

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
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**Saatchi Gallery and Christie's present week-long show
and Evening Auction of monumental sculpture
during Frieze Week**

**THINKING
BIG**

**A unique auction concept - no reserves, no estimates -
to support free admission and art education**

Exhibition: 12-18 October 2013 | The Sorting Office, 21-31 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AP

Auction: 17 October 2013, at 5pm | Christie's London, 8 King Street – St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT

London – The Saatchi Gallery and Christie's are proud to announce *Thinking Big*, a special auction of major contemporary sculpture and installation offered to support the Saatchi Gallery's continuing policy for free entry to all exhibitions, and free education programme for schools.

To accommodate the monumental scale and scope of the work, *Thinking Big* will be exhibited not at Christie's, but at The Sorting Office, a vast former postal depot in central London, to coincide with the Frieze Art Fair in October 2013.

Francis Outred, *Christie's Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Europe*, says, “We have been working with the Saatchi Gallery on this project for about a year now. This exhibition and auction will be pioneering in that all the works will be offered without estimate or reserve. In addition, a state of the art exhibition at the Sorting Office, a huge ex postal building in the heart of London, will house major sculpture and installation from across the last twenty years beginning with the Tracey Emin and the Chapman brothers to Berlinde de Bruyckere, who is one of the stand out artists at this year's Venice Biennale. The artists come from five different continents and the exhibition and auction will be a fundamental celebration of the sculpture in the 21st century. **Thinking Big** refers to the huge ambition and imagination of the artists here, as much as it does to the scale of their work, and to the power of educating young people about art.”



Kader Attia (b. 1970), *Ghost*

shaped aluminium foil, in two hundred and sixty-four parts. Dimensions variable. Executed in 2007.

Thinking Big features the work of 50 artists who have been shown at the Saatchi Gallery, including YBAs, such as Tracey Emin and the Chapman brothers, as well as newer talents such as Toby Ziegler, Kader Attia, Conrad Shawcross, Kris Martin and Sterling Ruby. Among the many leading contemporary artists included are Berlinde de Bruyckere, whose work at the Belgian Pavilion was a highlight of the 2013 Venice Biennale; Gert and Uwe Tobias, who had a solo show at London’s Whitechapel Gallery earlier this year; and David Altmejd, Karla Black and Liu Wei, all of whom were selected for Art Basel’s *Art Unlimited* show of large-scale sculpture this year.



Berlinde de Bruyckere (b. 1964) *Marthe*
Wax, epoxy, metal, wood and glass.
Executed in 2008.

Philippa Adams, Senior Director, Saatchi Gallery, comments: “**Thinking Big** aims to provide the broadest possible access and opportunity to museums, institutions and collectors alike by offering these works with no estimates and no reserves. This will be the first time in history that works of this scale will be so readily accessible. To this end, our endeavor is to reflect the Gallery’s commitment to constantly support and showcase emerging talent. We hope this new platform will bridge new dialogues and the works from this sale will be seen by new audiences across the world.”

The Saatchi Gallery has consistently collected high quality emerging work, whose importance has endured. It has also showcased new talent emerging around the globe, providing a widely visited museum environment for new art. The **Thinking Big** auction will support the Saatchi Gallery’s ongoing policy of free admission to all exhibitions and its free education programme – with over 2000 school visits each year.

The Saatchi Gallery will be thirty years old in 2015. It was the first art space in the UK to show a whole host of artists before they became household names, from Jeff Koons and Bruce Nauman to Andreas Gursky, Sigmar Polke and Damien Hirst. During the last five years it has showcased new art from the Middle East, China, India, Russia, Germany, America and Britain. Art from all of these regions, as well as the UK will be on display in **Thinking Big**.

According to The Art Newspaper, it hosted 10 of the top 15 most visited exhibitions in London over the last four years. The Saatchi Gallery believes that its policy of free admission to all exhibitions – supported by this auction – is fundamental to this success.

Francis Outred, Christie's Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Europe, comments: *"I hope **Thinking Big** inspires people in the way I was inspired by the Saatchi Gallery as a teenager in the late 1980s. It was a shot in the arm – nowhere else in London showed new art on such a scale. The Saatchi's combination of showing the very best of the new, together with its mission to educate, has inspired a whole generation of collectors, curators, gallerists and, of course artists. In the midst of the current global interest in contemporary art, we can only guess at how different it would be without the Saatchi Gallery's continual support of new artists."*

Thinking Big is a unique auction concept with no reserves and no estimates on the works, with payment terms of at least three months available to public institutions. Designed to support art education and free admission, it enables young people from all backgrounds to gain access to contemporary art, high quality teaching and educational events.



Tracey Emin (b. 1963)
To Meet My Past
four poster bed, mattress, appliquéd linens and curtains.
Executed in 2002.



George Herold (b. 1947), *Untitled*. Battan, canvas, lacquer, thread and screws. Executed in 2011.

Editor's Notes:

About Saatchi Gallery

The Saatchi Gallery was founded in 1985 with the aim of bringing contemporary art to as wide an audience as possible and to make it accessible by providing an innovative platform for emerging artists to show their work. Over the last four years the Saatchi Gallery has hosted ten out of the top fifteen most visited exhibition in London, according to *The Art Newspaper's* survey of international museum attendance, and is also ranked amongst the world's top three most liked museums on Facebook and Twitter by *Museum Analytics*. The Saatchi Gallery's website has become a global meeting place for people interested in contemporary art.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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.*

Images available on request

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