

CHRISTIE'S

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OPEN HOUSE 2014

TIMELESS INTERNATIONAL MASTERPIECES

13-17 JUNE, ADMISSION FREE

VERMEER'S *SAINT PRAXEDIS*, FROM 1655, THE EARLIEST DATED PICTURE BY THE ARTIST, TO GO ON PUBLIC DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UK DURING *OPEN HOUSE 2014*, AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON

100 MASTERPIECES WITH A COMBINED AUCTION ESTIMATE IN THE REGION OF £150 MILLION TO BE UNVEILED IN A FREE, FIVE-DAY PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE LEADING ARTWORKS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

CELEBRATING OVER 4,000 YEARS OF HISTORY, FROM C. 2,400 B.C TO THE 21ST CENTURY, WORKS RANGE IN VALUE FROM £2,000 TO £15 MILLION

EXTENDED OPENING HOURS – AND SPECIALIST TOURS TO BE OFFERED TWICE DAILY THROUGHOUT EXHIBITION IN RESPONSE TO GROWING APPETITE FOR ART



London – “The best of everything, open to everyone, *Open House 2014* is a curtain raiser for the summer auctions – 100 timeless international masterpieces encompassing over four thousand years of history, and celebrating the extraordinary and the eclectic,” says Jussi Pylkkänen, President Christie’s EMERI. *Saint Praxedis* by **Johannes Vermeer of Delft** (1632-1675), from 1655, the earliest dated picture by the artist and one of only two from his rare oeuvre to remain in private hands (estimate: £6-8 million, *illustrated above right*), a 16th century bronze by **Giambologna**, *The Rape of A Sabine*, which last appeared at auction at Christie’s London in 1989 when it made a world record price of £2,750,000 (estimate: £3-5 million, *illustrated above left*), and **Alberto Giacometti**’s iconic sculpture *La Main*, conceived and cast in 1947, which helped to launch Giacometti’s post-war international career (estimate: £10-15 million, *illustrated above centre*) are three of the star works to be unveiled in a free, five-day curated exhibition at Christie’s King Street from 13-17 June.

“The beauty, quality, provenance, rarity and condition of the pieces to be exhibited set the tone for the wealth of works to be offered at Christie’s during June and July when art collectors from all over the world congregate in London for the busy annual season of exhibitions and sales – we have selected 100 masterpieces for their quality in every category, irrespective of financial value, reflecting the trend of eclecticism among both established collectors and new buyers,” say co-Curators Georgiana

Aitken and Philippe Garner. “As a result, **Open House 2014** promises to delight the eye and stimulate the curiosity of our visitors with a rich selection of exceptional works of art that speak immediately to the senses and to the imagination.”



An Egyptian painted limestone statue, ‘Sekhemka’, circa 2450-2300 B.C., is the earliest work on display in the exhibition, defining the cultural, geographical and historical reach of the exhibition, the most ambitious of any of the summer masterpieces exhibitions presented to date, while the most recent is a dress designed by **Alexander McQueen**, taken from his last ever collection, posthumously entitled ‘Heaven & Hell’. This collection, inspired by Byzantine art, the carvings of Grinling Gibbons, old master paintings and altar-pieces, was left unfinished in his studio after his death in January 2010 and completed by his creative team and long-time design collaborator, Sarah Burton (estimate on request, *illustrated left*).

Alongside exceptional art, European furniture, decorative arts and early books and manuscripts, works by many of the 20th Century’s most celebrated artists will be shown; *Composition A, with Double Line and Yellow*, 1935, by **Piet Mondrian** (estimate: £5-8 million); *L’artiste et le modèle nu*, 1921, by **Henri Matisse** (estimate: £7-10 million); and arguably the most important work by **Kurt Schwitters** ever to come to the market, *Ja – Was? – Bild* (‘Yes – What? – Picture’), 1920, which is one of only three early large reliefs from this first revolutionary Merzbilder series to remain in private hands (estimate: £4-6 million). These are among the Impressionist and Modern art highlights, while Post War and Contemporary art includes **Roy Lichtenstein’s** *Mirror #8* (estimate: £500,000-700,000), **Jean-Michel Basquiat’s** *Toxic*, painted in 1984 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000), Frank Auerbach’s *Primrose Hill, Autumn*, painted in 1979-80 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000), and **Andy Warhol’s** haunting *Four Jackies* depicting Jackie Kennedy as a veiled widow (estimate: £1,800,000-2,500,000). Before Warhol became a household name, he worked as an illustrator and shoes were among the subjects that particularly intrigued him – a pair of white leather ballerina pumps each signed by Warhol with a sketch of a heart on the toe (estimate: £2,000-3,000, *illustrated right*) will be shown alongside illuminated manuscripts, *Taureau*, a bronze sculpture of a bull measuring just 6.6cm high, by **Pablo Picasso**, (estimate: £50-70,000), a vase with exceptional provenance by celebrated English potter **Bernard Leach** (estimate: £20-30,000) and a Russian *Kovsh* libation cup (estimate: £25,000-35,000), in a display-room conceived as a cabinet of curiosities.



In 2013, 22% of sales, representing 30% of all clients active that year, were made by clients new to buying at Christie’s and in recognition of this growing global passion for art, **Open House 2014** will have extended opening hours, from 9am until 9pm on the first day of viewing and over the weekend of 14-15 June, and will offer free tours by specialists at midday and 4pm throughout the five-day exhibition.

Christie’s believes in accessibility to art for everyone and are proud to be supporting Art Everywhere, a project which shares our mission to engage new audiences with art. This summer, Art Everywhere will stage the second annual, nationwide exhibition by showcasing British art works, as chosen by the public, on poster sites across the UK. The project celebrates masterpieces from the nation’s collections, encouraging

and enabling nationwide engagement with art. For further information on Art Everywhere visit www.facecook.com/arteverywhereuk.

OPEN HOUSE 2014

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 June: 09.00 - 21.00

Monday 16 June: 09.00 - 17.00

Tuesday 17 June: 09.00 - 13.00

Specialist tours will be held at midday and 16.00 daily

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Admission – Free

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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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