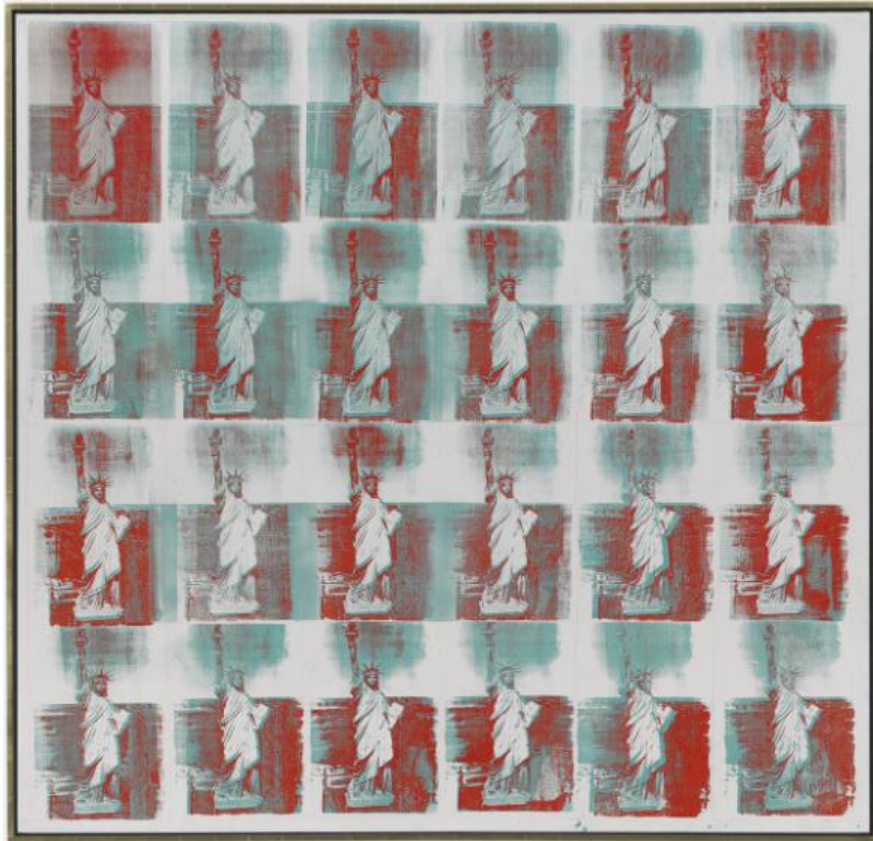


**Celebrating the 126<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Statue of Liberty**

**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO OFFER**

**ONE OF ANDY WARHOL'S MOST  
FAMOUS PAINTINGS  
AN AMERICAN ICON IN 3-D**



**Andy Warhol (1928-1987)**

*Statue of Liberty*

silkscreen inks, spray enamel and graphite on canvas

77 3/4 x 81 in. (197.5 x 205.7 cm.)

Painted in 1962.

Estimate on request

**New York** - On November 14, Christie's in New York will offer Andy Warhol's iconic *Statue of Liberty*, a seminal work from Warhol's greatest and most powerful Pop Art series of the 1960s and one of the most important pictures by the artist ever to come to auction. Appropriating a timeless icon of America and democratic freedom as his own, the painting is a love letter from the fame-struck son of an immigrant family to his beloved New York. Always pushing the boundaries of art, moreover, Andy Warhol's *Statue of Liberty* is a pioneering example of 3-D painting, the first of its kind. This museum quality work, estimated

in excess of \$35 million, is the only example of the 1962 series in which Warhol experimented with 3-D techniques, still in private hands. The two other works in this group are in museums: *Optical Car Crash* is in the collection of the Kunstmuseum in Basel, Switzerland and a smaller version of *Statue of Liberty* is in the collection of the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.

*"Andy Warhol's Statue of Liberty is one of his most important statements on America and on painting in the 1960s. At once deeply personal and universal, Warhol's Lady Liberty is a symbol of hope painted at a time of crisis in America. It is a famous icon of the American dream, alongside Warhol's most popular American subjects such as the Coca-Cola bottle, the Campbell's soup-cans, his Marylins and Elvis,"* **said Brett Gorvy, Chairman and International Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art.**

*Statue of Liberty* stands firmly as the launch pad for one of the artist's most important series from the 1960s—the *Death and Disaster* paintings. Painted in 1962 at the height of the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement, and in a city under the real threat of nuclear obliteration, Warhol chose to paint his *Statue of Liberty* as the prelude to his *Death and Disaster* series, in which he coolly examined the dark underbelly of the American dream. Screened over and over again on the same canvas, in blood red and corrosive green, Warhol's multiple images of the Statue of Liberty stand as a proud and ironic counterpoint to the car-crashes, suicides, race riots, electric chairs, atom bombs and dead celebrities from this greatest period of his career. Presented in sequence like near-identical stills from a movie, or rows of souvenirs on a dime-store shelf, the Statue of Liberty is here as much a mass-produced commodity of today's culture as a can of soup.

Andy Warhol's development as an artist was indelibly linked with New York ever since he arrived in the city in 1949. The proliferation of imagery that Warhol found in New York City fired his imagination and led him to develop a unique visual style that managed to topple Abstract Expressionism as the city's dominant language of artistic expression. Pop became Warhol's *raison-d'être*. An insatiable consumer of popular culture, Warhol took the objects he saw around him and turned them into high art, and from his earliest days as a professional artist, he captured the explosion in modern American culture that would dominate the world. The Statue of Liberty is perhaps one of the most recognizable objects in the world, still revered as the ultimate symbol of democracy and freedom.

Along with *Optical Car Crash*, 1962, now in the collection of the Kunstmuseum in Basel, Switzerland, *Statue of Liberty* belongs to a unique group of pictures in which Warhol pioneered the realm of 3-D painting. He appropriated the image of Lady Liberty from a post-card, first screening it in turquoise, Warhol layered these impressions with the same silkscreen in red, deliberately misaligning each register slightly. The effect through 3-D glasses literally brings a new and magical dimension to Warhol's art, as well as a gritty and grainy realism to his depiction of the Statue.

*"Warhol loved to stretch the boundaries between high art and lowbrow taste. Since the early 1950s, 3-D effects had been popular in comic books and in drive-in horror movies, exemplified by films like Vincent Price's 1953 House of Wax or Warhol's own 3-D adult production of Frankenstein in the early 1970s. Just as today, with the massive resurgence of interest in 3-D through films like 'Avatar' and new television technology, 3-D has always been at the forefront of the modern age,"* **says Brett Gorvy.** While no doubt relishing the camp, B-movie status of 3-D in the 1960s, Warhol recognized the revolutionary nature of this visual language in art, especially when at that time, many artists – be it Jasper Johns or the Color Field painters – were still exploring the two-dimensional reality of the picture plane in their work.

To celebrate Warhol's visionary use of 3-D, Christie's will include 3-D glasses and a special 3-D section in the Evening sale catalogue.

## The Statue of Liberty - A Gift from France

The graceful figure of the Statue of Liberty was destined to become an iconic symbol of freedom ever since the idea was first conceived at a dinner party held in Paris in 1865 at the home of the prominent French political intellectual, Édouard de Laboulaye. Laboulaye had a long standing animosity towards the French ruling elite and had looked to the United States as an example of the kind of democracy he yearned for. Also present at the dinner was Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, an ambitious young sculptor who was an idealist by nature and a Republican by political conviction. Bartholdi persuaded Laboulaye that he should design the Statue and soon produced a proposal that was based on an amalgamation of the fabled figures of 'Marianne', 'Britannia' and the embodiment of Liberty that had already appeared on American coins and medals. He made a number of preliminary models varying in size and scale but all carrying a symbolic torch that would become the pinnacle of the final design.

Construction of the Statue's head finally began in France in 1877 and the completed section was exhibited with great excitement at the 1878 World's Fair in Paris. In 1880, Bartholdi secured the services of the pioneering architect and engineer Alexander-Gustave Eiffel as his structural engineer and in 1885, after contributions from nearly 200 towns and communities across France, the French navy vessel *Isère* left France with over 200 crates containing the iron skeleton and copper skin of the Statue on their way to her new home across the Atlantic. In October 2012, the Statue of Liberty is currently celebrating its 126th birthday.

### Notes to Editors Andy Warhol at Christie's

Christie's hold world auction record prices for Andy Warhol

#### World Auction record for the artist

Green car crash - Green burning car I, 1963 sold for \$ 71,720,000 (New York, May 16, 2007)

#### World Auction record for any Warhol portrait

Self-portrait (in 4 parts), 1963-1964 sold for \$ 38,442,500 (New York, May 11, 2011)

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### Viewing

London	6-11 October 2012
Paris	17-19 October 2012
New York	10-13 November 2012

### Sale

Christie's New York - 20 Rockefeller Plaza	14 November 2012
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**PRESS CONTACT: Capucine Milliot | +1 212 641 5078 | [cmilliot@christies.com](mailto:cmilliot@christies.com)**

### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year. Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms

around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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*Images available on request*

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