

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER EXQUISITE PHOTOGRAPHS
IN NEW YORK THIS OCTOBER**

*Christie's to present the fifth sale of Photographs from the Collection of
Bruce and Nancy Berman*



THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE – October 7, 2011

Dorothea Lange
Guilty, Alameda County Courthouse. 1955
Estimate: \$6,000-8,000



PHOTOGRAPHS – October 6, 2011

Ansel Adams
Aspens, Northern New Mexico, 1958
Estimate: \$150,000-250,000

New York — In October, Christie's New York will present two remarkable Photograph sales comprised of important works by eminent photographers such as **Ansel Adams**, **Dorothea Lange** and **Robert Frank**. In addition to the various owners *Photographs* sale, Christie's is pleased to offer *The American Landscape*, *Black and White Photographs from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman* – the fifth auction of photographs from the illustrious collection, which includes an exceptional selection of black and white prints with a traditional American focus. The October sales are expected to generate a combined \$5.4 - 8 million.

The American Landscape: Black and White Photographs from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman

On October 7, Christie's will offer *The American Landscape: Black and White Photographs from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman*. The Berman collection was first entrusted to Christie's in 2008, and has been the focus of four enormously successful auctions over the last several years. This fifth sale, on October 7, is a dynamic selection of vintage and modern prints with a uniquely American flavor reflecting the collector's distinct sensibility in forming the collection. *The Berman Collection* is one of the largest and most important of its kind to have been amassed in the United States, with a depth of photographs by artists that figure prominently in the history of 20th century art. This sale will be highlighted by important examples from pioneers of the medium such as Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans and Manuel-Alvarez Bravo.



Among the highlights is **Walker Evans' Photographer's Display Window, Birmingham, Alabama**, (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) – *pictured above, right*, a unique and captivating image by the artist. Taken through the glass of a rural photographer's display window, this photograph becomes a poignant composite of the American physiognomy and offers an intimate glimpse into the lifeblood of the American South during the Great Depression.



The sale will also incorporate a comprehensive survey of emblematic photographs, with an excellent selection of work from **Dorothea Lange** including, *Funeral Cortège, End of an Era in a Small Valley Town, 1938* (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) and cover lot *Guilty, Alameda County Courthouse, 1955* (estimate: \$6,000-8,000) – *pictured pg. 1, left*, **Robert Frank's** *Première in Hollywood, 1956* (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), **Lee Friedlander's** *Kentucky, 1977* (estimate: \$10,000 - \$15,000) – *pictured left*, and **Henry Wessel's** *Night Walk No 28, Los Angeles, 1995* (estimate: \$7,000-9,000). Images illustrated in table on pg 3.

Additional Highlights from *The American Landscape: Black and White Photographs from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman* include:



DOROTHEA LANGE

Funeral Cortège, End of an Era in a Small Valley Town, 1938
gelatin silver print, printed c. 1950s
Estimate: \$30,000 - 50,000



ROBERT FRANK

Première in Hollywood, 1956
oversized gelatin silver print, printed 1970s
Estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000



HENRY WESSEL

Night Walk No. 28, Los Angeles, 1995
gelatin silver print
\$7,000 - 9,000



BRUCE DAVIDSON

Studies from Brooklyn Gang, 1959
2 gelatin silver prints, printed 1998
Estimate: \$6,000 - 8,000

Photographs: Various Owners

On October 6, Christie's New York will showcase a broad range of photographs from the early 20th century through to the present day. As the market for the medium continues to flourish, Christie's is committed to offering a carefully curated group of desirable prints. Highlights include important photographs from private collections across the globe, and by artists such as **Ansel Adams**, **Eugène Atget**, **W. Eugene Smith**, **Robert Frank**, **Vik Muniz**, **William Eggleston**, **Lee Friedlander**, **Robert Adams**, **Irving Penn** and **Richard Avedon**. Overall, the sale contains 298 lots with a projected sale total of between \$4.5 – 6.8 million.



The work of **Ansel Adams** is very well-represented in the sale, including the top lot, *Clearing Storm, Sonoma County Hills, 1951* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) – pictured on following page, left, which encompasses five remarkable gelatin silver print enlargements, originally created as a folding screen for

installation in a Sonoma County ranch. Throughout his career, Adams produced only twelve to fifteen decorative screens. Most of these screens now reside within the collections of museums and other institutions, or remain with the artist's family. Several screens are missing and may have been destroyed over the years or, as in the case of the present lot, altered to fit into a new environment. In their present form, the panels retain their extraordinary visual impact. This is a highly important and extraordinarily rare work of art, with significant provenance. Adams will also be represented by the mural sized *Aspens, Northern New Mexico, 1958* (estimate: \$150,000-250,000) – pictured pg. 1, right, as well as extraordinary and rarely offered five-part *Surf Sequence, A-E, 1940* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) – illustrated on table on page 5.

Christie's is also very pleased to include an outstanding group of photographs by **W. Eugene Smith** in this sale. Being offered for the first time, these works were acquired directly from the artist's estate. Many of the best and most popular of Smith's images are represented here in carefully chosen examples of superb print quality and condition, many of which were deemed by Smith himself to be his best prints. Among the



highlights is *The Walk to Paradise Garden, 1946* (\$20,000-30,000) – shown above, right, which beguilingly depicts Smith's children in what he described as his "signature photograph." Additional works include *Spanish Spinner, 'Spanish Village', Life, April 9, 1951* (estimate: \$15,000-25,000), *Mad Eyes, Haiti, 1958-1959* (\$8,000-12,000) and *Albert Schweitzer, Aspen, Life, July 25, 1949* (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) – pictured left.



The catalogue's cover lot, **Eugène Atget's** *Chiffonnier, le matin, avenue des Gobelins, 13ème; and Roulotte, 1899* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) – *Chiffonnier* pictured left, is included among a selection of eight lots that have remained with the same family since 1902. All eight examples represent Atget's rare portrayal of the Parisian street trade, which captured the lives of working class people in Paris at the turn of the century, including artisans, ragpickers and prostitutes.



The sale is also highlighted by a collection of 10 extremely important works by **Robert Frank**, acquired directly from the artist, including *Fourth of July - Jay, New York, 1956* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) – pictured right, *Charleston, S.C., 1956* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) – pictured in table on page 6, and *London, 1951* (\$90,000-120,000).



Additional important highlights include a very strong selection of works by **Peter Beard** with an oversized *Bull Eland Passing Elephants Digging Water, near Kathamula Tsavo, North, for The End of the Game, February 1965* (\$80,000-120,000) – pictured left, **Vik Muniz's** early portfolio, *The Best of Life* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), a group of 10 gelatin silver prints portraying the artist's memory-renderings of the iconic images from *Life Magazine* created from his memory, and a particularly compelling group of

vintage prints by **Lee Friedlander**, including the highly sought-after *Galax, Va., 1962* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).

Images illustrated in table on page 6.

Additional highlights from the Various Owners Photograph Auction:



ANSEL ADAMS

Surf Sequence, A-E, 1940

5 gelatin silver prints, printed 1960s

Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



ROBERT FRANK
Charleston, S.C., 1956
 gelatin silver print, printed c. 1970
 Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



LEE FRIEDLANDER
Galax, Va., 1962
 gelatin silver print
 Estimate: \$40,000-60,000



WILLIAM EGGLESTON
Summer, Mississippi, c. 1970
 dye-transfer print, printed 2001
 Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



VIK MUNIZ
The Best of Life, 1989-1995
 10 gelatin silver prints
 Estimate: \$80,000-120,000



ALFRED EISENSTAEDT
Children at a Puppet Theatre, Paris, 1933
 gelatin silver print, printed later
 Estimate: \$25,000-35,000



GERHARD RICHTER
Untitled, 1989
 chromogenic print with oil paint handwork
 Estimate: \$10,000-15,000



GREGORY CREWDSON
Untitled (Beer Dreams), from Twilight, 1998
 chromogenic print
 Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



HIROSHI SUGIMOTO (B. 1948)
Studio Drive-In, Culver City, 1993
 gelatin silver print
 Estimate: \$25,000-35,000

Auctions: October 6 - 7, 2011

Viewing: October 1-5 at Christie's Rockefeller Center galleries

Photographs

Auction Times

Oct 6, 2011 – 10am & 2pm

Viewing Times

Oct 1 10am - 5pm

Oct 2 1pm - 5pm

Oct 3 10am - 5pm

Oct 4 10am - 5pm

Oct 5 10am - 5pm

The American Landscape:

Black and White Photographs from the Collection of Bruce and Nancy Berman

Auction Times:

Oct 7, 2011 – 10am

Viewing Times

Oct 1 10am - 5pm

Oct 2 1pm - 5pm

Oct 3 10am - 5pm

Oct 4 10am - 5pm

Oct 5 10am - 5pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 450 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More 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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