

## For Immediate Release

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## FROM OLD MASTERS TO MODERN ARTISTS

Desirable Prints for Budgets of All Sizes at Christie's



*Minotaure aveugle guidé par une Fillette dans la Nuit* from *The Vollard Suite*, Picasso (collection estimate: £500,000-700,000)



Takashi Murakami, *Kaikaikiki News*, 2001 (estimate: £600-800)

### Old Master and Modern Prints, Christie's King Street

30 June 2004

### Modern Prints, Christie's South Kensington

13 May 2004

**London** – From old masters to established contemporary artists, Christie's **Old Master and Modern Prints** sale on 30 June 2004 at King Street is lead by the superb *Vollard Suite* by Picasso, probably the most important print series of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Offered in its entirety as a single lot, the Suite consists of 100 signed etchings and is estimated in the region of £500,000. The South Kensington **Modern Prints** sale on 13 May features a range of affordable modern prints from contemporary artists such as Turner prize winner, Rachel Whiteread and Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, who recently collaborated with fashion designer Marc Jacobs.

## **Vollard Suite Highlights Old Master and Modern Prints - Christie's King Street**

Picasso produced the *Vollard Suite* in the 1930s (estimate: £500,000-700,000), a period which saw him create some of his finest and most important works. These works demonstrate the artist's spontaneity and inventiveness while offering an unforgettable glimpse of Picasso's studio life and personality during one of his most fruitful periods.

Made for the French art dealer and publisher Ambroise Vollard, the series reveals both Picasso's public and private personas and ***traces the erotic and passionate love affair between Picasso and Marie-Therese Walter, his model, muse and mistress.*** He completed the entire series, 62 prints of which were created in 1933 alone, in seven years. As the series evolves, there is the emergence and evolution of several recurring themes, including "sculptor's studio," "minotaur," Vollard, Rembrandt, and sexual violence and desire.

In addition to the *Vollard Suite* and catering for budgets of all size, is a superb single owner collection of prints depicting months of the year, the seasons and the senses, with estimates from £200 to £2,000. Perfect for both the connoisseur and those with a flair for interior decoration, the collection consists of over 70 lots spanning three centuries from 1580 to 1880. Painstakingly put together by one collector, this is the largest group of these extremely decorative objects to appear on the market for many years.

## **Modern Prints - Christie's South Kensington**

Christie's South Kensington sale features an affordable array of modern prints by highly collectable contemporary artists such as Bridget Riley, Takashi Murakami and Rachel Whiteread. With estimates from £200 to £3,000, the sale offers all collectors, the opportunity to acquire affordable works by notable modern artists.

Highlighting the sale is a signed screenprint from the leading British exponent of Op Art, Bridget Riley's *Coloured Grey [2] (Sc20hubert 17)*, 1972 (estimate: £2,500-3,000). Following Takashi Murakami's recent collaboration with fashion designer Marc Jacobs is his work *Kaikaikiki News*, 2001 (estimate: £600-800), a colourful and vibrant print which is strongly influenced by Japanese cartoons.

Other highlights include *Herringbone Floor* by 1993 Turner prizewinner, Rachel Whiteread (estimate: £500-700) which was created in 2001 and *Spiders* by American artist Louise Bourgeois (estimate: £700-900), is evocative of her enormous sculpture of a spider which was displayed in the Turbine Hall during the opening of Tate Modern.

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*Images available on request*

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