

**For Immediate Release**

16 September 2008

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**THE ITALIAN SALE**  
**London pays tribute to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Art**



Pino Pascali (1935-1968)  
*Ponte (Bridge)*  
Braided steel wool, 315x39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>x35<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. (cm 800x100x90)  
Executed 1968  
Estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000

**London** - On 20 October, Christie's will present the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of **The Italian Sale** in its historical salerooms in London. This annual auction will offer an exceptional selection of twentieth century Italian Art by the most renowned and internationally sought-after artists including Alberto Burri, Giorgio de Chirico, Lucio Fontana, Mario Merz and Pino Pascali. The sale is part of a series of exhibitions, events and auctions dedicated to Post-War and Contemporary art and 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian art which will take place at Christie's London from 15 to 21 October 2008 during a week when the international art world will gather in London for a showcase of contemporary art exhibitions and events including *The Frieze Art Fair*.

**Mariolina Bassetti**, head of the Modern & Contemporary Art department at Christie's Italy and co-head of the sale: "*20<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Art has tremendous appeal in the international marketplace. In recent years interest in this category has grown enormously and artists such as Fontana, Manzoni and Burri are more and more appreciated by important collectors worldwide. The catalogue for our forthcoming Italian Sale includes a number of works created by some of the best Italian artists from last century including "Ponte", one of the most iconic works by Pino Pascali which we expect to set a new auction record for the artist.*"

Christie's Italian Sale will be lead by one of the most relevant art movements in post-war Italy, the **Arte Povera**. A major highlight is *Ponte*, an extraordinary installation created by Pino **Pascali** in 1968 using braided steel wool (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000.) Part of a series

of works through which the artist meant to explore the primitive world, *Ponte* comes directly from the collection of Fabio Sargentini. Founder of L'Attico gallery in Rome, Sargentini launched the careers of many artists whose work can be seen in the most important museums around the world today.



The sale will also offer *Untitled* by Jannis **Kounellis** from 1960 (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and *Fibonacci*, an installation created in 1972 in New York by Mario **Merz** (estimate: £100,000-150,000.) Works by Giuseppe **Penone**, Gilberto **Zorio** and Giovanni **Anselmo**, whose estimates range between £30,000 and £150,000 will also be offered for sale.

Dated from the same period, though radically different in genre and concept, *Partizione centrale* (right) is a large canvas painted with oil colors and sand by Domenico **Gnoli** in 1969 (estimate £250,000-350,000). Also of particular interest is *Superficie bianca* created in 1968 by Enrico **Castellani** (estimate: £200,000-300,000), which comes from the renowned Galleria dell'Ariete in Milan, and *Untitled* by Agostino **Bonalumi** from 1966, the only example in the artist's oeuvre to reunite all the themes he explored in 1960s.



Executed by Lucio **Fontana** in 1965-66, *Concetto Spaziale, Attesa* will be offered with an estimate of £500,000-700,000 (above left.) Created a few years earlier are two more works by Fontana both titled *Concetto spaziale*: one is dated 1962 and was created using brass (estimate: £350,000-550,000), the second is a black and yellow painting on canvas from 1957 (estimate £250,000-350,000.) Dated from the end of the 1950s, an excellent *Achrome* by Piero **Manzoni** is expected to realise £1,500,000-2,000,000 (left) and *Cavaliere in blu*, a painting by Marino **Marini** created in 1952 carries an estimate of £400,000-600,000.

Also included in the sale is the very sophisticated *Still Life* painted by Giorgio **Morandi** (right) *circa* 1948 which is offered from the private collection of the artist Giacomo Manzù (estimate: £400,000-600,000.) The popularity of this great Bolognese painter is demonstrated by *Giorgio Morandi, 1890-1964*, the first complete retrospective exhibition dedicated to his work from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art in the U.S.A. which will take place from 16 September to 14 November 2008.





Created by Alberto **Burri** in 1953 using Pumice-stone, canvas, oil colors, paint and glue on plywood, *Rosso* (left) is considered to be a noteworthy work in the artist's œuvre (£800,000-1,200,000.) Strongly related to his famous *Sacchi*, this work also comes from the important collection of the Galleria dell'Ariete.

Other leading highlights to be offered at Christie's Italian Sale include *Piazza d'Italia*, two works by the celebrated metaphysical artist Giorgio **de Chirico**: the paintings were created at the end of the 1930s (estimate £300,000-400,000 each). Christie's are pleased to announce the important rediscovery of *Sewing Lady* by Umberto Boccioni from 1906 (right). This exceptional painting belongs to the artist's *Divisionist* period and is estimated to realise £250,000-350,000.



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The auctions will take place at the newly refurbished salerooms at Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, and are scheduled as follows:

Sunday 19 October at 4pm	<i>Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale</i>
Monday 20 October at 7pm	<i>The Italian Sale</i>
Tuesday 21 October at 10.00am and 2pm	<i>Post-War and Contemporary Art</i>

The public exhibitions for the sales will take place as follows:

<i>Post-War and Contemporary Art:</i>	15 to 19 October 2008 at Christie's South Kensington
<i>The Italian Sale:</i>	15 to 20 October 2008 at Christie's King Street

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*Images available on request*  
*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium