

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO STAGE EXCEPTIONAL EXHIBITION AND SALE OF WORKS BY DONALD JUDD

“Art is made as one lives... One person is a unity, and somehow, after the long complex process, a work of art is a similar unity”. *Donald Judd, 1983*

Donald Judd: Selected Works from the Judd Foundation May 9, 2006

New York - On May 9, as part of the *Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale*, Christie's New York will offer *Donald Judd: Selected Works from the Judd Foundation*, an ensemble of pieces by Donald Judd that reflects the full scope of the artist's career. The group is outstanding from more than one viewpoint. Not only will the Christie's pre-sale viewing constitute the largest presentation of Judd sculpture in the US since the retrospective show of the artist organized by the Whitney Museum in New York in 1988, the proceeds of the sale – expected to exceed \$20 million – will give new impetus to Judd Foundation as they will allow the Foundation to create the endowment necessary to work towards the realization of Donald Judd's vision for the Foundation.

“Judd Foundation is pleased to work with Christie's on this unprecedented sale which will provide the cornerstone of an endowment. These funds will help us to preserve the 16 permanently installed spaces in New York and Marfa, and enable us to undertake much needed work on our archives, publications and catalogue raisonné, thereby increasing public access to our collections,” commented Barbara Hunt McLanahan, Executive Director Judd Foundation.

“This is one of the most exciting projects devoted to a single artist that Christie's has ever undertaken. All the works that will be exhibited and offered for sale come from the artist's own holdings and have never been on the market. Their range and quality is extraordinary and we believe that the exhibition will set a new standard,” said Brett Gorvy, Deputy Chairman Christie's Americas and International Co-Head of the Post-War and Contemporary Art department.

Donald Judd is one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th century, whose ideas and work changed the course of modern sculpture. His art is form condensed to its main essence, which he expressed in a reductive language of pristine forms, bold colors, exacting proportions and a precise manipulation of space. Although Judd particularly favored industrial materials – steel, plexiglas, plywood – the appearance of his sculpture is extremely human, exuding a sense of classical beauty that is brought about by the tactile and personal nature of the work but also by its symmetrical qualities. “I long ago reached an agreement with what I consider the primary condition: art, for myself, and architecture, for everyone, should always be symmetrical except for a good reason,” Judd stated in 1985. In his combining of the artist/craftsman role, and his unwavering focus on space, Judd brings to mind the medieval cathedral builders, steadily creating and occupying space in the most equilibrated of ways. “Space is made by an artist or architect; it is not found and packaged. It is made by thought ... Sometimes when they [people] are traveling they enter a cathedral, recognize space, and thank God instead of the architect ... Space is so unknown that the only comparison is to the beliefs of the past,” Judd declared in 1993 in what would be his last essay ‘Some Aspects of Color in General and Red and Black in Particular.’

The works offered in the sale span Judd's entire artistic career. They range from his earliest free-standing pieces of 1962-63, and further include classic progressions, stacks, wall-pieces and monumental floor boxes in various metals and woods, culminating in a seminal six part plywood and Plexiglas wall-piece made a year before his untimely death in 1994. This sculpture is the center piece of the sale and will be offered with an estimate of \$2,000,000-3,000,000. Other highlights include two Cor-ten steel pieces: *Untitled* (92-7), six units with Plexiglas, executed in 1992 (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) and *Untitled* (91-15), four units with painted yellow backs, executed in 1991 (estimate: \$700,000-900,000). From the same year is *Untitled* (91-8), a bright red sculpture using painted plywood and aluminum (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). A number of these pieces were included in the acclaimed traveling survey of Judd's work organized by the Tate Modern in 2004-05.

To mark the unique occasion of having the largest group of Judd sculpture assembled in one space in the US since 1988, Christie's will exhibit the works on the 20th floor of 1230 Avenue of the Americas, at Rockefeller Center. The pieces will be shown in a space that will be specially designed for this purpose, remaining true to Judd's clearly articulated ideas regarding the important connection between art and its spatial context. In order to achieve the best possible reflection of Judd's vision, Flavin Judd, the artist's son, will be closely involved in the preparations of the space and the installation of the exhibition. The viewing will open on April 3 and will be accessible to the public throughout the five weeks leading up to the sale on May 9.

Judd Foundation is selling these works from their collection to create an endowment that will be used, in accordance with Donald Judd's last will and testament, to realize its mission to maintain and preserve his permanently installed living and working spaces, libraries and archives in New York and Marfa, Texas. For further information on Judd Foundation, visit www.juddfoundation.org.

Auction: Donald Judd: Selected Works from the Judd Foundation

May 9 at 7 p.m.

Viewing: Rockefeller Center, 20th Floor on 1230 Avenue of the Americas

April 3 – May 9

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *Donald Judd: Selected Works from the Judd Foundation* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.