

**For Immediate Release**  
14 October 2011

**CHRISTIE'S**

Contacts: Cristiano de Lorenzo +44 (0) 20 7389 2283  
Matthew Paton +44 (0) 20 7389 2965

[cdelorenzo@christies.com](mailto:cdelorenzo@christies.com)  
[mpaton@christies.com](mailto:mpaton@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S EVENING AUCTIONS  
OF  
*POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART*  
AND  
*THE ITALIAN SALE***

**TOTAL £55.6 MILLION / \$87.6 MILLION / €63.4 MILLION**



**London** - The evening auctions of *Post-War & Contemporary Art Auction* and *The Italian Sale* realised a combined total of £55,630,000 / \$87,672,880 / €63,473,83, the second highest total for an October sale in London.

The top price of the evening was paid for Gerhard Richter's seminal *Kerze (Candle)* painted in 1982, which after a fierce bidding battle was sold for £10,457,250 / \$16,480,626 / €11,931,722, a world record price for the artist at auction.

In total 10 lots for over £1 million and 20 lots for over \$1 million.

9 artist records were set.

The corresponding auctions in October 2010 realised a combined total of £38.2 million / \$61.2 million / €43.4 million, with 6 lots selling for over £1 million and 18 for over \$1 million.

## POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART

This evening's *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction* realized a total of **£38,070,350 / \$59,998,872 / €43,438,269** against a pre-sale estimate in the region of £30 million, selling **92% by value** and **89% by lot**.

Buyer breakdown (by lot) was 49% Europe including the UK, 38% Americas and 13% Asia.

7 lots sold for over £1 million / 12 for over \$1 million.

In total, **44% of lots sold above estimate** and **record prices** at auction were established for 7 artists; Ahmad Alsoudani, Joe Bradley, Antony Gormley, Karen Kilimnik, Albert Oehlen and Gerhard Richter.

**Francis Outred, International Director and Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art, Christie's Europe:**

*“This week we saw London become the epicentre of the art world - a trend reflected at this evening's auctions. The global Post-War & Contemporary art team gathered an auction of great quality and worked tirelessly to ensure that buyers from over 15 different countries, including a significant number of Asian collectors, competed for the works on offer. This is best illustrated by Gerhard Richter's 'Kerze' – an absolute masterpiece that had last been seen in public in 1986. Coinciding with the artist's Retrospective at Tate Modern, there was a huge interest in this work which represents to me the pinnacle of the series. The opportunity drew 4 or 5 bidders who drove the price to a worthy record of £10.5 million. As well as Richter, we were particularly pleased to establish world record prices for a number of both new and established artists including Ahmed Alsoudani, Antony Gormley, Joe Bradley, Karen Kilimnik, Zhang Dali and Albert Oehlen. This evening the buyers at both auctions were dominated by private collectors who, diligent but confident in the art market, continued to seize the chance to acquire works of art of the best quality and rarity.”*

Highlights of this evening's sale included:

- *Kerze (Candle)*, an icon of **Gerhard Richter's** painterly practice and one of the finest examples from the artist's series of candle paintings realized between 1982 and 1983 which sold for **£10,457,250 / \$16,480,626 / €11,931,722**, a world record price for the artist at auction and the top price for any work in the Evening Sale. All five works by Gerhard Richter in the sale achieved a combined total of **£13,023,850**.

- Great masterpieces of British sculpture were heavily sought after:

**Antony Gormley's** iconic *Angel of the North* (1996), sold for **£3,401,250 / \$5,360,370 / €3,880,826**, a world record price for the artist at auction.

Executed in 1994, **Damien Hirst's** *Judas Iscariot*, an important, early example from the artist's Natural History series and originally part of The Twelve Disciples, in which Hirst re-interprets the Last Supper in his own contemporary vernacular of bulls' heads suspended in formaldehyde tanks, achieved **£993,250 / \$1,565,362 / €1,133,298**, twice its estimate.

*Man Under Cardigan* by **Ron Mueck**, the consummate observer and flawless imitator of life, sold for **£601,250 / \$947,570 / €686,026**. Executed the year after his meteoric rise to national prominence with the presentation of *Dead Dad* at Sensation, this work is one of the artist's early and pioneering sculptures.

- **Ahmed Alsoudani's** *Baghdad I* (2008) sold for over twice its estimate at **£713,250 / \$1,124,082 / €813,818**, a world record price for the artist at the auction.

- *Untitled* by **Martin Kippenberger** (1990) sold for: **£1,329,250 / \$2,094,898 / €1,516,674**, a world record price for a sculpture by the artist at auction.

## THE ITALIAN SALE

The *Italian Sale* achieved **£17,559,650 / \$27,674,008 / €20,035,561** against a pre-sale estimate in excess of £15 million. It was **78% sold by value** and **70% sold by lot**.

The top price was paid for *Achrome* by **Piero Manzoni** (1958-1959) which sold for **£3,289,250 / \$5,183,858 / €3,753,034**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest price for a work by the artist at auction.

Buyer breakdown (by lot) was 34% Italy, 28% rest of Europe, 34% Americas and 4% Asia.

3 lots sold for over £1 million / 8 for over \$1 million.

2 artist **records** were set during the sale, for works by Domenico Gnoli and Arnaldo Pomodoro.

**Mariolina Bassetti, Vice Chairman of Christie's Italy, International Director in the Post-War & Contemporary Art Department and Head of the Sale:** “We were pleased to see Italian Post-War & Contemporary Art attract an international group of bidders tonight including buyers from 11 different countries. Global interest was raised in particular by artists such as Manzoni and Fontana, as well as by Boetti, Morandi and Gnoli, whose ‘Busto femminile di dorso’ set a new record price for the artist at auction, beating the previous one also achieved at a Christie's London sale last June.”

### Highlights of the Italian Sale included:

- *Achrome* (1958-1959) by **Piero Manzoni**, a rare example of his most celebrated series sold for **£4,289,250 / \$5,183,858 / €3,753,034** (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000).
- *Tutto* (1988) by **Alighiero Boetti**, a vast and detailed embroidered canvas stretching over two and half metres long, one of the largest in the series sold for **£1,329,250 / \$2,094,898 / €1,516,674**, the highest result for a *Tutto* at auction.
- *Natura morta*, (1954), by **Giorgio Morandi** realised **£959,650 / \$1,512,408 / €1,094,961**.
- *Busto femminile di dorso (Female Bust from the Back)* (1965) by **Domenico Gnoli** achieved **£2,337,250 / \$3,683,506 / €2,666,802**, over three times its estimate and a world record price for the artist at auction.
- Works by **Lucio Fontana** were in strong demand with *Concetto spaziale, Attese*, (1964) selling for **£601,250 / \$947,570 / €686,026**.

###

The *Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale* will take place on **15 October 2010**, at 12pm, and will offer **214 lots** with a total pre-sale estimate of **£8 million**.

###

*Images available on request*

Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

A full list of artist records were as follows:

**POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART**

**Lot 1**

Joe Bradley (b. 1975)

*Double Runner*

each: signed, titled and dated 'JOE BRADLEY DOUBLE RUNNER 2006' (on the reverse)

Acrylic on canvas mounted on panel, in seven parts overall: 104 x 78in. (264 x 198.1cm.)

Painted in 2006

Estimate 25,000 - 35,000 British pounds

Sold for £79,250 / \$124,898 / €90,424

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 5**

Antony Gormley (b. 1950)

*Angel of the North (Life-Size Maquette)*

Cast iron 79 x 210 x 13in. (200.6 x 533.5 x 33cm.)

Executed in 1996

Edition 5/5

Estimate 1,500,000 - 2,000,000 British pounds

Sold for £3,401,250 / \$5,360,370 / €3,880,826

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 10**

Gerhard Richter (b. 1932)

*Kerze (Candle)*

signed twice, numbered and dated '513-2 Richter 1982' (on the reverse)

Oil on canvas 32<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 24 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>in. (83 x 62cm.)

Painted in 1982

Estimate 6,000,000 - 9,000,000 British pounds

Sold for £10,457,250 / \$16,480,626 / €11,931,722

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 13**

Karen Kilimnik (b. 1955)

*Prince Albrecht at Home at the Castle on School Break*

signed, titled and dated three times 'Prince Albrecht Feb 2 '98 Feb 3 '98 February 13 '98 Karen Kilimnik' (on the reverse)

Water soluble oil on canvas 19 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 16in. (50.5 x 40.5cm.)

Painted in 1998

Estimate 200,000 - 300,000 British pounds

Sold for £337,250 / \$531,506 / € 384,802

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 21**

Albert Oehlen (b. 1954)

*Geschmeidig (Malleable)*

signed, titled and dated geschmeidig A. Oehlen 99 (on the reverse)

Oil on canvas 78<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 94<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in. (200 x 240.5cm.)

Painted in 1999

Estimate 250,000 - 350,000 British pounds

Sold For £385,250 / \$607,154 / €439,570

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 37**

Ahmed Alsoudani (b. 1975)

*Baghdad I*

each: signed, signed in Arabic and dated twice 'Soudani 08' (on the reverse)

Acrylic and charcoal gesso on canvas, in two parts each: 82 7/8 x 72in. (210.5 x 182.9cm.) overall: 82 7/8 x 144in. (210.5 x 365.8cm.)

Executed in 2008

Estimate 250,000 - 350,000 British pounds

Sold For £713,250 / \$1,124,082 / €813,818

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 40**

Zhang Dali (b. 1963)

*Chinese Offspring*

signed in Pinyin, titled, numbered and dated 'Chinese Offspring 2005 Zhang Dali', and signed and titled in Chinese (on the back of each figure)

Resin and fibreglass, in fifteen parts fifteen life-size figures, height ranging from: 50in. (128cm.) to 70in. (178cm.)

Executed in 2003-2005

Estimate 80,000 - 120,000 British pounds

Sold For £91,250 / \$143,810 / €104,116

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

###

**THE ITALIAN SALE****Lot 86**

PROPERTY OF A PRIVATE COLLECTOR

Domenico Gnoli (1933-1970)

*Busto femminile di dorso (Female Bust from the Back)*

signed, titled and dated 'D. Gnoli "Busto femminile di dorso" 1965' (on the reverse)

acrylic and sand on canvas

39 3/8 x 47 1/4in. (100 x 120cm.)

Painted in 1965

Estimate 500,000 - 800,000 British pounds

Sold for £2,337,250 / \$3,683,506 / €2,666,802

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

**Lot 91**

Arnaldo Pomodoro (b. 1926)

*Disco*

incised with the artist's signature and date 'Pomodoro 86' (on the base)

Bronze with gold patina

86 5/8in. (220cm.) diameter

31 1/2in. (80cm.) depth

Executed in 1986, this work is number two from an edition of two plus one artist's proof

Estimate 350,000 - 550,000 British pounds

Sold For £505,250 / \$796,274 / €576,490

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**