

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S UNVEILS POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART OFFERINGS IN NEW YORK FIRST OPEN SALE

**New York – First Open
March 11, 2009**

On March 11, Christie's will hold its ninth First Open sale, which will include over 150 lots of Post-War & Contemporary Art, and is expected to realize \$2.6-3.7 million. Highlights of the sale include an alluring range of paintings, sculpture, drawings and photographs from both well-known and emerging artists. With estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$120,000, First Open is an exceptional opportunity to acquire works at a variety of price points, whether

you are building an existing collection or starting anew.

This season contemporary artists Maurizio Cattelan, Vik Muniz, Elizabeth Peyton and Gregor Hildebrandt will appear next to long established names such as Alexander Calder, Louise Bourgeois, Joseph Cornell, Alice Neel and Tom Wesselmann.

Among the highlights is a classic box by Joseph Cornell (1903-1972), *Grand Hotel de L'univers* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), a work evocative of bygone days and far-away destinations – pictured right. The sale also includes a photograph by Maurizio Cattelan (B. 1960) *Not Afraid of Love* (estimate: \$30,000-\$50,000) – pictured above, which captures the artist's celebrated sculpture that sold at Christie's in 2004 of a baby elephant covered in a white sheet.



Additional highlights include Vik Muniz's (B. 1961) *After Van Gogh* (estimate: \$40,000-\$60,000) – pictured right, from the artist's well-known Pictures of Color series. In this work, Muniz examines the nature of the "truth" of photography by remaking iconic images from unusual material. Here he reinterprets Van Gogh Sunflowers by utilizing a handmade pixelization constructed from Pantone color chips. He then photographs the flat collage and then dismantles it leaving only the image.



Louise Bourgeois' (B. 1911) *Self Portrait* (estimate: \$15,000-20,000) – pictured left, is a superb demonstration of Bourgeois' early work. Executed with minimalist lines, the artist demonstrates the rare ability to create an exceedingly unvarnished image of oneself. This work, while certainly containing a playful quality, also communicates the distinct psychological component that is clearly present in the early work of this celebrated artist.

The sale will also offer a *Portrait of Meyer Schapiro* by Alice Neel (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) a *Drawing for: 3D Drawing 1964, Coca Cola and Orange* by Tom Wesselmann (estimate: \$25,000-35,000), and five gouaches by Alexander Calder including, *Les Yeux et l'Oreille*, 1969 (pictured right) and *Untitled*, 1972 estimate: \$30,000-40,000 each.



Auction: March 11, 2009

Viewing: March 7-11, 2009

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th 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, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, 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, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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

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