

For Immediate Release

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IMAGES IN TIME: CHRISTIE'S CELEBRATES THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT LONDON IN MAY



Richard Avedon, *Dovima with Elephants, Evening Dress by Dior, Cirque d'Hiver, Paris, 1955*
Estimate £20,000-30,000



Irving Penn, *Black and White Vogue Cover, (Jean Patchett), New York, 1950*
Estimate £12,000-18,000

Photographs

Wednesday, 18 May 2005 at 10.30 am

London – Almost 150 lots of the finest examples of 19th and 20th century photography will be offered at Christie's **Photographs** sale on 18 May 2005 at King Street. The sale spans from the early developmental stages of the medium through to more recent works by such noted artists as Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon, with estimates ranging from £2,500 through to £60,000.

Exploring the history of early photography is a collection of rare works by the British inventor of the positive-negative photographic process, William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877). Originally from the collection of Mathilda T. Talbot, granddaughter of William Henry Fox Talbot, the nine lots were given to

the present owner in the mid 1940s and include *A Bush of Hydrangea in Flower, circa 1842* (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and *Oak Tree in Winter, circa 1842* (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

A special collection of over 50 photographs and ephemera from a descendent of Robert Murray (1798-1857) will also be offered. Murray was centrally placed within the orbit of early British photography and trained as a scientific instrument maker and chemist. He supplied chemical and physical materials for many early photographic experiments and knew all the major protagonists of early British photography, including the photographers whose works are offered in this collection. Among them are an early microphotograph of insect wings, *circa 1840* (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and an early varnished salt print of the Three Graces (estimate: £10,000-15,000), both by William Henry Fox Talbot.

Several works by British master Roger Fenton (1819-1869), who is widely recognized for his images of the Crimean War, will also be offered. This selection includes *Sebastopol from the Mortar Battery* (estimate £2,000-3,000), and *Sebastopol from Cathcart's Hill* (£2,000-3,000). This follows a major retrospective exhibition of Fenton which has just concluded at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and travels to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and to Tate Britain later this year.

Important 20th century images include a platinum print of *Tina Modotti, 1921* by Edward Weston (1886-1958) (estimate: £20,000-30,000), with proceeds to benefit the National Museum of Photography, Film, and Television, and two works by Diane Arbus (1923-1971), *Untitled No. 1, 1970-71* (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and *Triplets in Their Bedroom, N.J., 1963* (estimate: £8,000-12,000). A major retrospective of her work, organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, is now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and will be arriving at the Victoria & Albert Museum later this year.

Works by fashion and celebrity photographers will also be offered including one of history's most iconic fashion photographs, *Dovima with Elephants, Evening Dress by Dior, Cirque d'Hiver, Paris*, taken by Richard Avedon (1923-2004) in 1955 (estimate £20,000-30,000). Also featured is a vintage print of Helmut Newton's *Paloma Picasso, Saint-Tropez, 1973* (estimate: £10,000-15,000), published in *Vogue*, *Cindy Cranford with Berlioz, Monte Carlo, 1991* (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and *Elsa Peretti in Halston 'Bunny Girl' Costume, 1975* (estimate: £12,000-18,000). Cecil Beaton is represented by his famous photograph of *Marilyn Monroe* taken in 1956 and signed by Monroe (estimate: £3,000-4,000).

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's on the Web at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors

Viewing times:

Friday 13 May – 9am – 4:30pm

Sunday 15 May – 2pm - 5pm

Monday 16 May – 9am – 4:30pm

Tuesday 17 May – 9am – 8pm

The market remains consistent for works of outstanding quality by established artists and for the fresh, exciting visions of contemporary art photographers. Vintage and modern photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries are regularly featured in Christie's worldwide sales. Strong prices have been achieved for artists such as William Henry Fox Talbot, Roger Fenton, Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, Walker Evans, Bill Brandt, Diane Arbus, and Helmut Newton. Christie's now holds three Photographs sales in London every year, in May and November at King Street and also in November at South Kensington.