

## For Immediate Release

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# ***LIZ***

## WARHOL'S ICONIC PORTRAIT TO HEAD CHRISTIE'S POSTWAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART SALE

Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale  
November 13, 2007

*“She is a thing of our day, and whether we like her or wish for the old National Velvet girl,  
we cannot escape her, as we cannot escape soup or death”*

P. Bergin, “Andy Warhol: The Artist as Machine,” Art Journal, 1967

**New York** – On November 13, as one of the leading highlights of the *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale*, Christie’s will offer Andy Warhol’s turquoise-background *Liz (Colored Liz)*, 1963. Coolly sexy and stunningly beautiful, *Liz (Colored Liz)* is part of the series of portraits Warhol executed in the 1960s when his near-obsession with three legendary muses in his life – Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy – drove him to create some of the most iconic portraits of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Liz (Colored Liz)* is offered by a Private Collector and is expected to realize in excess of \$25 million.

Warhol’s celebrity portraits depict figures with larger-than-life personal myths who had achieved levels of stardom that the artist himself desperately coveted. He found his perfect subjects in the three glamorous and universally admired women that he obsessively painted over and over again

during the mid 1960s. Warhol himself acknowledged the macabre twist of the project as his attraction to fame came visibly bound with a deep fascination with the inevitable – death. He chose to portray his three semi-goddesses during times of utter distress and beyond. He embarked upon the Monroe series shortly after her suicide had been announced. He executed the Jackie paintings after her husband, President Kennedy, was assassinated. He idolized and immortalized Liz at a point in time when a severe illness led many to believe she would not survive. Death and disaster hide behind every extensive display of glitz and glamour – the eternal message.

However, the *Liz* portraits take a different stance as they eventually came to depict her recovery. Warhol described, “I started those a long time ago when she was so sick and everybody said she was going to die. Now I am doing them all over, putting bright colors on her lips and eyes.” The present painting, one of a series of twelve, is nothing if not alive – a superbly sophisticated turquoise background mimics and accentuates Liz’s eye shadow while blood-red lips splash verve into the image. In this sensuous fusion of colors, the spectator’s eyes inevitably lock into Liz’s which are of a deep, mesmerizing violet – her famous trademark.

Warhol, by now unanimously revered as one of the most influential, revolutionary and coveted artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has seen an electrifying development in his market over the past seasons, supported by a widening and truly global audience. Christie’s established a new world auction record for the artist on May 16 when *Green Car Crash (Green Burning Car I)* achieved \$71.7 million, more than quadrupling the previous record which had been set at Christie’s in November 2006 for *Mao* at \$17.4 million. Out of the ten most expensive Warhol paintings sold at auction, eight were handled by Christie’s for a total amount of \$187 million.

**Auction:** Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale November 13 at 7 p.m.

**Viewing:** London, Hong Kong, Moscow, Los Angeles, New York October, November

#### **Note to the editors:**

In September 2006, Christie’s announced it was selected as the auction house of record of film legend, philanthropist, HIV/AIDS activist and designer Dame Elizabeth Taylor. Through this exclusive partnership, all of her future auctions of jewelry, paintings, collectibles, furnishings, clothing and memorabilia will be offered exclusively through Christie’s (separate release available).

#### **About Christie’s**

Christie’s is the world’s leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of

32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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, cars 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 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 markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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*Images available on request*

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