

*For Immediate Release*

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***CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER WORKS OF ART FROM THE RENOWNED  
SEAGRAM COLLECTION THIS SPRING AND SUMMER IN NEW YORK***

*New York – Christie's, the world's leading fine art auctioneer, is delighted to announce that it has been chosen to offer for sale select works of art from the renowned Seagram collection in a series of public and private sales this spring and summer at Rockefeller Center. Comprised primarily of 20<sup>th</sup>-century works by such masters as Picasso, Miró, Rothko, and Matta, this exceptional collection was formed throughout a period spanning nearly 40 years and has long been regarded as one of the world's finest corporate art collections.*

*The collection includes paintings, sculpture, prints, and sculptors' drawings made by a generation of European and American artists who were working when the Seagram Building, the company's landmark headquarters at 375 Park Avenue in New York, was completed in 1958. Designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, a Bauhaus pioneer and champion of the International style, and his partner, Philip Johnson, the Seagram Building has been heralded as an icon of modernist architecture. With the renowned Four Seasons restaurant occupying its lower floors, this architectural masterpiece's sole embellishments are its materials and the exquisite art collection that adorned its offices and public spaces. The vision for both the Seagram Building and its art was initiated and sustained by the talent and enthusiasm of Phyllis Lambert, director of planning for the Seagram Building and Collections and daughter of Seagram founder Samuel Bronfman. Lambert set the standard for the collection, assuring that the pieces selected both reflected the aesthetic spirit of the architecture and were consistent with the quality of the building itself.*

*The Seagram Collection's fine art holdings are particularly strong in the areas of European modernism and American Abstract Expressionism. The selection of paintings and sculpture that will be offered at Christie's prestigious fine art sales at Rockefeller Center in May includes works by Joan Miró, Mark Rothko, Larry Rivers, and Robert Rauschenberg.*

#### *Post-War and Contemporary Art Sale – May 14*

*Rothko's Brown and Blacks in Reds, 1957 (estimate: \$6,000,000–8,000,000), which will lead Christie's May 14 evening sale of Post-War & Contemporary Art at Rockefeller Center, was painted during the later years of the Abstract Expressionist movement, the most significant independent direction in the history of American painting at that time. Among his successors in the New York school of painting was Larry Rivers, who will be represented in the same sale by The Accident (estimate: \$200,000–300,000), also of 1957.*

#### *Impressionist & Modern Art – May 7*

*Joan Miró's Peinture, 1952 (estimate: \$400,000–600,000), will be offered at Christie's evening sale of Impressionist & Modern Art on May 7 at Rockefeller Center. Throughout his career, whether painting in a purely abstract fashion or with figurative elements, Miró remained loyal to the essential Surrealist principle of releasing the creative forces of the unconscious mind from the control of logic and reason. The present canvas, which was painted during a phase in his career in which he was also making large-scale, commissioned murals, is of an extreme width and conveys the sense of a landscape punctuated by figural elements.*

#### *Latin American Art – May 28*

*Endless Nudes (estimate: \$1,000,000–1,500,000), a 1942 canvas by Roberto Sebastián Antonio Matta Echaurren (known famously – and simply – as Matta), will be the top lot of Christie's May 28 evening sale of Latin American Art and will grace the cover of the sale's catalogue. Proclaimed the most profound painter of his generation by none other than Marcel Duchamp, the young Chilean artist joined the Surrealists in Paris in 1937 at the invitation of André Breton and was soon regarded as one of their most talented and zealous champions. Arriving in New York in 1940, he became a central figure among a new generation of artists who used the principle of automatism – spontaneous painting undertaken to freely express the workings of the subconscious – as a guiding force. Rich with vibrant color and imagery, Endless Nudes exemplifies the characteristics and ideals of the Surrealist movement in its evocation of a fantastic, dream-like landscape.*

#### *Prints – April 29*

*Christie's spring sale of Prints on April 29 at Rockefeller Center will be distinguished by approximately 70 highlights from the Seagram collection, which, as with the other collections formed by Seagram, were assembled to surround the employees with the same standard of excellence*

*on the walls as the building itself. Most were purchased directly from the artists or their publishers at the time of publication, and their wide-ranging styles provide a slice of printmaking history from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a special emphasis on the 1950s-'70s. Included are a group of classic mid-1950s European lithographs from Picasso, Braque, and Dubuffet; American Pop images from the 1960s, with examples by Roy Lichtenstein, Jim Dine, Larry Rivers, and Andy Warhol; and the clean, minimalist lines of Sol LeWitt, Brice Marden, Robert Mangold, and Donald Judd, from the 1970s.*

#### *The Seagram Collection – July 23*

*The grand denouement of Christie's spring and summer auctions of property from the Seagram collection will take place at Rockefeller Center on July 23, with the Seagram Collection sale. A wide range of fine art, including prints, posters, and items related to the Seagram company, as well as tavern-related artifacts and furniture from the tavern that once existed on the seventh floor of the Seagram Building, will be offered in this one-of-a-kind auction.*

#### *Private Sales*

*Le Tricorne, 1919, a magnificent stage curtain by Picasso that enjoys an instantly recognizable association with the iconic Seagram Building, will be offered for private sale by Christie's. Created to accompany the ballet of the same name, which was performed by Serge Diaghilev's famed Ballets Russes in London and Paris, Le Tricorne is a landmark in itself, having hung for many years in the great glass-enclosed walkway that runs between the Four Seasons' bar room and its elegant pool room.*

*Another component of the Seagram collection to be sold privately is an assemblage of 'Drawings by Sculptors,' a group of approximately 48 works that document the ideas, strategies, and completed works of conceptual and minimalist sculptors such as Robert Smithson, Richard Serra, and Vito Acconci. Offering revelatory insights into the working process of an artist, as opposed to focusing simply on the finished product, these are preparatory or working drawings of great historical value.*

*As Seagram was known primarily as a distiller of spirits, its collection of American and European glass drinking vessels is not only well suited to the company's mission but also is unique in its quality and depth. Developed from the 1950s onward, the collection boasts museum-quality pieces from the 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries assembled under the guidance of Olga Raggio, now Distinguished Research Curator of European Art at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. This collection also will be sold privately.*

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*Images available on request*  
*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

*More information about Christie's sale of the Seagram Collection can be found on [www.christies.com](http://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](http://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.*