

# CHRISTIE'S

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## “MOUTON DE LAINE” FROM THE DISTINGUISHED COLLECTION OF ADELAIDE DE MENIL AND EDMUND S. CARPENTER TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO BENEFIT THE ROCK FOUNDATION

HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND RARE FLOCK OF TWENTY-FOUR SHEEP BY  
FRANÇOIS-XAVIER LALANNE TO LEAD THE  
POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY EVENING SALE NOVEMBER 14



François-Xavier Lalanne (1927-2008)  
'Mouton de Laine' Un Troupeau de 24 Moutons  
A flock of 24 sheep, comprising eight standing sheep and 16  
grazing sheep  
Aluminum, wood and wool  
Designed in 1965  
Estimate: \$4,000,000 – 6,000,000

**New York** – Christie's is proud to announce that it will offer property from the distinguished collection of Adelaide de Menil and Edmund S. Carpenter as a highlight of its fall sales season. On November 14, 2012, the most important flock of sheep by Francois-Xavier Lalanne ever to come to market leads the auction at Christie's Post-War & Contemporary Evening Sale. Coming from the extraordinary East Hampton estate of Adelaide de Menil and her late husband, the anthropologist, author and broadcaster Edmund (Ted) Carpenter, this whimsical group of animal-shaped sculptures was a centerpiece of the couple's Further Lane home, ideally nestled in a serene country setting amid a timeless cluster of eighteenth-century eastern Long Island houses and barns.

Conceived by the artist in 1965 and acquired directly from Alexander Iolas in 1976, this flock includes eight standing sheep and sixteen grazing sheep, as well as an extremely rare black sheep. The set is expected to realize between \$4,000,000 and 6,000,000. The sale proceeds will benefit the Rock Foundation, which supports anthropological research, publishing, films and archaeological research.

Brett Gorvy, Chairman and International Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, stated, “The de Menil name is globally synonymous with the highest standard of quality and elegance, combined with the most independent and pathbreaking exploration of every avenue of the arts. It is a privilege for Christie’s to be associated with this wide-ranging collection and the lifetime of involvement with the arts that it represents.”

Brent Lewis, Vice-President and Senior Specialist, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Art & Design, said of the *Sheep* that will lead the sales, “François-Xavier Lalanne introduced his iconic *Mouton de Laine* at the *Salon de la Jeune Peinture* in Paris in 1965, placing a flock of 24 at the entrance, where the artists of the *Salon* were famously photographed sitting atop them. International acclaim was immediate, and by 1967 Lalanne’s *Mouton* was published in *Life* magazine and found in the collections of important impresarios and cultural figures such as Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé. Originally presented with the title *Pour Polyphème*, evoking the episode of the Cyclops in Homer’s *Odyssey*, *Mouton de Laine* are the perfect manifestation of Lalanne’s reinvention of surrealism and the mythological, playful and poetic tradition of *art animalier*. This flock from the collection of Adelaide de Menil and Edmund S. Carpenter is of immense cultural significance and is undoubtedly among the most important works by Lalanne ever to come to market.”

The four historic timber-frame structures on the de Menil-Carpenter property were later gifted to the Village of East Hampton and were converted by Robert A.M. Stern Architects into the new Town Hall, completed in September 2010.

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#### **About Christie’s**

Christie’s, the world’s leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 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 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 £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% 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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