

For Immediate Release

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SEAGRAM COLLECTION PART OF CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK PRINTS SALE

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Prints

April 29, 2003

New York – On April 29, the day after the no-reserve sale Picasso Lithographs: Themes and Variations, Christie's New York will hold the regular auction of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Prints. The sale consists of nearly 400 lots, spread over four segments: Nineteenth Century, American and Latin American, Modern European and Post War prints. Dispersed throughout the auction are prints from the Seagram Collection.

The Seagram Collection

The sale includes a wide range of iconic prints by Modern European and Post-War American artists, selected over 40 years by Phyllis Lambert – daughter of Seagram founder Samuel Bronfman – and her curatorial team for Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc. Most of the prints were purchased directly from the artists or their publishers at the time of publication and were selected to compliment the clean lines and spare aesthetic of the Seagram Building designed by Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson. A small group of Modern European artists includes works by Picasso, Braque and Miró, however the emphasis of the collection is on the period of the 1960's to the 1970's with pop art icons by Roy Lichtenstein, Jim Dine, Larry Rivers and Andy Warhol. The minimalist 1970's are also well represented by artists such as Sol Lewitt, Brice Marden and Ellsworth Kelly. By Donald Judd is Untitled; and Untitled, a set of two early woodcuts in which the artist focuses on the theme of symmetry (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). A key group in the collection is Richard Estes' Urban Landscape No. 1 (estimate: \$7,000-10,000), a set of eight screen-prints and featuring as one of the images the landmark Seagram Building.

Various Owners

The Modern European section represents the major European print-makers active in the first half of the 20th century. An interesting selection of prints by Henri Matisse consigned by the estate of the artist will come up, as well as a large group of prints and ceramics by the prolific Picasso among which Faune dévoilant une femme from La Suite Vollard is among the highlights (estimate: \$40,000–60,000). Beautifully intriguing, with a hint of Vallotton while reflecting the somewhat dark atmosphere of Munch, is Wassily Kandinsky's Sängerin, a 1903 woodcut in colors. Exceptional is an album of Egon Schiele prints (estimate: \$100,000–120,000). This portfolio, containing eight of Schiele's total output of seventeen prints, serves as a survey of the artist's graphic oeuvre.

The section of Post-War and Contemporary prints offers a fascinating broad view on the different techniques and methods artists explored. Impressive is Jasper Johns' Savarin (estimate: \$300,000–500,000). The first Savarin was a bronze sculpture Johns made in 1960. He reworked this theme for the next forty years, paying homage to other artists while re-examining his own opinions. The monotype offered here is one of a group, the majority of which are now in the Whitney Museum of American Art. The imprint of his arm below the can is a reference to Edvard Munch's self portrait with a skeletal arm of 1895.

Jonhs' contemporary, Robert Rauschenberg, is well represented in the sale by a group of works which has License (estimate: \$25,000–35,000), a lithograph in colors made in 1962, among its highlights.

The sale ends with several powerful Warhol images such as Mao, the complete set of ten screen-prints in color (estimate: \$60,000–80,000) and Marilyn Monroe (estimate: \$20,000–30,000) a 1967 screen-print in blacks and greys.

Auction: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Prints

April 29 at 10 am and 2 pm

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

April 24 - 28

Images available on request ~ Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Prints can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.