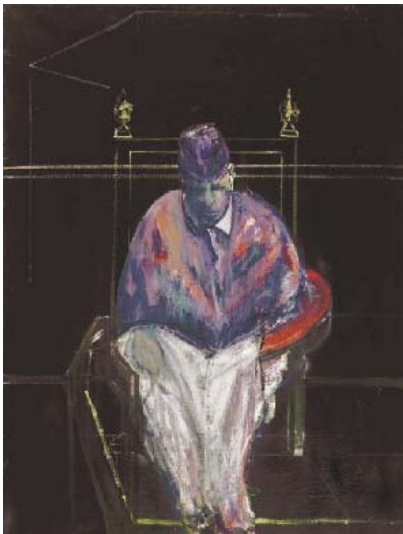


**For Immediate Release**

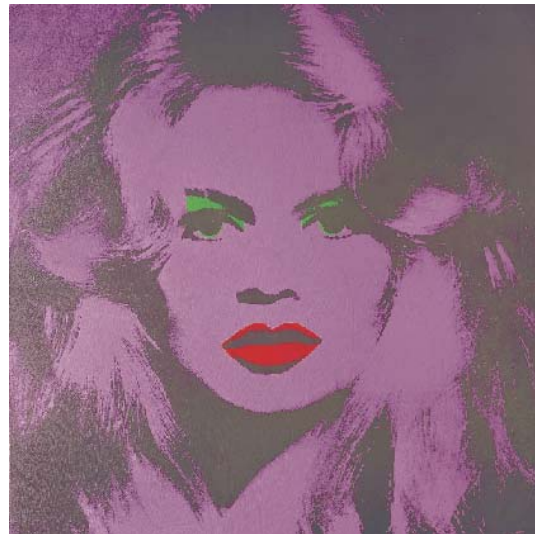
8 January 2007

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**RARE WORKS BY BACON & WARHOL LEAD CHRISTIE'S  
STRONGEST EVER LONDON SALE OF POST WAR &  
CONTEMPORARY ART**



Francis Bacon (1909-1992)  
*Study for Portrait II*, 1956  
Estimate upon request



Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
*Brigitte Bardot*, 1974  
Estimate: £1,500,000 - 2,000,000

**Post War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale**

**Christie's London**

**Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 7:00 pm**

**London** – Christie's dominance of the Post War and Contemporary Art market continues with the largest **Post War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale** to be staged at Christie's in London on 8 February 2007. Showcasing an outstanding selection of 87 works spanning from the established canons of post-war art production through to contemporary artists, the sale is led by the most significant painting by Francis Bacon to ever appear at auction and an outstanding selection of works by Warhol. The sale also includes The Tettamanti Collection, the most important single owner Post War and Contemporary Art collection from Italy to appear at auction and outstanding works by Twombly, Lichtenstein, Polke and Richter. The sale is estimated to fetch in excess of £40 million.

*"Building upon the outstanding results achieved in New York in November, Christie's February sale is the largest and strongest sale of Post War & Contemporary Art we've ever held in London,"*

says **Pilar Ordovas, Head of Post War & Contemporary Art, Christie's London.** *"The unparalleled prices achieved by Christie's in recent years for Post War & Contemporary Art has propelled the market to new levels and placed us firmly at the front."*

Leading the sale is one of the most important works by Francis Bacon (1909-1992) to ever appear at auction. Painted in 1956, *Study for Portrait II* (estimate on request) appears in public and at auction for the first time having last been exhibited in 1963. A unique and important work, *Study for a Portrait II* is one of Francis Bacon's famous papal portraits in which many of the elements of his ongoing series of *Pope* paintings from the 1950s are brought together within one powerful image. Extraordinary and unforgettable images that shocked and provoked viewers when they first emerged into the public consciousness in the early 1950s, today they are regarded as being among the foremost images of twentieth century art. *Please see separate press release for further information.*

Leading a strong selection of six works by the master of Pop Art, Andy Warhol's (1928-1987) *Brigitte Bardot*, 1974 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000) which appears at auction for the first time having been acquired directly from the artist. The original sex-kitten and the personification of 1960s liberated sexuality, Warhol's image captures Bardot's (or 'BB' as she was known in France) blond hair, heavy eyeliner and pouting lips which were an instantly recognisable trademark of her free-spirited energy and sexual allure all over the world. In 1974 at the height of her career at the age of 39 and as beautiful and as famous as ever, she shocked many people by announcing her retirement *'I've made 48 films of which only five were good. The rest are not worth anything. I will not make another.'* It was at this moment of Bardot's descent from the glare of the spotlight that Warhol commemorated and iconised her by painting a series of eight portraits of which the present work is one.

Warhol's large and unique work *Three Women* from the summer of 1963 (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000) belongs to a rare series of paintings dealing with shocking images of death and disaster from the American media that were originally classified by Rainer Crone as 'Documentary Images'. Using a repeated image of a press photograph of three prostitutes caught in a vice raid on an upmarket New York apartment covering their faces with pillows so as to avoid being recognised, the painting explores and expresses the horror of unwanted celebrity.

The sale also includes Warhol's *Dollar Sign*, executed in 1981-1982 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000), a canvas filled with the most famous currency symbol in the world and *The Scream (After Edvard Munch)* which was acquired in 1984 directly from the artist by the current owner who had initially suggested Munch as potential subject-matter to Warhol (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000). The suggestion was met with the artist's immediate enthusiasm and inspired him to create an entire series of works based on the paintings of the Norwegian master. Regarding it as the best of the pictures of this subject, Warhol selected *The Scream (After Edvard Munch)* for the current owner in gratitude.

A selection of 18 works from **The Tettamanti Collection**, the most important single owner Post War and Contemporary Art collection from Italy to be appear at auction is a further sale highlight. Stretching from the giants of the Post War period through to the contemporary era, the collection includes a number of outstanding works from pivotal 20<sup>th</sup> century American artists, and European artists such as Andy Warhol, Cy Twombly, Roy Lichtenstein, Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni and Micheangelo Pistoletto, which appear together in public for the first time since they were acquired. Highlighting the collection is the seminal *Sacco e rosso* by Italian painter and sculptor Alberto Burri from 1959, one of the most important works by the artist to appear at auction (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). Among the works by great American masters is Cy Twombly's *Capitoli* from 1962 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) and Mark Rothko's mood-drenched *Untitled (Black, Red, Black on Brown)*, 1968 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). *Please see separate press release for further information about the Collection.*

Representing the American Post War period, *Purist Painting with Bottles* painted in 1975 by Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000), appears at auction for the first time having been directly acquired from the artist by the current owner's father in 1975. Sigmar Polke's (b. 1941) *Strand* is an early 'Rasterbild' (Raster-dot painting) made by the artist at the height of his so-called 'Capitalist Realist' years in 1966 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000). A semi-abstract painting of a seemingly banal subject (a beach full of holiday-makers) drawn from the German media, it is a Pop Art work of deliberate ambiguity that mocks both its subject matter and the manner of its representation.

Frank Auerbach (b. 1931) loves London, his home since he was bundled out of Nazi Germany as a seven year-old in 1939. His profound attachment to the British capital is demonstrated in *To The Studio II*, painted in 1977-78 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000). The painting is a depiction of the very real and very private world that the artist himself inhabits and loves, a painting of the entrance to his own studio, one of three in a small cluster by Mornington Crescent, in Camden Town.

Appearing at auction for the first time, Gerhard Richter's *Gilbert & George* painted in 1975, shows the faces of the controversial London-based artists one on top of the other (estimate: £500,000-700,000). A rare experimentation by the artist, the work explores both the nature of representation and the blended identities of Gilbert and George who declared themselves living 'sculptures' in 1969.

Building on the successful introduction of contemporary Chinese artists in the international sales – a strategy which had already proven successful in the Contemporary Art sales in London last October and in New York and Hong Kong in November – the London sale features a number of significant works by artists including Zhang Xiaogang's *Bloodline series: The Big Family*, 1997 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) together with works by Fang Li Jun, Wang Guangyi and Wang Lee.

### **Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale: Friday, 9 February 2007 at 10:30 am**

*“The high quality consignments of this sale reflect the continued strength of the current Post-War and Contemporary art market and we are pleased to offer approximately 100 lots from the superb Tettamanti Collection,”* said **Anthony McNerney, Head of Sale**. *“The Day Sale continues to attract fiercely competitive international bidding and presents an excellent opportunity for both established and new collectors to enter the market with estimates starting at £1,000.”*

The **Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale** on 9 February 2007 is largest and most significant to be held at Christie’s in London. Divided into two sessions, 376 lots will be offered spanning an entire day and commanding a pre-sale estimate in excess of £13 million.

Post-War art will be offered in the morning, led by German artist Gerhard Richter’s *Abstract*, 1995 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and *Small moths* by American artist Alexander Calder (estimate: £200,000-300,000). Other highlights include Piero Manzoni’s *Achrome* (estimate: £180,000-220,000); Antoni Tàpies’s *Composition* (estimate: £180,000-220,000); Josef Albers *Deep warmth* (estimate: £180,000-220,000) and Pierre Soulage’s *Composition noire et rouge*, 1965 (estimate: £180,000-220,000).

The star lots of the Contemporary art afternoon session are Damien Hirst’s *Untitled* (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and Miquel Barceló’s *Georgica* (estimate: £200,000-300,000). The cover lot is Richard Prince’s *Untitled (Nose)* (estimate: £60,000-80,000), from the Tettamanti Collection, the most important single owner modern and contemporary art collection from Italy to ever appear at auction. A strong array of works by hot Chinese artists are led by Zao Wou-Ki’s *Untitled* (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and Zhang Xiaogang’s *Untitled* (estimate: £80,000-120,000), as well as works by Yue MinJun, Zeng Fanzhi and Feng Zheng-jie. Other works to be offered include Neo Rauch’s *Untitled* (estimate: £18,000-22,000), Mariko Mori’s *Kudaka Island* (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and Daniel Richter’s *Nasenblutten* (estimate: £70,000-90,000).

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*Visit Christie’s at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

*A selection of images is available on request*

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **International Exhibition Tour of Select Highlights**

- 17 January 2007: Palazzo Clerici, Milan
- 17 & 18 January 2007: Deutsche Bank AG, Adolphsplatz 7, Hamburg
- 20 January 2007: Christie’s Rome
- 20 & 21 January 2007: Christie’s, Giesebrechtstrasse 10, Berlin

- 23 & 24 January 2007: The Brazilian Court, Café Boulud, 301 Australian Avenue in Palm Beach, Florida, USA
- 26-28 January 2007: Christie's Rockefeller Centre, New York

**Christie's London Auctions in February 2007 of Impressionist & Modern Art and Post War & Contemporary Art:**

- Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale followed by The Art of the Surreal: Tuesday, 6 February 2007 at 6:00 pm
- Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale: Wednesday, 7 February 2007 at 2.00pm
- Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 10:30 am
- Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale: Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 7:00 pm
- Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale: Friday, 9 February 2007 at 10:30 am

**About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.