

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE PARIS – 15 September 2017 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN RAY'S MASTERPIECE *NOIRE ET BLANCHE* FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF THOMAS KOERFER

CHRISTIE'S PARIS - 9 NOVEMBER 2017



Man Ray (1890-1976)
Noire et Blanche, 1926
Estimate: €1,000,000-1,500,000

Paris – Christie's France is pleased to announce that it will offer "Stripped Bare: Photographs from the Thomas Koerfer Collection," comprising 73 lots and led by the emblematic Man Ray masterpiece, *Noire et Blanche*, formerly in the collection of Jacques Doucet, on November 9, while collectors are gathered for the Paris Photo Fair.

Thomas Koerfer is a highly-regarded film director, writer as well as producer, whose films include *The Death of the Flea Circus Director*, *Henry's Romance*, *The Passionate* and *Embers*. From childhood Koerfer was surrounded by the art collection of his parents and in 1992 he established his own collection by concentrating on modern and contemporary photography, and some years later he added paintings and sculptures from the same era. The entire collection focuses on the body and human form as well as the various aspects of sensuality and sexuality and represents the most comprehensive and nuanced group of works on this theme. Ten years after starting to collect photography, Thomas Koerfer was elected President of the Board of the Foundation of the Fotomuseum Winterthur in 2002 and also became a member of the board of the Kunsthalle Zurich, a position he held for ten years. His collection was exhibited in 2007 at CO Berlin, followed by a show at the Kunsthaus Zurich in 2015.

Darius Himes, International Head of the Photographs Department: “It’s a great honour for Christie’s to work with the Thomas Koerfer Collection of Photography, and to bring to the market certain highlights from this important collection. In particular, we are thrilled to offer *Noire et Blanche*, from 1926, a stunning and important masterpiece by Man Ray, one of the most seminal artists of the 20th century. Man Ray is known for his experimentalism with photography and deep connections with the Surrealist movement, including his long-lasting friendship with Marcel Duchamp.”

This portrait of Kiki de Montparnasse, muse and lover of Man Ray, holding a tribal art mask, highlights how the artist delved into Surrealism and African art. Kiki was a unique vestige of the Parisian scene, a painter, and a performer, she embodied the headiness of Paris' off-beat culture. Her portrait can be compared to *La muse endormie* by Constantin Brancusi, recently sold at Christie’s for \$57,3M.

Noire et Blanche, was first published in the Parisian edition of Vogue in May 1926. This quiet, elegant and dreamy study naturally appealed to Jacques Doucet, the great French fashion icon and designer. His own vision, which combined the ancient and primitive arts with his graceful and modern taste, is complimented by Man Ray’s vision of a surreal twist of tonality.

Elodie Morel, Director of the Photographs Department Paris: “To be offering this masterpiece at Christie’s when the world’s top collectors are in town for the Paris Photo Fair, is a real thrill. The magic of this masterpiece is what inspired Thomas Koerfer to build his intimate photography collection around. We look forward to welcoming an international clientele to Paris in early November.”

This work on sale on 9 of November, is the earliest print of this iconic image and will be offered with an estimate of €1,000,000- 1,500,000. In addition, the Thomas Koerfer collection will present a print by Diane Arbus: *Identical Twins, Roselle, NJ, 1969* estimated at €400,000-600,000, a daguerreotype from 1850 and important and contemporary works by Katy Grannan, Thomas Ruff, Cindy Sherman, Nobuyoshi Araki, Robert Frank, Francesca Woodman and Paul Outerbridge.

A more detailed press release will follow shortly.

Stripped Bare: Photographs from the Collection of Thomas Koerfer

Thursday 9 November 2017 at 3 pm

Photographs sale

Friday 10 November at 3 pm

Viewings for both auctions: 4 – 9 November 2017 from 10 am to 6 pm

Christie’s: 9 avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris

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About Christie’s

Christie’s, the world’s leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie’s offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie’s has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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