

**For Immediate Release**

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**Christie's First Open Sale Offers a Stunning Selection of Contemporary Masters and Emerging Artists**



**First Open  
September 9, 2008**

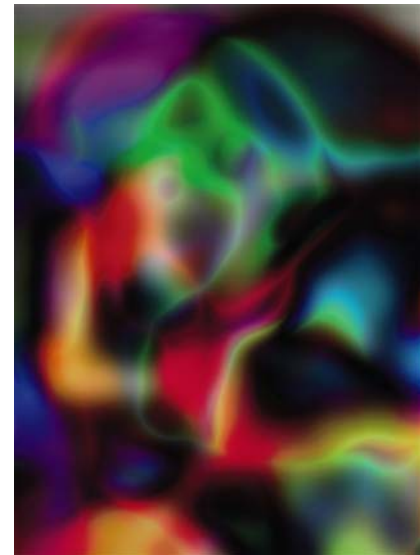
**New York, NY** – Christie's New York leads its fall season with the eighth edition of *First Open* on September 9, which includes over 230 lots of Post-War & Contemporary Art and is expected to realize in excess of \$6-8 million. *First Open* displays another stunning array of works for this highly anticipated and successful sale. Highlights of the sale include an exciting assortment of paintings, sculpture, drawings and photographs from both well-known and emerging artists. With estimates ranging from \$1,500 to \$500,000, *First Open* is an exceptional opportunity to acquire works at a variety of price points, whether you are building an existing collection or starting anew.

This season, emerging artists Rafal Bujnowski, Ernesto Caivano and James Siena will appear along established names such as Alexander Calder, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, Robert Motherwell, Elizabeth Peyton, Richard Prince, Thomas Ruff, Richard Serra, Cindy Sherman, James Turrell, Tom Wesselmann, and Andy Warhol.



Among the array of highlights is a rare photograph from celebrated contemporary artist Cindy Sherman. Her internationally exhibited *Untitled Film Still #13* (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) of 1978, is a singular edition of her renowned sixty-nine part series. Sherman began the series in 1977, when she was twenty-three, creating an elaborate universe of different roles played by the contemporary woman. The *Stills* appear to function like actual film stills – luring the viewer into what appears to be a moment captured in a narrative drama. However, the scene becomes all the more compelling when the viewer realizes that it is not a film still, but a single staged moment.

The sale also features a large scale composition by American artist, David Salle. Salle's *Nouns* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) of 2003, is made up of twenty-four carefully created elements, appearing to be a multi-faceted collage. The thoughtful juxtaposition of scenes makes up a collective work of vibrant colors and mixed subject matter. Each element is supremely crafted and has the ability to function alone, but together, the scenes create a dynamic dialogue of images and color.



Another highlight is *Substrat 7III* (estimate: \$50,000-70,000), a vibrant and abstract creation by the cutting-edge artist, Thomas Ruff, executed in 2002.



The Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is also represented with several important works. In *A Signpost to 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), executed in 1988, the intricate geometric patterns appear to move across the canvas, creating a dynamic interplay of shapes and color.

Elizabeth Peyton, famous for her iconic portraits of friends, celebrities and musicians, will be represented by *Jarvis* (estimate: \$30,000-40,000), executed in 1996, of musician Jarvis Cocker. Richard Prince will also be featured by his cast orange urethane *Flip Flops* (estimate: \$25,000-\$30,000), executed in 1998.

In addition, the sale will also feature several lots by Jeff Koons, including his stainless-steel *Donkey* (estimate: \$25,000-\$35,000), executed in 1997 as well as his *Inflatable Flower Sculpture (Green)* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) of 2001.



The First Open sale will be on view in Christie's New York galleries together with the Contemporary Design viewing from 5 September – 8 September, 2008.

**Auction:** September 9, at 10 a.m.

**Viewing:** September 5-8, Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

More information about Christie's sale of *First Open* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://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.

### About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totaled £1.8 million / \$3.5 billion. 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, Hong Kong and Zurich. 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.

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*Images available on request*

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