

For Immediate Release

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Press Contact: Hannah Schmidt +44 (0) 207 389 2664

[hschmidt@christies.com](mailto:hschmidt@christies.com)

## DARING AND DESIRABLE – PHOTOGRAPHS AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN MAY



Thursday, 15 May 2008 at 2.30pm  
Christie's King Street

London – *Photographs* of mesmerizing beauty, visionary creativity and historical significance will be offered at Christie's London on Thursday, 15 May 2008. Christie's Photographs sale features a special section devoted to **Post-War and Contemporary Japanese Photography**, with an unprecedented selection of innovative works by 18 Japanese artists. This section showcases rare, vintage prints by luminaries Kikuji Kawada, Yutaka Takanashi and Daido Moriyama, as well as innovative works by contemporary Japanese photographers Rinko Kawauchi, Asako Narahashi and Mika Ninagawa, who are appearing at auction for the first time. Christie's are proud to unveil a previously unseen collection of 23 Paris photographs by **André Kertész**, which provides a unique opportunity to acquire important works of extraordinary provenance, including the sale's star lot *Satiric Dancer*, 1926 (estimate: £200,000-300,000) *illustrated above centre*. Thirteen avant-garde photographs from **the Springfield Collection**, including works by László Moholy-Nagy, Brett Weston and Florence Henri, form another key section. With estimates ranging from £2,000 to £300,000, the 115-lot sale is expected to realise in excess of £1.5million.

The powerful status of the **supermodel** is demonstrated in photographs of **Kate Moss** taken by Sante d'Orazio (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and Albert Watson (estimate: £8,000-10,000), and of **Gisele Bündchen** (estimate: £6,000-8,000) taken by Michel Comte and Gavin Bond (estimate: £3,000-5,000) *illustrated top right*.

Definitive images made by master photographers include *Moonrise, Hernandez*, 1941/1960s by Ansel Adams (estimate: £20,000-30,000), *Xmas Tree in a Living Room*, 1963 by Diane Arbus (estimate: £50,000-70,000), *Nastassja Kinski and the Serpent*, 1981 by Richard Avedon (estimate: £15,000-20,000) and a platinum print of *Calla Lily*, 1984 by Robert Mapplethorpe (estimate: £30,000-40,000).

## Post-War and Contemporary Japanese Photography:



A new era for photography in Japan emerged during the turbulent decades of the 1960s and 70s. Many young photographers reacted to the radical changes and growing tensions within Japanese society by refocusing their energies on the raw expression of immediate experience. Among the progressive photographic collectives that formed and dissolved regularly during this volatile period was the

legendary Provoke. The Provoke philosophy of embracing the violent, the erotic and the accidental is epitomized in Daido Moriyama's powerful *Smash-Up*, 1969 (estimate: £10,000-15,000) *illustrated left*.

The **post-war Japanese photographs** in this carefully-curated section – such as Yutaka Takanashi's billboards from *Towards the City*, 1968 (estimate: £5,000-7,000), Kikuji Kawada's *Woman of Sanket Pauli*, 1969 (estimate: £4,000-6,000), Keizo Kitajima's *Tokyo*, 1975/1985 (estimate: £5,000-7,000) *illustrated right*, and Rikko Nakamura's *In an Apartment*, 1978 (estimate: £4,000-6,000) – are particularly rare as they were intended for publication in magazines and books and hence only a few original prints were ever made by the photographer. The central importance of photo-books and photo-magazines during this period is represented by Kawada's *The Map*, 1965 (estimate: £10,000-15,000), Moriyama's *Farewell Photography*, 1972 (estimate: £4,000-6,000) and the complete set of *Provoke*, 1968-70 (estimate: £7,000-10,000).



This generation of photographers paved the way with their bold experimentations for the dynamic **contemporary Japanese photographers** whose works are offered in this special section. Highlights include Rinko Kawauchi's sold-out image of a powerful lightning bolt from *Aila*, 2004 (estimate: £7,000 -10,000) *illustrated top left page 1*, Asako Narahashi's extraordinary *Jounanjima #3* from her series *half awake and half asleep in the water*, 2002 (estimate: £3,000-4,000) and Mika Ninagawa's playful goldfish from *Liquid Dreams*, 2003 (estimate: £3,000-4,000), *illustrated left*.

## 23 Vintage Paris Photographs by André Kertész:

Christie's Photographs are privileged to reveal, for the very first time, **23 vintage photographs by André Kertész**, which provide a compelling and comprehensive representation of the artist's achievements during his important Paris years. Spanning portraiture, distortions, still-life compositions and city views with their radical graphic structures and unfamiliar vantage points, these works demonstrate the photographer's visual curiosity and experimentation which positioned him as a key exponent of a new, modernist vision in photography. His now-iconic *Satiric Dancer, Paris*, 1926 (estimate: £200,000-300,000) *illustrated page 1 centre*, shows his skillful ability to capture people in motion – in this case Hungarian dancer Magda Förstner is photographed while moving on the sofa in the studio of the sculpture István Beöthy. Other highlights include *Vert-Galant on a Wintry Day*, 1929, showing a unique and previously unknown cropping (estimate: £50,000-70,000) *illustrated below right*, *Shadows of the Eiffel Tower*, before May 1929 (estimate: £40,000-60,000), *Collette*, 1930 (estimate: £30,000-50,000), *Paul Arma's Hands and Shadows I*, 1928 (estimate: £30,000-50,000) and *Child kicking ball*, circa 1930 (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

This thoughtfully-selected group of photographs was gifted in 1963 by Kertész to his friend, journalist Jacqueline Paouillac, as a token of his gratitude for her crucial role in ensuring the security of his archive through the flux of war. Preserved in exceptional condition, virtually untouched since the departure of Kertész for New York in 1936, these prints bear silent witness to a fascinating story, *full details available upon request*. A fitting measure of the photographer's immense appreciation, these treasures had lain dormant for a quarter century until their rediscovery in 1963 and for a further 45 years this extraordinary cache has remained in the family of Mme Paouillac. *"The time has come for these exceptional prints to serve their creator, and the memory of his fine friend, by being made public. It is our privilege to reveal them to a new international audience,"* said **Philippe Garner, International Head of Photographs**.



### **Avant-Garde Photography from the Springfield Collection:**



Thirteen avant-garde photographs from **the Springfield Collection** are led by Lázló Moholy-Nagy's *Oskar Schlemmer*, 1927 (estimate: £30,000-50,000), *illustrated left*. This collection is fresh to the market, having been acquired at a Dresden auction in 1949 then passed by decent to the present owner, *in-depth information available upon request*. Further key works include Brett Weston's *Tin Roofs, Mexico*, 1926 (estimate: £10,000-15,000), Florence Henri's *Fenêtres*, 1929 (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and Walter Peterhans's *Weekend*, before May 1929 (estimate: £5,000-7,000). The remainder of this collection will be offered at Christie's South Kensington in November 2008.

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*A selection of images is available on request*

### **Notes to editors:**

**Auction** – Christie's Photographs, King Street: Thursday, 15 May 2.30pm

**Pre-sale Viewing: Christie's, King Street** – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 12noon- 5pm, Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 12noon- 5pm, Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 9am- 4.30pm, Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 9am -8pm, Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 9am-4.30pm, Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> 9am-12noon.

### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. 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 and Hong Kong. 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.