

**For immediate release**

18 September 2008

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**CHRISTIE'S ANNUAL AUCTION OF SWISS ART TO OFFER  
THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK BY FISCHLI /WEISS  
EVER OFFERED AT AUCTION**

***THE WAY THINGS GO (1987) – AN ICON OF SWISS  
CONTEMPORARY ART***



**Zurich** – At the annual auction of Swiss Art in Zurich on 1 December 2008, Christie's will offer the most important work by Swiss artists Peter Fischli and David Weiss ever presented at auction; the installation *Der Lauf der Dinge*, 1987 (*The way things go*, 1987) and the 16mm reel of the iconic short film *Der Lauf der Dinge*, 1987 (*The way things go*, 1987), one of the most viewed art videos of all times which brought the artists instant international recognition when it first was presented at the Kassel *documenta 8* in 1987.

*The way things go*, 1987 (estimate SFr. 900,000-1,500,000) will be offered by Swiss collector Alfred Richterich and will be sold to benefit the Alfred Richterich foundation which has supported cultural and charitable projects and initiatives in Switzerland for two decades.

The film *The way things go* was the crowd-pulling piece when it was presented alongside its *'Making of'* video at the Fischli/Weiss Retrospective at Tate Modern in 2007. It is set in a warehouse, where the artists document an epic half-hour chain reaction featuring simple mundane objects – string, soap, styrofoam cups, rubber tires, pails, bottles, balloons, mattresses

and a variety of corrosive and flammable liquids. Some objects hesitate, as if reflecting upon what it is they are about to do, and thereby become anthropomorphised, operating like ideosyncratic cartoon characters.

The installation *The way things go* (1987) was put together after the filming. Fischli/Weiss selected around 40 of their “main actors” and preserved these sculptural centrepieces in two 145 x 145 x 57 cm showcases. The installation went to the private collection of Swiss entrepreneur Alfred Richterich.

Some of the pieces such as the famous *beetle* – a drinking bottle flanked by two knives mounted on a roller skate – were occasionally singled out and charmed millions of visitors at international exhibitions such as the Tate Modern Retrospective in 2007. But the complete installation was only three times shown publicly – 1988 in the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel, 1992 in the Centre Pompidou Paris and in 1993 in the Kunsthau Aarau. At Christie’s Zurich it will be on public view from 6 – 25 November 2008.

René Lahn, Specialist for Post War and Contemporary Art Christie’s Zurich: “Christie’s is honoured to offer this iconic piece of Swiss Contemporary art from a Swiss collection to an international audience of private collectors and institutions at the annual auction of Swiss art in Zurich. We are proud to be able to exhibit this work to the public for almost a month before the sale.”

Alfred Richterich: “It’s the new generation of Swiss artists who should benefit from the sale of this exceptional piece of Swiss art. The focus of the Alfred Richterich foundation lies on contemporary art projects, which we support with more than half of our annual funds.”

The public viewing of the installation at Christie’s Zurich will be kicked off with a lecture by Patrick Frey, the Swiss publisher and director of the “The way things go - Making Of” video, which was screened for the first time alongside the film at the Fischli/Weiss retrospectives at the Kunsthau Zurich and the Tate Modern in 2007.

Please find a link to the film trailer below. [http://www.tcfilm.ch/pop\\_lauf1.htm](http://www.tcfilm.ch/pop_lauf1.htm)

### **Auction SwissArt**

1 December 2008

Kunsthau Zürich (Great lecture hall), Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

### **Exhibition of the installation *The way things go* (1987)**

6 – 25 November 2008

Christie’s Zurich, Steinwiesplatz, CH-8032 Zurich

**Lecture Patrick Frey *The way things go***

5 November 2008

Christie's Zurich, Steinwiesplatz, CH-8032 Zurich

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*Images available on request.  
Christie's online: [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 totalled £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 totalled £1.8 billion / \$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.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium