

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Milena Sales 212.636.2680 [msales@christies.com](mailto:msales@christies.com)  
Sung-Hee Park 212.636.2680 [spark@christies.com](mailto:spark@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER TWO EXTRAORDINARY  
SINGLE OWNER COLLECTIONS  
IN A STAND ALONE EVENING SALE**

**THE MODERN AGE: PROPERTY FROM THE HILLMAN FAMILY COLLECTION  
AND THE COLLECTION OF ALICE LAWRENCE TO BE AUCTIONED AT  
CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON 5 NOVEMBER**



**New York** – Christie's will pay tribute to the Modern Age with two extraordinary American collections, *The Hillman Family Collection* and *The Collection of Alice Lawrence*, in a dedicated Evening Sale on Wednesday, November 5. A landmark event and a true connoisseur's auction, the two single owner sales will kick-off the season, and will be followed by Christie's various owner Evening Sales (November 6 and November 12). *The Modern Age: Property from the Hillman Family Collection* and *The Collection of Alice Lawrence* will offer an exceptional ensemble of key works by the most emblematic artists spanning a century of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. The November 5

sale brings together works by Édouard Manet, Paul Cézanne, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaïm Soutine, Giorgio de Chirico, René Magritte, Mark Rothko, Morris Louis, Milton Avery, and Arthur Dove with decorative works of art by Louis Comfort Tiffany and elegant designs by Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, Jean Dunand and Pierre Chareau. The combined total of the collections is expected to be in the region of \$130 million.

According to Marc Porter, President of Christie's Americas, "*Christie's is honored to have been entrusted with the sale of these magnificent American collections. The Hillman Family Collection and The Collection of Alice Lawrence were amassed by connoisseurs whose ravishing selections were driven by passion, intellectual curiosity, and exquisite taste, to form some of the best groupings of works representing the Modern era.*"

### **Property from the Hillman Family Collection**

Alex and Rita K. Hillman were passionate art collectors, and together amassed an outstanding compilation of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings, drawings, and sculptures. Their renowned collection traveled extensively to major exhibitions and works from it were often on public view at major institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum. When Mr. Hillman passed away in 1968, Mrs. Hillman continued her passion and patronage of the arts as the President of the Alex Hillman Family Foundation. In 1989, Mrs. Hillman sold a painting by Pablo Picasso titled *Mère et Enfant* for \$18.7 million dollars at auction. With the proceeds from this sale The Alex Hillman Foundation started the Hillman/Penn Nursing Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania, which would ultimately facilitate the careers of over 1,000 nurses.

Many of the key works featured illustrate the importance of portraiture throughout the artistic movements that anticipated and marked 20<sup>th</sup> century art. Among the highlights of *The Hillman Family Collection* is a truly remarkable work by Édouard Manet, *Fillette sur un banc*, 1880 (estimate: \$12-18 million) – pictured on page 1, far left. *Fillette sur un banc* is a revealing window into the culminating stage of Manet's career. It was during this stage that this complex and resolutely independent artist refreshed his vision and renewed his work, informing his style with the most advanced developments of his day. His handling here also suggests that he was carrying these ideas even further, and indeed this painting offers a glimpse of the painter Manet might have ultimately become, had he not died at the age of 51.

Another highlight is Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, *Portrait de Henri Nocq*, 1887 (estimate: \$6-8 million) - pictured right. Painted in 1897 in the artist's studio, *Portrait de Henri Nocq* is the last of an important series of standing male portraits made over the course of Toulouse-Lautrec's career.



Amedeo Modigliani's *Portrait de Hanka Zborowska*, 1916 (estimate: \$6-9 million) captures the patient, forbearing and capable wife of Modigliani's dealer, Léopold Zborowski. This portrait is the first of eleven that Modigliani painted of her between late 1916 and 1919.

Another notable work is Giorgio de Chirico's masterful *Composition Métaphysique*, 1914 (estimate: \$6-8 million) - pictured on page 1, center left. The title of the work refers to de Chirico's signature style - his philosophical contemplation of symbolic objects and signs, a highly intuitive and personal approach to painting that set him apart from the prevailing modes of Cubism and Futurism.

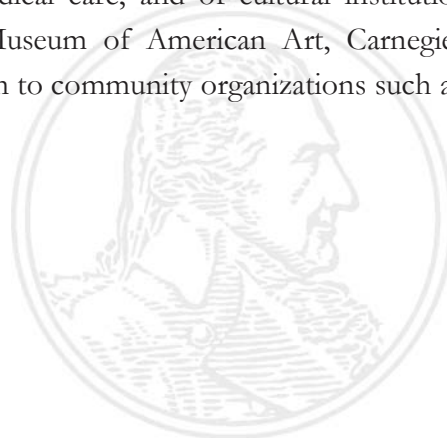
The sale will also feature masterworks by Paul Cézanne, *Le Cathédrale d'Aix vue de l'atelier des Lauves*, 1904-1906, a shimmering late watercolor landscape (estimate \$4-6 million), and Fernand Léger, *Etude pour Le modèle nu dans l'atelier*, 1912 (estimate: \$3.5-4.5 million), a twilling and kinetic example of the artist's early style.



A Post-War period highlight is Jean Dubuffet's *Vue de Paris, quartiers résidentiels*, 1944 (estimate: \$3-4 million) -pictured left. An early example of the artist's distinctive approach to painting, *Vue de Paris, quartiers résidentiels* reveals a masterly command of dissonant harmonies in Dubuffet's colorful application of paint. It is also a wonderful evocation of the French capital, seething with the sights of city life.

### **The Collection of Alice Lawrence**

Known for her unerring eye and discerning taste, Alice Lawrence combined an independent spirit and a love of 20<sup>th</sup> century art and design to form a refined and distinct collection. An accomplished designer, Mrs. Lawrence had a highly sophisticated style that has been acknowledged throughout the art world, and celebrated by publications such as *New York Magazine*. Mrs. Lawrence is dually recognized for the generous contributions made by the Alice Lawrence Foundation, which has played a significant role in the support of medical care, and of cultural institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Carnegie Hall, and the National Gallery in Washington D.C., in addition to community organizations such as City Meals on Wheels and Visiting Nurses.



*The Collection of Alice Lawrence* reflects the major movements of the 20th century in both Europe and The United States at their best: bold works of Cubism, sophisticated examples of Surrealism, lyrical compositions from the Stieglitz Circle, and majestic canvases of Abstract Expressionism and Color Field painting. These great works are complemented by a selection of decorative arts, which include lamps by Louis Comfort Tiffany and elegant design by Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, Jean Dunand and Pierre Chareau.

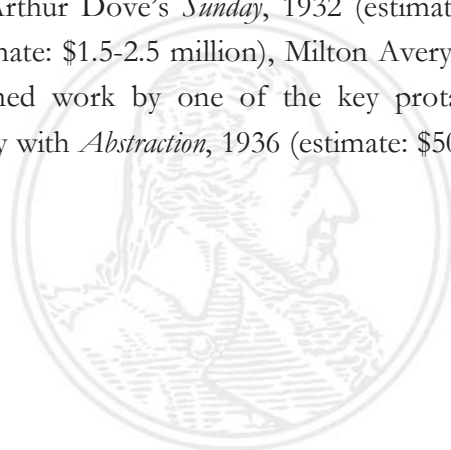
One of the primary highlights from the selection of Post-War works is a painting by Mark Rothko, *No 43 (Mauve)*, 1960 (estimate: \$20-30 million) - pictured on page 1, far right. Dominated by a dark, nocturnal palette, and velvety hues, *No 43 (Mauve)* absorbs the viewer into a world of layered complexity and evocative moods. The sensuous treatment of the paint and its intensity and gradations of tone and color evoke the mystical and spiritual qualities that characterize Rothko's most emblematic works.

The Modern category is well represented with a range of extraordinary works by artists including Fernand Léger, René Magritte, and Arthur Dove. Fernand Léger's *Les Dansesuses aux cils*, 1928 (estimate: \$2-3 million) – pictured right, belongs to a pivotal series of the artist's late 1920's canvases. This painting is one of the earliest examples of Leger's juxtaposition of floating figures and objects, an aesthetic which defined his work in the 1930's.



The sale offers three exciting works by René Magritte, including *L'Empire des lumières*, 1947 (estimate: \$2-3 million) - a remarkable example of one of Magritte's most sought after themes. Characterized by its mysteriously lit nocturnal street scene and sunlit clouds, Magritte's captivating *L'Empire des lumières* paintings have been highly coveted by collectors for over sixty years, the first of its kind being famously acquired by Nelson Rockefeller in January of 1950. Magritte's auction world record continues to be held by a painting from the series sold at Christie's in 2002.

Additional highlights include American artist Arthur Dove's *Sunday*, 1932 (estimate: \$900,000-1.2 million) and *Cinder Barge and Derrick*, 1931 (estimate: \$1.5-2.5 million), Milton Avery's *Morning Talk*, 1963 (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), and a refined work by one of the key protagonists of the Abstract Expressionist movement Arshile Gorky with *Abstraction*, 1936 (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) - pictured on page 1, center right.





Drenched in diaphanous veils of luminous color, Morris Louis's *Untitled*, 1959-1960 (estimate: \$2-3 million) - pictured left, is one of the most important paintings by Louis to come onto the auction market. The virtuosity of Louis's technique is demonstrated in full force here, in both the unprecedented clarity of color and the way it seems almost disembodied, not mitigated by brushwork or any other signs of the artist's hand.

*The Collection of Alice Lawrence* is complimented by breathtaking masterpieces by some of the most individualistic and exquisite designers of the 20th century and will offer decorative works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, Pierre Chareau. This section is highlighted by an elegant Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann by palissandre, in ivory, silvered-bronze and galuchat *Bonheur de Jour*, circa 1923 (estimate: \$120,000-180,000) and a lacquered metal and gilt-bronze 'Cobra' *Bonbonnière*, circa 1925 by Jean Dunand (estimate: \$50,000-70,000) - pictured right.



<b>Auction:</b>	<b>The Modern Age: Property from the Hillman Family Collection</b>	<b>November 5</b>
	<b>The Collection of Alice Lawrence</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>Viewing:</b>	<b>Christie's Hong Kong</b>	<b>October 6- 8</b>
	<b>Christie's Moscow</b>	<b>October 14-15</b>
	<b>Christie's London</b>	<b>October 22-24</b>
	<b>Christie's Abu Dhabi</b>	<b>October 25-26</b>
	<b>Christie's Rockefeller Galleries</b>	<b>October 30- November 4</b>

#### **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

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Images available on request  
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