

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

April 11, 2008

Contact: Milena Sales +1 212.636.2680

[msales@christies.com](mailto:msales@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S LEADS APRIL NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHS WEEK WITH RECORD  
BREAKING SALES TOTALING AN UNPRECEDENTED \$17.6 MILLION**

**New World Auction Records Set for Artists Irving Penn, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and William Eggleston**

**New York** – Totaling an extraordinary \$17,608,525, the highest total in auction history for the category, Christie's presented its most exciting week of Photographs sales. The five auctions held across two days: *Fine Photobooks*, *Photographs from the Collection of Gert Elfering Collection*, *Photographs by Diane Arbus from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman*, the *Photographs Sale* from various owners, and *the Ansel Adams Collection of Photographs*, collectively offered buyers the most versatile selection of photography. The unrivalled success of the sales, which were expected to realize in the region of \$14.8 million, have demonstrated unprecedented strength and maturity in a market that continues to inspire growth and interest. Combined with February's sale of Photographs, the spring season totals \$18,922,988, giving Christie's continued market leadership in the category.

“The Christie's Photographs department is delighted by the spectacular results achieved this week. We are pleased by the overwhelming response from collectors worldwide and their sustained appreciation for the diversity of the works presented. With these sales the breadth and scope of the market has been brought to new levels, and new auction records were set for numerous photographers, including notably Irving Penn, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and William Eggleston.” say Philippe Garner, International Head of Photographs and Joshua Holdeman, International Director of Photographs.

The sales kicked off with the remarkable collection of *Fine Photobooks*. Arguably the finest collection of its kind offered at auction to date, this sale realized \$2,602,450 against an estimate of \$1.5-2.2 million. Almost without exception, every book in this private collection was distinguished by superb condition and provenance. Most of the books offered were signed or inscribed by the photographers, linking some of the key figures of 20th-century photography. Highlights included Jindrich Styrsky, *Emilie pričazí ke mne ve snu, (Emily Comes to Me in a Dream), 1933* (Estimate: \$60,000-90,000), which sold for \$193,000 and *A complete set of artist's books, 1963-1978* by Ed Ruscha, (Estimate: \$60,000-90,000), which sold for \$121,000.

*Photographs from the Collection of Gert Elfering*, an established collector and tastemaker, sold for a total of \$4,373,200 against an estimate of \$2-3 million. The sale demonstrated the vibrant interest in fashion, beauty and high-style photography and collectors around the globe were enticed by the most stunning images of the past fifty years. Among the sale's top lots were the bold and breathtaking *Sie Kommen (Naked and Dressed), Paris, 1981*, by Helmut Newton, (Estimate: \$140,000-180,000) which sold for \$241,000 and Irving Penn's *Mouth for L'Oréal, New York, 1986*, dye-transfer print, which quadrupled its estimate and demanded \$205,000.

*The Bruce and Nancy Berman Collection of Photographs by Diane Arbus* achieved \$1,372,000 and was 100% sold. The collection highlighted some of Arbus's most iconic photographs; *Child selling plastic orchids at night, N.Y.C. 1963*, was the sale's top lot and went for \$115,000, and *A family on their lawn one Sunday in Westchester, N.Y. 1968*, (Estimate: \$40,000-60,000) achieved \$91,000.

The sale of Photographs by Ansel Adams from a California Collection totaled \$4,678,000 (Estimate \$3-4.5million). The works by the legendary American photographer saw heightened and competitive bidding from US buyers. The collection featured highlights from throughout Adams's distinguished career, and a mural print of Adams's stunning *Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite, 1944* (Estimate: \$250,000-350,000) sold for a staggering \$481,000.

The Photographs sale of various owners totaled \$4,682,875 and smashed records for some of the greatest image-makers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Two masterpieces by Irving Penn demonstrated the breadth and scope of his artistic output from opposite sides of his working spectrum and set unprecedented prices for the artist. The iconic *Black and White Vogue Cover, 1950* (Estimate: \$200,000-300,000) sold for \$481,000 and set a world record for the artist in the morning session; this was to be broken hours later in the afternoon session by his *Cuzco Children, 1948*

(Estimate: \$250,000-350,000), which achieved \$529,000 – the highest price at auction for a work by Penn.

Other highlights included Henri Cartier-Bresson's *Hyeres, France, 1932* (Estimate: \$60,000-90,000), which sold for \$265,000 – a world record for the artist and Robert Mapplethorpe, *Calla Lily*, 1988 (Estimate: \$100,000-150,000) which totaled \$265,000.

###

#### **Note to Editors**

Christie's International Photographs Department leads the world in the field of photograph auctions and offers clients unrivalled expertise. Capturing over half of the global auction market in 2007, the Department is led by Philippe Garner and Joshua Holdeman, who between them have 47 years experience. Supported by eight specialists working across two continents, the Department is the only major international auction house to hold sales in Paris, as well as in the traditional centers of New York and London. Bringing auctions closer to a discerning, international clientele, the Department ensures its stays at the forefront of this highly competitive and developing art market. A broad range of photographs, from 19th century through contemporary material make up Christie's worldwide sales and exceptional prices have been achieved for artists such as Ansel Adams, Diane Arbus Richard Avedon, Bill Brandt, Edward S. Curtis, William Eggleston, Walker Evans, Roger Fenton, Robert Frank, Robert Mapplethorpe, Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, Man Ray, Alfred Stieglitz, and William Henry Fox Talbot. Christie's now holds three annual Photographs sales in New York and in London - at King Street and South Kensington - as well as in Paris.

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

*Images available on request*

Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

