

For Immediate Release

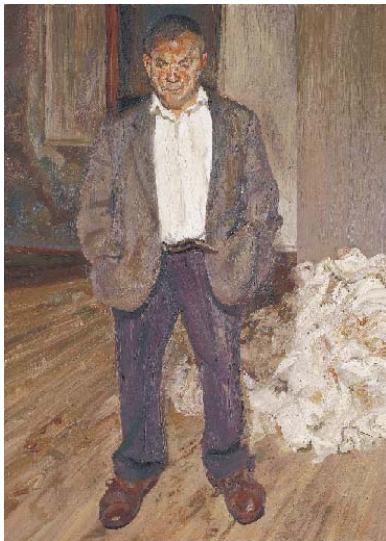
23 May 2007

Contact: Rhiannon Broomfield +44 (0) 207 389 2117 rbroomfield@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S CONTINUES TO LEAD THE POST WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART MARKET WITH THE MOST VALUABLE SALE EVER TO BE HELD IN EUROPE

Post War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale

Christie's London, Wednesday 20 June 2007 at 6.30 pm



London – On 20 June 2007, Christie's London will hold the most valuable **Post War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale** ever to be staged in Europe. Presenting an exceptional selection of works from the School of London, Pop and Contemporary Art, the beautifully selected sale is led by the most significant collection of School of London works to ever appear at auction including Lucian Freud's *Bruce Bernard*, 1992 (estimate: £4,500,000-5,500,000) (*pictured left*) which is expected to set a new world auction record for the artist*. With a record £54 to £74 million pre-sale estimate, the auction follows the firm's record-breaking *Post-War and Contemporary Art* sale in New York in May 2007 which realised \$384,654,400, the most valuable auction ever in the category, reinforcing Christie's dominance of the international Post War and Contemporary Art market at all levels.

“Over the past three years, Christie's has driven the international Post War and Contemporary Art market to a new level, presenting an exceptional variety of the highest quality works to an increasingly diverse and global audience. Christie's London sale in June promises to be a landmark auction and the appearance of significant works by Freud, Bacon, Warhol and many others, presents a tremendous opportunity for today's international collectors seeking iconic works,” says **Pilar Ordovas, Head of Post War & Contemporary Art, Christie's London.**

Leading the sale is the most significant collection of School of London works to ever appear at auction. **Selected Works from the Elaine and Melvin Merians Collection** is led by the most important painting by Lucian Freud ever to appear at auction, *Bruce Bernard*, 1992 which is expected to set a new world auction record for the artist* (estimate: £4,500,000-5,500,000). The comprehensive collection features a range of 21 major works by the so-

called 'School of London' artists which all appear at auction for the first time. Significant works include Francis Bacon's *Two Men Working in a Field*, 1971 (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000) and Frank Auerbach's *Tree in Mornington Crescent*, 1991-92 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) together with examples from Michael Andrews, Leon Kossoff, R. B. Kitaj and Paula Rego. The collection is expected to realize in excess of £15 million. *Please see separate press release for further information.*

The first of only four paintings by **Francis Bacon** (1909-1992) to depict the plague of war, *Landscape with a car*, 1939-46 (estimate: £4,000,000-6,000,000) (*pictured right*) is one of the very few paintings made by the artist during the Second World War to have survived both the ravages of the period and the destructive violence of the artist's ferocious self-criticism. A mere twenty-six paintings from this era remain today, of which *Landscape with a car* is one of the scarce and important survivors and which can be positively ascribed to the first twenty years of Francis Bacon's career from 1929 to 1948. Bacon abruptly left his studio in Cromwell Place, London in 1951 following the death of his former nanny and close companion, Jessie Lightfoot. The studio was taken over by the artist Robert Buhler, who subsequently placed Bacon's paintings on the market.



Andy Warhol (1928-1987) is the fastest rising and most coveted star of the post war and contemporary market and the sale features a number of significant works by the artist including *Three Marylins*, 1962 (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000) (*pictured left*). 'My first experiments with screens were heads of Troy Donahue and Warren Beatty, and then when Marilyn Monroe happened to die that month, I got the idea to make screens of her beautiful face - the first Marylins' (Warhol in G. Celant, *SuperWarhol*, exh.cat., Milan, 2003). The icon of the screen was rapidly transformed into the icon of Pop Art. *Three Marylins* dates from this legendary moment in the history of art. It is one of the first multiple images that Warhol made of the deceased star, and is particularly rare in its verticality: of these 1962 *Marylins*, only one other is recorded with a single strip of vertical images, and in that case there are only two, in black and white. Here, though, with the triple repetition, Warhol manages to give this silk-screened image of Marilyn Monroe a filmic appearance, as though it were itself related to the strips of celluloid of her cinema career.

Other works by the master of Pop Art include Warhol's *John Lennon*, 1985-86 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000) (*pictured right*). In late 1985 Warhol was asked to produce a portrait of John Lennon for the cover of the then forthcoming Lennon album *Menlove Avenue* - the title of which referred to the name of the street in Liverpool where Lennon had grown up. This was a posthumous album of outtakes from Lennon's *Rock'n'Roll* with Phil Spector in the 1970s. Warhol produced two other paintings of Lennon that were used for the front and back covers of this album. At the same time Warhol also produced this 40 x 40 inch portrait of Lennon which was taken from Iain Macmillan's 1971 photograph of the singer. Warhol's *Brigitte Bardot*, 1974 (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000) which is one in a series of eight portraits of the original sex-kitten, will also be offered.



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 (*pictured above*) and is expected to realise in excess of £4 million. *Please see separate press release for further information.*

A selection of 18 works from the **CAP Collection** reflects the theme of race which is woven throughout the collection. Assembled since 1996 by Anthony Pilaro, founder of Duty Free and BriteSmile and CAP Foundation Chairman, the majority of sale proceeds will benefit the Ron



Brown Scholar Program, which annually awards scholarships to academically talented, highly motivated African-American high school seniors. Pilaro developed relationships with a number of artists featured within the sale including Christopher Wool (b. 1955) who is represented by *Untitled (P252)*, 1996 (estimate: £250,000-350,000), one of the greatest of his works to come onto the market. The theme of race is inherent within *The Dance*, 1992 (*pictured above right*), a highly important work by South African-born artist Marlene Dumas (b.

1992) (estimate: £500,000-700,000), as well as Chris Ofili's (b. 1968) *Head of an Afronaught*, 1999-2000 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) and Kara Walker's (b. 1969) *Untitled (Girl with Bucket)*, 1998 (estimate: £40,000-60,000).

Combining the avant-garde of art of France, Italy and Germany, **Property from the Estate of Rosemarie Delil** will be sold to benefit a Children's Hospice in Olpe, Germany. Comprising 8 works in the Evening sale and 59 further works in the Morning Session of the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale on 21 June 2007, the collection was formed throughout the 1960s and 1970s by Karl-Heinz and Rosemarie Delil who lived in Cologne, Germany. The collection features a cosmopolitan mix of works by international Post-War artists of the 1950s and 1960s such as Yves Klein's (1928-1962) *IKB 94*, 1959 (estimate: £500,000-700,000) (*pictured right*), *Achrome*, 1958-59 by Piero Manzoni (1933-1963) (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and examples from Lucio Fontana and German artists such as Günther Uecker, Heinz Mack and Otto Piene.



The **Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale** on 21 June 2007 is the largest and most valuable to be held at Christie's London. Estimated to fetch in excess of £18 million and



divided into two sessions, over 400 lots will be offered with estimates ranging from £800 to £600,000. The sale includes strong sections devoted to Post-War French and Italian Art, American Post-War, German Contemporary and Chinese Contemporary Art. Leading the morning session is Andy Warhol's (1928-1987), *Portrait of Prince Charles*, 1982 (estimate: £180,000-220,000) (*pictured left*) and David Hockney's (b. 1937), *Steps with Shadows (Paper Pool 2)*, 1978 (estimate: £300,000-500,000). The afternoon session is highlighted by *The Public Order 1*, 2004 by Franz Ackermann (b. 1963) (estimate: £150,000-200,000) and Damien Hirst's

(b. 1965) *beautiful, babies, optical, persons nose, trembling camera, weird shutter release, artistic eye, exploding, pig, chainsaw, sex painting*, 1996 (estimate: £120,000-180,000)

###

Visit Christie's at www.christies.com

A selection of images is available on request

Notes to Editors

Record for Lucian Freud

*The current record for any work by Lucian Freud is *Red Haired Man on a Chair*, 1962 – 1963 which sold for £4,152,000 (\$7,703,153) at Christie's London on 9 February 2005

International Exhibition Tour

- 25-27 May 2007: Convention Centre, Hong Kong
- 7-9 June 2007: Gritti Palace Hotel, Venice, Italy

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 sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It 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 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 markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.