | 28.6% |
| Real estate mutual funds | 2,325 | 0.8% | 4,167 | 1.4% |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 1,560 | 0.5% | 1,413 | 0.5% |
| Total fair value of plan assets | \$ 297,854 | | \$ 298,319 | |

Assets measured at fair value are classified and disclosed according to one of the following categories:

- Level 1—Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date. Level 1 inputs generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value.
- Level 2—Pricing inputs are other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date, and fair value may be determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies.
- Level 3—Pricing inputs are unobservable for the asset or liability and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the investment. The inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

The table below provides fair value measurement information for the U.K. Pension Plan assets as of December 31, 2011:

| | Total Fair Value | Fair Value Measurements Using: | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Growth assets | \$ 200,787 | \$ 142,735 | \$ 58,052 | \$ — |
| <u>Debt securities:</u> | | | | |
| Government | 25,115 | 11,087 | 14,028 | — |
| Corporate | 20,581 | 10,755 | 9,826 | — |
| Index-linked | 47,486 | 22,734 | 24,752 | — |
| Total debt securities | 93,182 | 44,576 | 48,606 | — |
| Real estate mutual funds | 2,325 | — | 2,325 | — |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 1,560 | 1,560 | — | — |
| Total fair value of plan assets | \$ 297,854 | \$ 188,871 | \$ 108,983 | \$ — |

As of December 31, 2011, the following U.K. Pension Plan assets are classified as Level 1 fair value measurements:

Growth Assets—Includes investments in publicly-traded mutual funds and other publicly-traded stocks, the fair values of which are based on exchange quoted prices in active markets.

Debt Securities—Includes investments in publicly-traded bond mutual funds and other publicly-traded bonds, the fair values of which are based on exchange quoted prices in active markets.

Cash and Cash Equivalents—Includes investments in cash and money market instruments that are highly liquid and for which book value approximates fair value.

As of December 31, 2011, the following U.K. Pension Plan assets are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements:

Growth Assets—Includes investments in pooled funds which do not have directly observable quoted market prices but for which the underlying value is determined by publicly-traded stocks that have directly observable exchange quoted prices in active markets.

Debt Securities—Includes investments in pooled funds which do not have directly observable quoted market prices but for which the underlying value is determined by publicly-traded bonds that have directly observable exchange quoted prices in active markets.

Real Estate Mutual Funds—Includes investments in real estate mutual funds, the fair value of which are based on directly and indirectly observable real estate prices, including comparable prices.

Estimated Future Benefit Payments

Estimated future benefit payments related to the U.K. Pension Plan, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are as follows (in thousands of dollars):

| Year | Benefit Payments |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 2012 | \$ 8,312 |
| 2013 | \$ 7,603 |
| 2014 | \$ 7,630 |
| 2015 | \$ 8,233 |
| 2016 | \$ 8,233 |
| 2017 to 2021 | \$ 54,401 |

Contributions

In 2011, Sotheby's contributed \$2.9 million to the U.K. Pension Plan and expects to contribute approximately \$4.3 million in 2012.

Note Q—Commitments and Contingencies

Employment Arrangements—As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had employment arrangements with certain senior employees, which expire at various points between February 2012 and March 2017. Such arrangements may provide, among other benefits, for minimum salary levels and for incentive compensation under Sotheby's incentive compensation programs which is payable only if specified Company and individual goals are attained. Additionally, certain of these arrangements provide annual equity grants, the accelerated vesting of certain equity grants, severance payments, other cash compensation, and continuation of benefits upon termination of employment under certain circumstances. The aggregate remaining commitment for salaries and other cash compensation related to these employment arrangements, excluding any participation in Sotheby's incentive compensation and share-based payment programs, was approximately \$20.6 million as of December 31, 2011.

Lending Commitments—Sotheby's enters into legally binding arrangements to lend, primarily on a collateralized basis and subject to certain limitations and conditions, to potential consignors and other individuals who have collections of art. Unfunded commitments to extend additional credit were \$29.2 million as of December 31, 2011, of which \$1 million is committed to an employee of Sotheby's who is not an Executive Officer.

Tax Contingencies—Sotheby's is subject to laws and regulations in many countries involving sales, use, value-added and other indirect taxes which are assessed by various governmental authorities and normally imposed on certain revenue-producing transactions between Sotheby's and its clients. The application of these laws and regulations to Sotheby's unique business and global client base is complex and requires a significant amount of judgment. During the fourth quarter of 2011, Sotheby's identified a liability associated with such taxes and recorded a charge in General and Administrative Expenses of approximately \$4.9 million representing its estimate of the amounts owed for uncollected sales taxes. The ultimate tax paid in respect to this liability may be higher or lower than the amount accrued.

Legal Actions—Sotheby's becomes involved in various claims and lawsuits incidental to the ordinary course of its business, including the matters described below. Management is required to assess the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as potential ranges of probable losses. A determination of the amount of losses, if any, to be

recorded as a result of these contingencies is based on a careful analysis of each individual exposure with, in some cases, the assistance of outside legal counsel. The amount of losses recorded for such contingencies may change in the future due to new developments in each matter or a change in settlement strategy. Management does not believe that the outcome of any of these pending claims or proceedings will have a material adverse effect on Sotheby's consolidated results of operations, financial condition and/or cash flows.

Sotheby's Inc. v. Halsey Minor is an action commenced by a subsidiary of Sotheby's in September 2008 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, seeking to collect amounts due for three paintings that Mr. Minor purchased in auctions conducted by Sotheby's in the spring of 2008. Mr. Minor filed a counterclaim in that action alleging that Sotheby's had failed to disclose that the consignor of one of those paintings had an outstanding loan from Sotheby's and asserting that the sale should, therefore, be rescinded or the price of the painting reduced. In October 2008, Mr. Minor commenced a separate action in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California seeking recovery for alleged losses on behalf of a purported class of purchasers of properties that were subject to alleged undisclosed loans from Sotheby's. That action also asserted breaches of fiduciary duties arising from alleged art consulting advice provided to Mr. Minor by a Sotheby's employee. The California action that Mr. Minor had commenced against Sotheby's has been dismissed. In April 2009, Mr. Minor filed a motion in the New York action seeking to amend his answer and counterclaim to (i) broaden his rescission claim to cover an additional painting, (ii) add claims for alleged breach of fiduciary duty and alleged violations of a New York State consumer protection statute and (iii) seek injunctive relief. In May 2009, Sotheby's opposed that motion and, in addition, moved for summary judgment against certain of Mr. Minor's claims. In July 2009, Sotheby's moved for summary judgment against the remainder of Mr. Minor's claims, and Mr. Minor moved for summary judgment in favor of certain of his claims. In October 2009, the Magistrate Judge assigned to this action issued an opinion and order denying Mr. Minor's motion for leave to file an amended answer and counterclaim to the extent that Mr. Minor sought to assert claims for breach of fiduciary duty and violations of the New York State consumer protection statute. During the course of the litigation, Sotheby's reoffered and sold the three paintings initially purchased by Mr. Minor in the spring of 2008 for \$9.5 million, thereby reducing the amounts due from him. In March 2010, the court granted Sotheby's motions for summary judgment, denied Mr. Minor's motion for partial summary judgment and entered a judgment in Sotheby's favor in the amount of \$6.6 million, which was collected by Sotheby's in the second quarter of 2010. This judgment included \$4.4 million for the shortfall resulting from the resale of the three paintings when compared to the original purchase prices and \$2.2 million in interest and late charges owed to Sotheby's. The judgment also included an award of attorney's fees, in an amount that the court later determined to be \$2.5 million. In April 2010, Mr. Minor filed a notice of appeal of the court's order and judgment. In January 2011, Sotheby's entered into an agreement with the California Franchise Tax Board (the "CFTB") that provides for the release by the CFTB of potential claims it might have had to the \$6.6 million that Sotheby's had collected from Mr. Minor. In February 2011, Mr. Minor and Sotheby's entered into a settlement agreement pursuant to which Mr. Minor dismissed his pending appeal and agreed to pay Sotheby's an additional \$2.5 million in exchange for a release by Sotheby's of the uncollected \$2.5 million judgment that it has against Mr. Minor and any claim for additional attorney's fees. The total amount that Sotheby's will ultimately recover in relation to the \$2.5 million settlement is uncertain. As of December 31, 2011 approximately \$0.4 million of this settlement amount was paid to Sotheby's by Mr. Minor. As a result of the agreement with the CFTB in January 2011 and the February 2011 settlement with Mr. Minor, Sotheby's recognized a benefit of \$3 million in its statement of operations in the first quarter of 2011. This benefit relates to interest earned on Mr. Minor's overdue balance (\$2.2 million), compensation for lost auction commissions (\$0.4 million) and partial reimbursement of legal fees (\$0.4 million). Sotheby's is not currently aware of any other asserted claims against Mr. Minor that could compromise or adversely impact its position in any of the judgments discussed above.

Estate of Robert Graham, et al. v. Sotheby's, Inc. is a purported class action commenced in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in October 2011 on behalf of U.S. artists (and their estates) whose artworks were sold by Sotheby's in the State of California or at auction by California sellers and for which a royalty was allegedly due under the California Resale Royalties Act (the "Resale Royalties Act"). Plaintiffs seek unspecified damages, punitive damages and injunctive relief for alleged violations of the Resale Royalties Act and the California Unfair Competition Law. In January 2012, Sotheby's filed a motion to dismiss the action on the grounds, among others, that the Resale Royalties Act violates the United States Constitution and is pre-empted by the United States Copyright Act of 1976. In February 2012, the plaintiffs filed their response to Sotheby's motion to dismiss. It is currently not possible to make an estimate of the amount or range of loss that could result from an unfavorable outcome of this matter. Sotheby's believes that there are meritorious defenses to the claims asserted by plaintiffs, and they are being vigorously defended.

(See Notes G, M and R for information on other contingencies. See Notes K, N and P for information on other commitments.)

Note R—Auction Guarantees

From time to time in the ordinary course of its business, Sotheby's will guarantee to consignors a minimum sale price in connection with the sale of property at auction (an "auction guarantee"). In the event that the property sells for less than the guaranteed price, Sotheby's must perform under the auction guarantee by funding the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee. Sotheby's is generally entitled to a share of the excess proceeds (the "overage") if the property under the auction guarantee sells above the guaranteed price. If the property does not sell, the amount of the auction guarantee must be paid, but Sotheby's has the right to recover such amount through the future sale of the property. In these situations, the guaranteed property is recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet at the lower of cost (i.e., the amount paid under the auction guarantee) or management's estimate of the property's net realizable value (i.e., expected sale price upon disposition). The sale proceeds ultimately realized by Sotheby's in these situations may equal, exceed or be less than the amount recorded as Inventory on Sotheby's balance sheet.

Sotheby's may reduce its financial exposure under auction guarantees through risk and reward sharing arrangements, which include:

- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to bid a predetermined price on the guaranteed property (an "irrevocable bid"). If the irrevocable bid is the winning bid, the counterparty purchases the property at the predetermined price plus the applicable buyer's premium, which is the same amount that any other successful bidder would pay at that price. If the irrevocable bid is not the winning bid, the counterparty is generally entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned on the sale and/or a share of any overage.
- Contractual arrangements under which a counterparty contractually commits to fund: (i) a share of the difference between the sale price at auction and the amount of the auction guarantee if the property sells for less than the guaranteed price or (ii) a share of the guaranteed price if the property does not sell while taking ownership of a proportionate share of the unsold property. In exchange for accepting a share of the financial exposure under the auction guarantee, the counterparty is entitled to receive a share of the auction commission earned and/or a share of any overage if the property sells.

The counterparties to these auction guarantee risk and reward sharing arrangements are typically major international art dealers or major art collectors. Sotheby's could be exposed to losses in the event any of these counterparties do not perform according to the terms of these contractual arrangements.

As of December 31, 2011, Sotheby's had outstanding auction guarantees totaling \$18.7 million. Each of these auction guarantees had a minimum guaranteed price that is within the range of the pre-sale auction estimates for the underlying property. Sotheby's financial exposure under these auction guarantees is reduced by irrevocable bids from unrelated third parties. If each of these irrevocable bids was the winning bid at auction, the total purchase price owed to Sotheby's, including buyer's premium, would be no less than \$18.7 million. The property related to these auction guarantees was sold at auction in February 2012 for a sale price (including buyer's premium) which exceeded the minimum guaranteed price.

As of December 31, 2011, \$7.5 million of the aggregate guaranteed amount had been advanced to the consignors and is recorded within Notes Receivable on Sotheby's balance sheet (see Note E). As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the carrying value of the liability representing the estimated fair value of Sotheby's obligation to perform under its auction guarantees totaled \$0.9 million and \$0.1 million, respectively, and is recorded on Sotheby's balance sheet within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities.

As of February 24, 2012, Sotheby's had outstanding auction guarantees totaling \$11.5 million. Each of these auction guarantees has a minimum guaranteed price that is within the range of the pre-sale auction estimates for the underlying property. Sotheby's financial exposure under these auction guarantees is reduced by irrevocable bids from unrelated third parties. If each of these irrevocable bids is the winning bid at auction, the total purchase price owed to Sotheby's, including buyer's premium, would be no less than \$11.5 million. The property related to these auction guarantees will be offered at auction in the second and third quarters of 2012. As of February 24, 2012, \$3.5 million of the aggregate guaranteed amount had been advanced to a consignor.

Note S—Derivative Financial Instruments

Sotheby's utilizes forward exchange contracts to hedge cash flow exposures related to foreign currency exchange rate movements, which primarily arise from short-term foreign currency denominated intercompany balances and, to a much lesser extent, foreign currency denominated client payable balances. Such forward exchange contracts are typically short-term with settlement dates less than six months from their inception. Additionally, on rare occasions, Sotheby's may purchase foreign currency option contracts to hedge risks associated with foreign currency denominated client payable balances. All derivative financial instruments are entered into by Sotheby's global treasury function, which is responsible for monitoring and managing

Sotheby's exposure to foreign currency exchange rate movements.

As of December 31, 2011, the notional value of outstanding forward exchange contracts was \$22.9 million. Notional values do not quantify risk or represent assets or liabilities of Sotheby's, but are used to calculate cash settlements under outstanding forward exchange contracts. Sotheby's is exposed to credit-related risks in the event of nonperformance by the three counterparties to its outstanding forward exchange contracts. Sotheby's does not expect any of these counterparties to fail to meet their obligations, given their high short-term (A1/P1) credit ratings.

As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate carrying value of Sotheby's outstanding forward exchange contracts was \$0.3 million, which is recorded as a liability on Sotheby's balance sheet within Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities. As of December 31, 2010, the aggregate carrying value of Sotheby's outstanding forward exchange contracts was \$0.2 million, which is recorded as an asset on Sotheby's balance sheet within Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets. These carrying values reflect the aggregate fair values of the outstanding derivative instruments on each balance sheet date based on referenced market rates.

Note T—Related Party Transactions

For the year ended December 31, 2011, Sotheby's recognized total auction and related revenues of \$21.8 million related to the sale and purchase of property by related parties, representing less than 3% of total revenues for the year. As of December 31, 2011, net Accounts Receivable includes \$24.4 million associated with purchases made by a related party (see Notes E and G). This \$24.4 million receivable represents approximately 4% of net Accounts Receivable. As of February 22, 2012, \$6.5 million of this related party receivable had been collected.

Note U—Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In October 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2009-13, *Multiple-Deliverable Revenue Arrangements*, which is codified in ASC 605, *Revenue Recognition*. This update addresses the unit of accounting for arrangements involving multiple deliverables and how to allocate arrangement consideration to one or more units of accounting. It eliminates the criteria that objective and reliable evidence of the fair value of any undelivered items must exist for the delivered items to be considered separate units of accounting. This update was effective starting in the first quarter of 2011 and did not impact Sotheby's financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, which is codified in ASC 220, *Comprehensive Income*. This update eliminates the option for entities to present the components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in shareholder's equity and requires entities to report the components of comprehensive income (i.e., net income and other comprehensive income) in either: (1) a single, continuous statement of comprehensive income or (2) two separate, but consecutive, statements. ASU 2011-05 does not change the items that must be reported in other comprehensive income and does not require incremental disclosures in addition to those already required by ASC 220. This update will be effective for Sotheby's quarterly and annual financial statements beginning in the first quarter of 2012. In the first quarter of 2012, Sotheby's will present the components of comprehensive income in two separate, but consecutive, statements.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-08, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other: Testing Goodwill for Impairment*, which is codified in ASC 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*. This update gives entities testing goodwill for impairment the option of performing a qualitative assessment before calculating the fair value of a reporting unit in step 1 of the goodwill impairment test. If entities determine, on the basis of qualitative factors, that the fair value of a reporting unit is more likely than not less than the carrying amount, the two-step impairment test would be required. Otherwise, further testing would not be needed. This update will be effective for Sotheby's quarterly and annual financial statements beginning in the first quarter of 2012. Early adoption is permitted. Sotheby's did not early adopt this standard in 2011 and is currently evaluating whether to perform the qualitative assessment allowed under ASU 2011-08 beginning in 2012.

Note V—Quarterly Results (Unaudited)

The worldwide art auction market has two principal selling seasons, which generally occur in the second and fourth quarters of the year. Accordingly, Sotheby's auction business is seasonal, with peak revenues and operating income generally occurring in those quarters. Consequently, first and third quarter results have historically reflected a lower volume of auction activity when compared to the second and fourth quarters and, typically, a net loss due to the fixed nature of many of Sotheby's operating expenses.

| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
|---|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | (Thousands of dollars, except per share data) | | | |
| <u>Year Ended December 31, 2011</u> | | | | |
| Net Auction Sales (a) | \$ 597,686 | \$ 1,925,965 | \$ 207,760 | \$ 1,509,162 |
| <u>Income Statement Data:</u> | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 110,361 | \$ 353,564 | \$ 52,916 | \$ 274,897 |
| Finance revenues | 2,915 | 3,184 | 2,923 | 3,016 |
| Dealer revenues | 4,615 | 11,642 | 591 | 4,942 |
| License fee revenues | 1,441 | 1,270 | 1,408 | 1,109 |
| Other revenues | 250 | 135 | 372 | 285 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 119,582</u> | <u>\$ 369,795</u> | <u>\$ 58,210</u> | <u>\$ 284,249</u> |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ 2,421</u> | <u>\$ 127,234</u> | <u>\$ (29,719)</u> | <u>\$ 71,480</u> |
| <u>Per Share Amounts:</u> | | | | |
| Basic earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 0.04</u> | <u>\$ 1.87</u> | <u>\$ (0.44)</u> | <u>\$ 1.05</u> |
| Diluted earnings (loss) per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ 0.03</u> | <u>\$ 1.81</u> | <u>\$ (0.44)</u> | <u>\$ 1.04</u> |
| <u>Shares Outstanding:</u> | | | | |
| Basic | 66,968 | 67,405 | 67,410 | 67,342 |
| Diluted | 69,007 | 69,491 | 67,410 | 68,176 |
| <u>Year Ended December 31, 2010</u> | | | | |
| Net Auction Sales (a) | \$ 485,312 | \$ 1,349,247 | \$ 215,887 | \$ 1,594,318 |
| <u>Income Statement Data:</u> | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Auction and related revenues | \$ 95,627 | \$ 269,801 | \$ 55,104 | \$ 310,489 |
| Finance revenues | 2,613 | 2,023 | 1,932 | 3,117 |
| Dealer revenues | 2,520 | 8,337 | 14,991 | 3,244 |
| License fee revenues | 705 | 1,129 | 941 | 907 |
| Other revenues | 414 | 120 | 92 | 203 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 101,879</u> | <u>\$ 281,410</u> | <u>\$ 73,060</u> | <u>\$ 317,960</u> |
| Net (loss) income | <u>\$ (2,177)</u> | <u>\$ 86,239</u> | <u>\$ (19,361)</u> | <u>\$ 96,249</u> |
| <u>Per Share Amounts:</u> | | | | |
| Basic (loss) earnings per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ (0.03)</u> | <u>\$ 1.27</u> | <u>\$ (0.29)</u> | <u>\$ 1.42</u> |
| Diluted (loss) earnings per share - Sotheby's common shareholders | <u>\$ (0.03)</u> | <u>\$ 1.26</u> | <u>\$ (0.29)</u> | <u>\$ 1.38</u> |
| <u>Shares Outstanding:</u> | | | | |
| Basic | 65,995 | 66,337 | 66,377 | 66,561 |
| Diluted | 65,995 | 67,041 | 66,377 | 68,211 |

Legend :

(a) Net Auction Sales represents the hammer (sale) price of property sold at auction.

ITEM 9: CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A: CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of December 31, 2011, the Company has carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. Based upon that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)) were effective as of December 31, 2011.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Management evaluates the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting using the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in "Internal Control—Integrated Framework." Management, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 and concluded that it is effective.

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, has audited the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 and has expressed an unqualified opinion in their report which is included herein.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B: OTHER INFORMATION

On February 28, 2012, Sotheby's Board of Directors confirmed that Donald Stewart would be retiring as a director and would not be standing for re-election at the expiration of his current term in May 2012.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Sotheby's
New York, New York

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Sotheby's and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2011, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011 of the Company and our report dated February 29, 2012 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

New York, New York
February 29, 2012

PART III

ITEM 10: DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to Sotheby's definitive proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2012 (the "Proxy Statement") under the captions "Proposal 1—Election of Directors," "Corporate Governance" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance."

ITEM 11: EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the material appearing in the Proxy Statement under the captions "Compensation of Executive Officers" and "Compensation of Directors." Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Report of the Audit Committee and the Report of the Compensation Committee in the Proxy Statement are not incorporated by reference herein.

ITEM 12: SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the table and related text and footnotes appearing in the Proxy Statement under the caption "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management."

ITEM 13: CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the material appearing in the Proxy Statement under the captions "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" and "Corporate Governance."

ITEM 14: PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the material appearing in the Proxy Statement under the caption "Proposal 2—Ratification of the Appointment of Registered Public Accounting Firm."

PART IV

ITEM 15: EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

- 15(a)(1) — The following consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto of Sotheby's and subsidiaries are contained in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data": Consolidated Statements of Operations—Years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009; Consolidated Balance Sheets—December 31, 2011 and 2010; Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows—Years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009; Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity—Years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.
- 15(a)(2) — The following is the consolidated financial statement schedule of Sotheby's and subsidiaries required by Item 15(d): Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009.
- 15(a)(3)
- 2.1 — Agreement and Plan of Merger between Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., a Michigan corporation and Sotheby's Delaware, Inc., a Delaware corporation, dated March 31, 2006, incorporated by reference to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 2.2 — Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of All the Issued and Outstanding Shares in Noortman Master Paintings B.V., dated June 7, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 3.1 — Certificate of Incorporation of Sotheby's, as amended as of June 30, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2006 with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- 3.2 — Amended and Restated By-Laws of Sotheby's, amended through November 4, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 3.3 — Form of Indemnity Agreement, as amended and restated as of August 4, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 4.1 — See Exhibits 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.
- 4.2 — Specimen Common Stock Certificate of Sotheby's, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on November 21, 2006.
- 4.3 — Indenture, dated as of June 17, 2008, for the 3.125% Convertible Senior Notes due 2013 between Sotheby's, as Issuer, and the Initial Subsidiary Guarantors Party Hereto, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 4.4 — Indenture, dated as of June 17, 2008, 7.75% Senior Notes due 2015 between Sotheby's, as Issuer, and the Initial Subsidiary Guarantors Party Hereto, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 4.5 — Registration Rights Agreement dated June 17, 2008, between Sotheby's and Banc of America Securities LLC, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Comerica Securities, Inc. and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.1* — Sotheby's Deferred Compensation Plan, dated December 21, 2006 and effective January 1, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006.
- 10.2* — Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan Composite Plan Document, effective January 1, 2000, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000.
- 10.3* — Seventh Amendment to the Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan dated November 7, 2005, effective September 8, 2005, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.
- 10.4* — Eighth Amendment to the Sotheby's 1997 Stock Option Plan, dated and effective May 8, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K dated May 12, 2006.

- 10.5 — Agreement of Partnership of Acquavella Modern Art, dated May 29, 1990, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on June 7, 1990, SEC File No. 1-9750, on file at the Washington, D.C. office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- 10.6 — First Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 31, 2000, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(m) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000.
- 10.7 — Second Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 15, 2001, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001.
- 10.8 — Third Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated February 10, 2003, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(h) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.
- 10.9 — Fourth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated January 13, 2004, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(i) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.
- 10.10 — Fifth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 8, 2004, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.
- 10.11 — Sixth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated March 1, 2006, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.
- 10.12 — Seventh Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated January 12, 2007, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2007.
- 10.13 — Eighth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated January 23, 2008, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.14 — Ninth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated February 11, 2009, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.15 — Tenth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated February 18, 2010, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.16* — Sotheby's 1998 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended and restated on April 9, 2007, effective May 7, 2007 (the "Directors Plan"), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2007.
- 10.17* — First Amendment to the Directors Plan, dated November 6, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (the "2007 Form 10-K").
- 10.18* — Second Amendment to the Directors Plan, adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company on March 18, 2010, effective as of May 6, 2010, and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2010.
- 10.19 — Credit Agreement dated as of August 31, 2009, among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England) and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as Agent and a Lender, GE Capital Markets, Inc. and HSBC Bank PLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Bookrunners and Other Credit Parties and Lenders Hereto, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K dated September 1, 2009.

- 10.20 — Amendment No. 1 to Credit Agreement, dated as of December 17, 2009, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a Lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender, and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.
- 10.21 — Amendment No. 2 to Credit Agreement, dated as of February 25, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a Lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender, and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.22 — Amendment No. 3 to Credit Agreement, dated as of May 5, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England) and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender, and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.23 — Amendment No. 4 to Credit Agreement, dated as of November 23, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited as Borrowers, the other Credit Parties signatory thereto as Credit Parties, the Lenders, and General Electric Capital Corporation, as Lender and Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on November 30, 2010.
- 10.24 — Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated January 11, 2008 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., Seller and Sotheby's, purchaser for 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.25 — Consent and Assumption Agreement with Release, dated as of February 6, 2009 between 1334 York, LLC as New Borrower, Sotheby's as New Guarantor, 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Original Borrower, Aby Rosen and Michael Fuchs as Original Guarantor and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent and certain other parties, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.26 — Loan Agreement, dated as of June 22, 2005 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Borrower and Bank of America, N.A., as Lender, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.27 — First Amendment to Loan Agreement and Other Loan Documents, dated as of September 20, 2005 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Borrower, and Bank of America, N.A., as Lender, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.28 — Lease between 1334 York Avenue L.P., "Landlord," and Sotheby's, Inc., "Tenant," February 7, 2003; Premises: 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2003.
- 10.29 — Guaranty of Lease, made by Sotheby's in favor of 1334 York Avenue L.P., dated as of June 30, 2006 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2006.
- 10.30* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and William F. Ruprecht, with related Terms of Employment, dated March 31, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the 2007 Form 10-K.
- 10.31* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and William F. Ruprecht, dated March 23, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 23, 2009.
- 10.32* — Performance Share Unit Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2010, between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on February 16, 2010.

- 10.33* — Waiver, dated February 9, 2010, by William F. Ruprecht with respect to certain terms of his Employment Arrangement, dated March 1, 2006, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on February 16, 2010.
- 10.34* — Employment Agreement dated September 1, 2010 between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on September 3, 2010.
- 10.35*^ — Confidentiality Agreement dated September 2, 2010 between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on September 3, 2010.
- 10.36* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and William S. Sheridan, dated August 3, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 10.37* — Amendment to the August 3, 2006 Severance Agreement (as amended March 7, 2008) between Sotheby's and William S. Sheridan, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.38* — Service Agreement between Sotheby's and Robin Woodhead, with related Terms of Employment, dated August 15, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 10.39* — Amendment to the August 15, 2006 Employment Agreement (as amended March 7, 2008) between Sotheby's and Robin Woodhead, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.40* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and Bruno Vinciguerra, with related Terms of Employment, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.41* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Bruno Vinciguerra, dated as of December 18, 2009, effective January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on December 23, 2009.
- 10.42* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Gilbert Klemann, dated October 9, 2007, effective February 1, 2008, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the 2007 Form 10-K.
- 10.43* — Amendment to October 9, 2007 Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Gilbert Klemann, dated as of September 9, 2008, effective September 25, 2008, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.44* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and Mitchell Zuckerman, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.45* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Mitchell Zuckerman, dated December 18, 2009, effective January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on December 23, 2009.
- 10.46* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Kevin Ching, dated as of January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.47* — Sotheby's Restricted Stock Unit Plan, (As Amended and Restated Effective As Of February 1, 2009), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.48* — Form of Performance Share Unit Agreement, adopted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company on February 9, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on February 16, 2010.
- 10.49 — Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among NRT Incorporated as the Purchaser, Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., as the Seller, and Cendant Corporation as the Purchaser Guarantor, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 2, 2004.
- 10.50 — Trademark License Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among SPTC, Inc., as Licensor, Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. as Guarantor, Monticello Licensee Corporation, as Licensee, and Cendant Corporation, as Guarantor, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 2, 2004.

- 10.51 — Amendment No. 1 to Trademark License Agreement, dated as of May 2, 2005, among SPTC Delaware, LLC (as an assignee of SPTC, Inc) and Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and Cendant Corporation and Sotheby's International Realty Licensee Corporation (formerly known as Monticello Licensee Corporation), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.
- 10.52 — Amendment No. 2 to Trademark License Agreement, dated as of May 2, 2005, among SPTC Delaware, LLC (as an assignee of SPTC, Inc) and Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and Cendant Corporation and Sotheby's International Realty Licensee Corporation (formerly known as Monticello Licensee Corporation), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.
- 10.53* — Sotheby's Executive Bonus Plan (as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2007), dated April 9, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2007.
- 10.54 — Transaction Agreement by and among Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., and A. Alfred Taubman and Other Parties to the Agreement, dated as of September 7, 2005, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.
- 10.55 — Convertible Bond Hedge Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: NY-35263), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Bank of America, N.A, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.56 — Convertible Bond Hedge Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: SDB1627455583), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Goldman, Sachs & Co, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.57 — Issuer Warrant Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: NY-35264), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Bank of America, N.A, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.58 — Issuer Warrant Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: SDB1627455582), dated June 11, 2008 between Sotheby's and Goldman, Sachs & Co, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 21 — Subsidiaries of the Registrant
- 23 — Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
- 24 — Powers of Attorney
- 31.1 — Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 — Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 — Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 — Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101INS** — XBRL Instance Document.
- 101.SCH** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
- 101.CAL** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
- 101.DEF** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
- 101.LAB** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
- 101.PRE** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.
- (15)(b) — On November 14, 2011, the Company filed a current report on Form 8-K under Item 2.02, "Results of Operations and Financial Condition" and Item 9.01, "Financial Statements and Exhibits."
 - The list of exhibits filed with this report is set forth in response to Item 15(a)(3). The required exhibit index has been filed with the exhibits.
 - The financial statement schedule of the Company listed in response to Item 15(a)(2) is filed pursuant to this Item 15(d).

* A compensatory agreement or plan required to be filed pursuant to Item 15(c) of Form 10-K.

** In accordance with Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, the information in these exhibits is furnished and deemed not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

^ Confidential treatment has been requested with respect to portions of this exhibit.

SOTHEBY'S
VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011, 2010 AND 2009

| Column A | Column B | Column C | | Column D | Column E |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Description | Balance at Beginning of Period | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Charged to Other Accounts | Deductions | Balance at End of Period |
| (Thousands of dollars) | | | | | |
| Valuation reserve deducted in the balance sheet from the asset to which it applies: | | | | | |
| Receivables (a): | | | | | |
| 2011 Allowance for doubtful accounts and credit losses | \$ 5,687 | \$ 2,951 | \$ 388 | \$ 988 | \$ 8,038 |
| 2010 Allowance for doubtful accounts and credit losses | \$ 6,211 | \$ 1,260 | \$ — | \$ 1,784 | \$ 5,687 |
| 2009 Allowance for doubtful accounts and credit losses | \$ 11,119 | \$ 1,914 | \$ — | \$ 6,822 | \$ 6,211 |
| Deferred tax assets: | | | | | |
| 2011 Valuation allowance | \$ 19,106 | \$ 675 | \$ — | \$ 13,781 | \$ 6,000 |
| 2010 Valuation allowance | \$ 19,516 | \$ 5,502 | \$ — | \$ 5,912 | \$ 19,106 |
| 2009 Valuation allowance | \$ 1,328 | \$ 19,060 | \$ — | \$ 872 | \$ 19,516 |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SOTHEBY'S

By: /s/ WILLIAM F. RUPRECHT
William F. Ruprecht
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 29, 2012

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <u>Signature</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---|--|-------------------|
| /s/ MICHAEL I. SOVERN* | Chairman of the Board | February 29, 2012 |
| Michael I. Sovern | | |
| /s/ DEVONSHIRE* | Deputy Chairman of the Board | February 29, 2012 |
| Duke of Devonshire | | |
| /s/ WILLIAM F. RUPRECHT | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director | February 29, 2012 |
| William F. Ruprecht | | |
| /s/ JOHN M. ANGELO* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| John M. Angelo | | |
| /s/ BLAKENHAM* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Michael Blakenham | | |
| /s/ DANIEL MEYER* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Daniel Meyer | | |
| /s/ ALLEN QUESTROM* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Allen Questrom | | |
| /s/ MARSHA SIMMS* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Marsha Simms | | |
| /s/ DONALD M. STEWART* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Donald M. Stewart | | |
| /s/ DIANA L. TAYLOR* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Diana L. Taylor | | |
| /s/ ROBERT S. TAUBMAN* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Robert S. Taubman | | |
| /s/ DENNIS M. WEIBLING* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| Dennis M. Weibling | | |
| /s/ JAMES MURDOCH* | Director | February 29, 2012 |
| James Murdoch | | |
| /s/ WILLIAM S. SHERIDAN | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | February 29, 2012 |
| William S. Sheridan | | |
| /s/ KEVIN M. DELANEY | Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer | February 29, 2012 |
| Kevin M. Delaney | | |
| /s/ WILLIAM S. SHERIDAN | | February 29, 2012 |
| *William S. Sheridan as Attorney-in-Fact | | |

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|--|
| 2.1 | — Agreement and Plan of Merger between Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., a Michigan corporation and Sotheby's Delaware, Inc., a Delaware corporation, dated March 31, 2006, incorporated by reference to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006. |
| 2.2 | — Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of All the Issued and Outstanding Shares in Noortman Master Paintings B.V., dated June 7, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006. |
| 3.1 | — Certificate of Incorporation of Sotheby's, as amended as of June 30, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2006 with the Securities and Exchange Commission. |
| 3.2 | — Amended and Restated By-Laws of Sotheby's, amended through November 4, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010. |
| 3.3 | — Form of Indemnity Agreement, as amended and restated as of August 4, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009. |
| 4.1 | — See Exhibits 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. |
| 4.2 | — Specimen Common Stock Certificate of Sotheby's, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on November 21, 2006. |
| 4.3 | — Indenture, dated as of June 17, 2008, for the 3.125% Convertible Senior Notes due 2013 between Sotheby's, as Issuer, and the Initial Subsidiary Guarantors Party Hereto, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008. |
| 4.4 | — Indenture, dated as of June 17, 2008, 7.75% Senior Notes due 2015 between Sotheby's, as Issuer, and the Initial Subsidiary Guarantors Party Hereto, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008. |
| 4.5 | — Registration Rights Agreement dated June 17, 2008, between Sotheby's and Banc of America Securities LLC, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Comerica Securities, Inc. and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008. |
| 10.1* | — Sotheby's Deferred Compensation Plan, dated December 21, 2006 and effective January 1, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. |
| 10.2* | — Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan Composite Plan Document, effective January 1, 2000, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000. |
| 10.3* | — Seventh Amendment to the Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan dated November 7, 2005, effective September 8, 2005, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. |
| 10.4* | — Eighth Amendment to the Sotheby's 1997 Stock Option Plan, dated and effective May 8, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K dated May 12, 2006. |
| 10.5 | — Agreement of Partnership of Acquavella Modern Art, dated May 29, 1990, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on June 7, 1990, SEC File No. 1-9750, on file at the Washington, D.C. office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. |
| 10.6 | — First Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 31, 2000, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(m) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000. |
| 10.7 | — Second Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 15, 2001, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001. |

- 10.8 — Third Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated February 10, 2003, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(h) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.
- 10.9 — Fourth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated January 13, 2004, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(i) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.
- 10.10 — Fifth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated December 8, 2004, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.
- 10.11 — Sixth Amendment to Agreement of Partnership, dated March 1, 2006, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.
- 10.12 — Seventh Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated January 12, 2007, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2007.
- 10.13 — Eighth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated January 23, 2008, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.14 — Ninth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated February 11, 2009, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.15 — Tenth Amendment to the Agreement of Partnership, dated February 18, 2010, of Acquavella Modern Art, between Sotheby's Nevada, Inc. and Acquavella Contemporary Art, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.16* — Sotheby's 1998 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended and restated on April 9, 2007, effective May 7, 2007 (the "Directors Plan"), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2007.
- 10.17* — First Amendment to the Directors Plan, dated November 6, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (the "2007 Form 10-K").
- 10.18* — Second Amendment to the Directors Plan, adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company on March 18, 2010, effective as of May 6, 2010, and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2010.
- 10.19 — Credit Agreement dated as of August 31, 2009, among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England) and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as Agent and a Lender, GE Capital Markets, Inc. and HSBC Bank PLC, as Joint Lead Arrangers and Joint Bookrunners and Other Credit Parties and Lenders Hereto, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K dated September 1, 2009.
- 10.20 — Amendment No. 1 to Credit Agreement, dated as of December 17, 2009, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a Lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender, and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.
- 10.21 — Amendment No. 2 to Credit Agreement, dated as of February 25, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a Lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender, and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.

- 10.22 — Amendment No. 3 to Credit Agreement, dated as of May 5, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England) and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited, as Borrowers and General Electric Capital Corporation, as a lender and as Agent for the Lenders and the Fronting Lender, and the other Lenders signatory hereto, amends that certain Credit Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2009, by and among the Borrowers, other Credit Parties signatory thereto, the Agent, the Fronting Lender and the Lenders, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.23 — Amendment No. 4 to Credit Agreement, dated as of November 23, 2010, by and among Sotheby's (a Delaware corporation), Sotheby's, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services, Inc., Sotheby's Financial Services California, Inc., Oberon, Inc., Theta, Inc., Sotheby's Ventures, LLC, Oatshare Limited, Sotheby's (a company registered in England), and Sotheby's Financial Services Limited as Borrowers, the other Credit Parties signatory thereto as Credit Parties, the Lenders, and General Electric Capital Corporation, as Lender and Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on November 30, 2010.
- 10.24 — Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated January 11, 2008 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., Seller and Sotheby's, purchaser for 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York 10021, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.25 — Consent and Assumption Agreement with Release, dated as of February 6, 2009 between 1334 York, LLC as New Borrower, Sotheby's as New Guarantor, 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Original Borrower, Aby Rosen and Michael Fuchs as Original Guarantor and Bank of America, N.A. as Agent and certain other parties, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.26 — Loan Agreement, dated as of June 22, 2005 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Borrower and Bank of America, N.A., as Lender, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.27 — First Amendment to Loan Agreement and Other Loan Documents, dated as of September 20, 2005 between 1334 York Avenue L.P., as Borrower, and Bank of America, N.A., as Lender, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.28 — Lease between 1334 York Avenue L.P., "Landlord," and Sotheby's, Inc., "Tenant," February 7, 2003; Premises: 1334 York Avenue, New York, New York, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2003.
- 10.29 — Guaranty of Lease, made by Sotheby's in favor of 1334 York Avenue L.P., dated as of June 30, 2006 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on July 7, 2006.
- 10.30* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and William F. Ruprecht, with related Terms of Employment, dated March 31, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the 2007 Form 10-K.
- 10.31* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and William F. Ruprecht, dated March 23, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 23, 2009.
- 10.32* — Performance Share Unit Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2010, between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on February 16, 2010.
- 10.33* — Waiver, dated February 9, 2010, by William F. Ruprecht with respect to certain terms of his Employment Arrangement, dated March 1, 2006, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on February 16, 2010.
- 10.34* — Employment Agreement dated September 1, 2010 between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on September 3, 2010.
- 10.35*^ — Confidentiality Agreement dated September 2, 2010 between the Company and William F. Ruprecht, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on September 3, 2010.
- 10.36* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and William S. Sheridan, dated August 3, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 10.37* — Amendment to the August 3, 2006 Severance Agreement (as amended March 7, 2008) between Sotheby's and William S. Sheridan, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.

- 10.38* — Service Agreement between Sotheby's and Robin Woodhead, with related Terms of Employment, dated August 15, 2006, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2006.
- 10.39* — Amendment to the August 15, 2006 Employment Agreement (as amended March 7, 2008) between Sotheby's and Robin Woodhead, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.40* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and Bruno Vinciguerra, with related Terms of Employment, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.41* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Bruno Vinciguerra, dated as of December 18, 2009, effective January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on December 23, 2009.
- 10.42* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Gilbert Klemann, dated October 9, 2007, effective February 1, 2008, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the 2007 Form 10-K.
- 10.43* — Amendment to October 9, 2007 Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Gilbert Klemann, dated as of September 9, 2008, effective September 25, 2008, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.44* — Letter Agreement between Sotheby's and Mitchell Zuckerman, dated April 27, 2009, effective May 1, 2009, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2009.
- 10.45* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Mitchell Zuckerman, dated December 18, 2009, effective January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on December 23, 2009.
- 10.46* — Severance Agreement between Sotheby's and Kevin Ching, dated as of January 1, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2010.
- 10.47* — Sotheby's Restricted Stock Unit Plan, (As Amended and Restated Effective As Of February 1, 2009), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's First Quarter Form 10-Q for 2009.
- 10.48* — Form of Performance Share Unit Agreement, adopted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company on February 9, 2010, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K filed on February 16, 2010.
- 10.49 — Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among NRT Incorporated as the Purchaser, Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., as the Seller, and Cendant Corporation as the Purchaser Guarantor, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 2, 2004.
- 10.50 — Trademark License Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among SPTC, Inc., as Licensor, Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. as Guarantor, Monticello Licensee Corporation, as Licensee, and Cendant Corporation, as Guarantor, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on March 2, 2004.
- 10.51 — Amendment No. 1 to Trademark License Agreement, dated as of May 2, 2005, among SPTC Delaware, LLC (as an assignee of SPTC, Inc) and Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and Cendant Corporation and Sotheby's International Realty Licensee Corporation (formerly known as Monticello Licensee Corporation), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.
- 10.52 — Amendment No. 2 to Trademark License Agreement, dated as of May 2, 2005, among SPTC Delaware, LLC (as an assignee of SPTC, Inc) and Sotheby's Holdings, Inc. and Cendant Corporation and Sotheby's International Realty Licensee Corporation (formerly known as Monticello Licensee Corporation), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.
- 10.53* — Sotheby's Executive Bonus Plan (as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2007), dated April 9, 2007, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, filed on May 11, 2007.
- 10.54 — Transaction Agreement by and among Sotheby's Holdings, Inc., and A. Alfred Taubman and Other Parties to the Agreement, dated as of September 7, 2005, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Third Quarter Form 10-Q for 2005.

- 10.55 — Convertible Bond Hedge Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: NY-35263), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Bank of America, N.A, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.56 — Convertible Bond Hedge Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: SDB1627455583), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Goldman, Sachs & Co, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.57 — Issuer Warrant Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: NY-35264), dated June 11, 2008, between Sotheby's and Bank of America, N.A, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 10.58 — Issuer Warrant Transaction (Transaction Reference Number: SDB1627455582), dated June 11, 2008 between Sotheby's and Goldman, Sachs & Co, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Second Quarter Form 10-Q for 2008.
- 21 — Subsidiaries of the Registrant
- 23 — Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
- 24 — Powers of Attorney
- 31.1 — Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 — Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 — Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 — Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS** — XBRL Instance Document.
- 101.SCH** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
- 101.CAL** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
- 101.DEF** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
- 101.LAB** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
- 101.PRE** — XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.
- * A compensatory agreement or plan required to be filed pursuant to Item 15(c) of Form 10-K.
- ** In accordance with Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, the information in these exhibits is furnished and deemed not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, is deemed not filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.
- ^ Confidential treatment has been requested with respect to portions of this exhibit.