

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8 October 2013

WORKS FROM THE ESTATE OF *DAVID BOMBERG*

AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN NOVEMBER

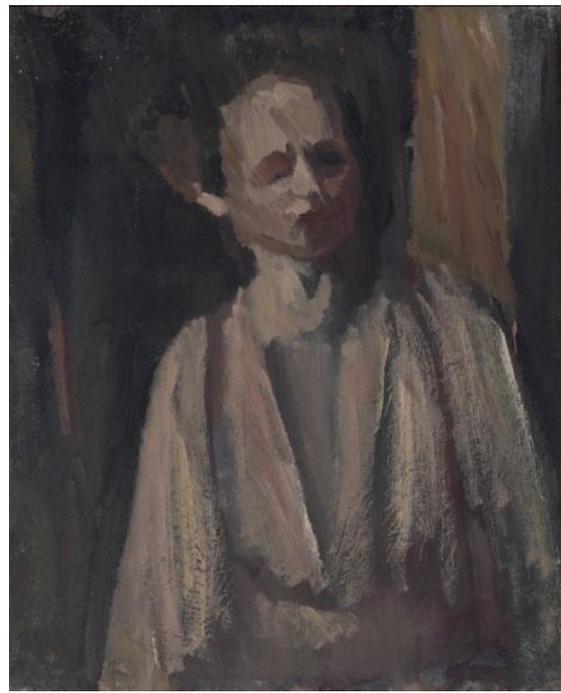
- PROCEEDS OF THE SALE WILL BENEFIT HADASSAH
- THE LARGEST GROUP OF WORKS BY BOMBERG EVER TO COME TO AUCTION



David Bomberg (1890-1957)

Portrait of Dinora

Estimate: £30,000-50,000



David Bomberg (1890-1957)

Self-portrait

Estimate: £50,000 – 80,000

London - Christie's are proud to be offering 32 works from the Estate of David Bomberg (1890 – 1957) in the *Modern British and Irish Art* sale on 21 November. Proceeds of the sale will benefit Hadassah, a registered charity dedicated to raising funds for Hadassah Medical Organisation in Jerusalem. This diverse group of paintings and drawings by Bomberg come from Fischer Fine Art, Bomberg's long-time dealer, and come to auction for the first time. This is the largest group of works by the artist ever to be offered at auction. Bomberg was one of the most bold and daring artists of his generation and this collection features works from all periods of his rich and varied career with estimates ranging from £1,500 to £120,000. This sale provides a unique opportunity for both new and established collectors to acquire a work of quality and enormous art historical value from this important British artist and with this unequalled provenance.

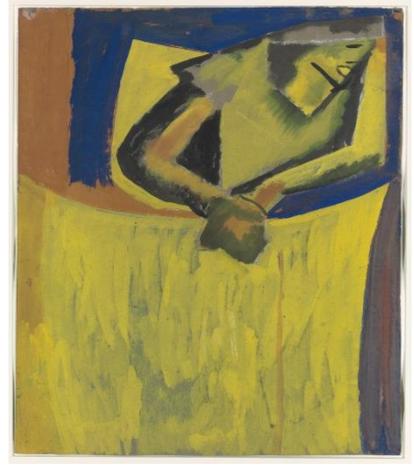
David Bomberg was born in Birmingham in 1890 to Polish-Jewish immigrant parents and at the age of five moved with his family to Whitechapel in London. In 1911, aided by a grant from the Jewish Educational Aid Society, Bomberg attended the Slade School of Art, where his exceptional talent developed. At that time the



David Bomberg (1890 – 1957)
Bargee Series, Canal Bank France
Estimate: £6,000 – 8,000



David Bomberg (1890 – 1957)
Canal Theme, France
Estimate: £10,000 – 15,000

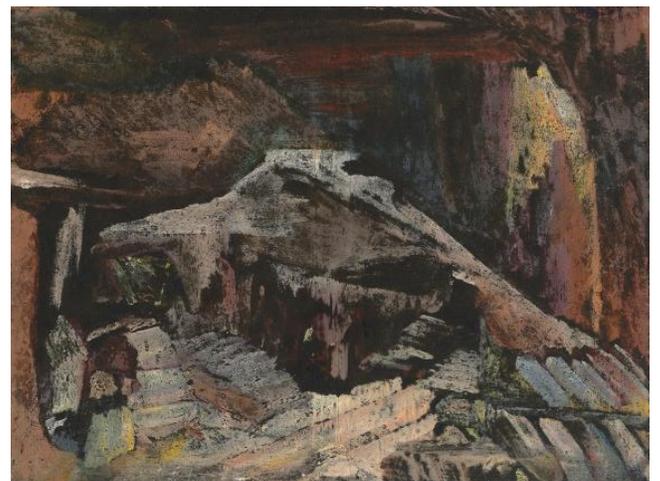


David Bomberg (1890 – 1957)
Composition for New Art Salon Poster
Estimate: £10,000 – 15,000

Slade had a reputation as leading the way for the British avant-garde and actively reacting against the more traditional taste of the Royal Academy. Bomberg studied alongside an extraordinary generation of young artists including Stanley Spencer, Paul Nash, Mark Gertler, Christopher Wynne Nevinson and William Roberts. Drawing on the influence of the Futurists and Cubists who he had seen at the 1910 and 1912 'Post-Impressionist' exhibitions organised by Roger Fry, Bomberg became one of the leading artists of the Vorticism movement in the period before the First World War.

Highlights of the collection include a 1931 *Self-portrait* (estimate: £50,000 – 80,000, *illustrated page one right*). On his return to London from a trip to Spain in 1929, Bomberg was met with indifference when he tried to persuade collectors and dealers to buy the canvasses he had painted in Toledo. Forced to find an alternative means of making a living, he decided to set himself up as a portrait painter. However, Bomberg's expressive manner was considered inappropriate for portraiture; his style was unsuited to the task of gratifying his sitter's expectations and he found it difficult to receive any notable commissions. *Self-portrait* belongs to a series of honest and introspective self-portraits that Bomberg made in this period. Since they were all made using a large mirror in which the artist studied his features from various angles, they offer a detailed examination of his personality. In the honest scrutiny of himself as a balding introverted character, Bomberg's work of the period recalls Rembrandt's great series of searching self-portraits, made 300 years earlier. Alongside this self-portrait the collection also includes portraits of the artist's wife Lilian, his daughter Diana and his step-daughter Dinora (*illustrated page one left*).

During World War II Bomberg was commissioned by the War Artist's Advisory Committee to paint an underground bomb store for a fee of 25 guineas. He was sent to Burton-on-Trent in Staffordshire where he would spend two weeks 90 feet below ground in long disused gypsum mines. Works such as *Underground Bomb Store* painted in 1942 (estimate: £80,000 – 120,000, *illustrated right*) are one of the many paintings Bomberg completed in this period; he worked feverishly for this commission, even working on greaseproof paper when he ran out of canvas.





Though undervalued in his lifetime, Bomberg's legacy still influences the work of subsequent generations of figurative artists who have followed in his footsteps, such as his pupils Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossoff, whom he taught at Borough Polytechnic. This influence is particularly clear in *East of the Moon* (estimate: £60,000-80,000, *illustrated left*), the rich palette and heavy outlines of which are echoed in Auerbach's London cityscapes. David Bomberg stands as one of the great masters of 20th century British painting.

PRESS CONTACT: Dernagh O'Leary | +44(0)207 389 2398 | doleary@christies.com

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Saturday, 16 November 2013: 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Sunday, 17 November 2013: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Monday, 18 November 2013: 9:00am – 4:30pm
Tuesday, 19 November 2013: 9:00am – 8:00pm
Wednesday, 20 November 2013: 9:00am – 3:30pm

AUCTION:

Modern British and Irish Art Day Sale
Thursday, 21 November 2013
10:30am

Christie's and Hadassah

In February 2012, Christie's teamed up with Hadassah to celebrate the charity's Centenary and to introduce the Chagall Project – a fundraising project by which patrons of the arts sponsor a stained glass window by Marc Chagall depicting the 12 tribes of Israel, which he donated to the hospital's synagogue 50 years ago.

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.*

About Hadassah

The Hadassah Medical Organisation consists of two hospitals and five academic medical schools in Jerusalem, Israel. A world-class institution, it has achieved a global reputation for excellence in healing, teaching, research and outreach. For more information, please contact Hadassah UK at email uk.office@hadassah.org

###

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app