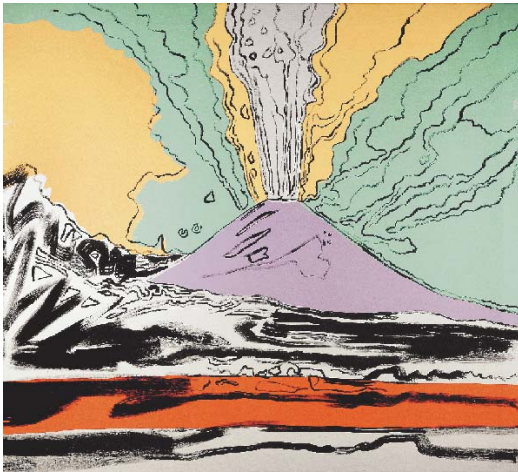


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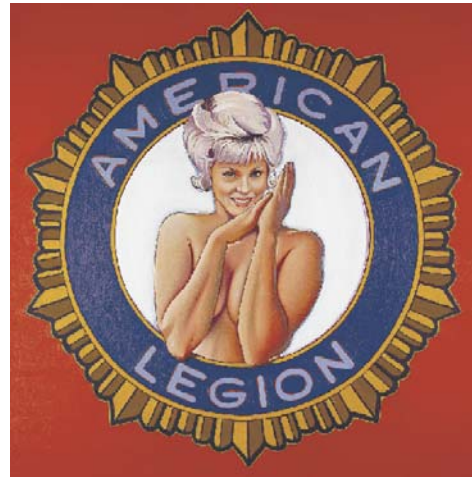
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FASHION & ART COME TOGETHER AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE: WORKS FROM THE ERNESTO ESPOSITO COLLECTION



Andy Warhol (1928-1987)
Vesuvius, 1985
Estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000



Mel Ramos (b. 1935)
Miss American Legion, 1964
Estimate: £500,000-800,000

Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale: 20 June 2007

Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale: 21 June 2007

Christie's London

London – Fashion and art come together at Christie's London with *Works From The Ernesto Esposito Collection* which will be offered in the sales of **Post-War and Contemporary Art** on 20 and 21 June 2007. A world renowned art collector and a visionary shoe designer who has worked with the fashion houses of Marc Jacobs, Chloe and Louis Vuitton, Mr Esposito was a close personal friend of Andy Warhol and the last person to be painted by the artist. Comprising 12 works spanning five decades from the 1960s to the present day, the selection includes well-known artists such as Andy Warhol, Peter Doig, Keith Haring and Mel Ramos and is expected to realise in excess of £4 million.

"We are delighted to have been entrusted with a selection of works from such an important collection. Contemporary Art provides Ernesto Esposito with a source of much inspiration and over the past thirty years his discerning eye has seen him thoughtfully assemble one of the finest contemporary art collections in Europe," says **Pilar Ordovas, Head of Post War & Contemporary Art at Christie's London.**

Working from the backstage of the most prestigious fashion houses, Italian-born Ernesto Esposito commenced his career as a shoe designer in the 1970s for one of the most prestigious shoe makers in the world, Sergio Rossi, with whom he worked together for more than 15 years. In the 1980s, Mr Esposito joined the team of the young Marc Jacobs where he collaborated for nearly ten years and he has since worked with Chloe, Sonia Rykiel and Louis Vuitton.

Leading the selection of five works from *Works From The Ernesto Esposito Collection* offered in **Christie's Post War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale** on 20 June 2007 is Andy Warhol's (1928-1987), *Vesuvius*, 1985 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). Living in Naples, Italy with Mount Vesuvius nearby, the work is a fitting testament to the close personal friendship Mr Esposito had with Andy Warhol. Warhol was drawn to the denigrated products of consumer society and his Pop work *Campbell's tomato juice box*, 1964 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) saw him offend the sensibilities of an audience accustomed to thinking of art as an intimate medium for conveying emotion. Pop sensibility combines with quintessential all-American apple pie in Mel Ramos' (b. 1935) *Miss American Legion*, 1964 (estimate: £500,000-800,000), in which Ramos' trademark image of a scantily clad 'pin-up' girl is depicted as if playing a role in a commercial publicising the American Legion.

Lisa Yuskavage's (b. 1962) *Dark Garden II*, 2003 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) is a strange and brooding picture filled with a sinister sensuality and sexuality. A deliberate and post-feminist play on the idea of representations of women as objects of desire, Yuskavage takes the stereotype, twisting and exaggerating it in order to somehow devalue it. A similar sinister atmosphere can be found in Peter Doig's (b. 1959) *Target*, 2000 (estimate: £700,000-900,000). Doig uses old snapshots and film stills as the sources for his art and his works are often fuelled by a stifling, even sinister atmosphere, as though the pictures were photos lying around an abandoned house, or a frozen moment from a larger narrative of which the viewer can never really discover anything.

A further seven works from *Works From The Ernesto Esposito Collection* will be offered in Christie's **Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale** on 21 June 2007. Pop Art is well represented throughout the collection and works by Andy Warhol dominate with *Dollar Sign*, 1981 (estimate: £120,000-180,000) and *Hammer and Sickle*, 1976 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) leading the sale. Works by other Pop artists include American Keith Haring (1958-1990), *Untitled (Mr. Softee)*, 1985 (estimate: £120,000 - 180,000) and Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara's (b. 1960), *Tamago*, 2000 (estimate: £150,000-200,000).

Amongst the selection of conceptual and sculptural pieces from the collection is Dan Flavin's (1933-1996) red and pink fluorescent light *Untitled (to Barbara Wool)* which was executed in 1970 and is number one from an edition of three (estimate: £150,000-200,000). American sculptor Donald Judd (1928-1994) is represented by *Untitled*, circa 1991 (estimate:

£200,000-300,000) and conceptual pioneer, Sol Lewitt (1928-2007) by *Hanging Complex Form*, 1989 (estimate: £100,000-150,000).

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*Visit Christie's at www.christies.com
A selection of images is available on request*

Notes to Editors

International Exhibition

Highlights from *Works From The Ernesto Esposito Collection* will be on view at the Gritti Palace Hotel, in Venice, Italy on 7, 8 and 9 June 2007

Christie's London Auctions in June 2007 of Impressionist & Modern Art and Post War & Contemporary Art:

- Impressionist and Modern Art (Evening Sale): 18 June 2007 at 6.30pm
- Impressionist and Modern Art (Day Sale): 19 June 2007 at 2.00pm
- Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: 19 June 2007 at 10.30am
- Post War and Contemporary Art (Evening Sale): 20 June 2007 at 6.30pm
- Post War & Contemporary Art (Day Sale): 21 June 2007 at 10.00am

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totaled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 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 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, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars 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 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 markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE, its unique, real-time online bidding service.