

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Catherine Manson 44.207.389.2982

cmanson@christies.com

Clare Roberts 44 207 389 2117

croberts@christies.com

CONTEMPORARY ART HIGHLIGHTS CHRISTIE'S IN JUNE 2005

Strongest Evening Sale ever to be staged in London



Hanging Heads # 1 (Blue Andrew, Mouth Open/Red Julie with Cap), executed in 1989 by Bruce Nauman (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and *Untitled (Table)*, a resin cast executed in 1993 by Rachel Whiteread (estimate: £80,000-120,000)

London – Christie's will present the strongest auction in the field of Post-War and Contemporary Art ever to be staged in London on 23 June 2005. The 65 lot auction, estimated to fetch in the region of £19 million, will offer works of the highest quality by the leading contemporary practitioners, as well as a superb selection of German Contemporary artists. The Evening Sale will also offer seminal portraits by Britain's most eminent Post-War artists, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud (see separate press release). The *Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale* will be staged the following day, offering unique works of art ranging in price from £3,000-£300,000.

The February 2005 Evening Sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art in London achieved £24,461,600 (\$45,792,115), the highest total ever realised in this category in Europe, says Fernando Mignoni, Director of the Department. The fact that this landmark sale was followed by the May 2005 New York evening sale which fetched \$133,707,200, the highest total for a sale in the category worldwide, demonstrates the enduring strength of the market at new, all time high, level. As a result many collectors have decided that now is the time to sell, and Christie's is the place to consign.

Hanging Heads # 1 (Blue Andrew, Mouth Open/Red Julie with Cap), executed in 1989 by Bruce Nauman, is a major highlight of the sale (estimate: £200,000-300,000). A sculpture made of wax and wire, this piece comprises two casts of the heads of Nauman's collaborators, Andrew and Julie, captured precisely in dental wax and suspended upside-down from the ceiling. Nauman's reprisal during the 1980s of casting bodies and body parts in wax marked a return to one of the techniques that had characterized his early career and one that he used in many of his most famous masterpieces, including *Henry Moore Bound to Fail*, which was auctioned by Christie's in May 2001 for \$9.9 million, the current world record for the artist. Further sculptural highlights

include Rachel Whiteread's *Untitled (Table)*, a resin cast executed in 1993 (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and the late Eduardo Chillida's striking sculpture, *Deep is the Air-Stele XIII*, executed in granite in 1990 (estimate: £500,000-700,000).

An extremely strong German section in the Evening Sale is led by several of Germany's most important contemporary artists. Martin Kippenberger, the so-called 'enfant terrible' of contemporary German art, is represented by *Untitled (Woman with Money)* (estimate: £120,000-180,000). Executed in 1995, this oil on canvas is a cartoon depiction of a housewife, shown winking at the viewer against an orange and white checkerboard background. Stuck onto the canvas, and spiralling out from the centre of her head are silver coins in a wide variety of currencies. The juxtaposition of the coins alongside the more domestic advertising-like imagery create a strangely provocative and commercially suggestive image.

Helicopter XVIII (reality check), a signed oil on canvas painted in 2001 by Franz Ackermann is another German highlight (estimate: £100,000-150,000). Ackermann's dynamically colourful paintings, transpose the chaotic ebb and flow of city life onto canvas, and echo the physical, social, economic, political and ethnic upheavals that have characterized urban centres over the past decade, including the artist's home base of Berlin. Dirk Skreber's *U.T.*, an oil on canvas painted in 1994 is also offered (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The German section of the sale also includes works by Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Poke and Georg Baselitz.

Offered from a French private collection is Jean Michel Basquiat's *Untitled*, 1982 is a major highlight of the evening sale (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). *Untitled* belongs to a series of the artist's most seminal works, depicting hero-figures, boxers, athletes and prophets. Painted in gold, *Untitled* depicts Basquiat adorned with a halo, the young artist as both a warrior-hero and saint, an icon and a sacrificial victim of the modern art world into which he had emerged, from the streets, just a year earlier.

The evening sale will offer several works by Andy Warhol, including *Shadow*, offered from a private European collection (estimate: £150,000-200,000), a silkscreen, executed in 1978, which marks Warhol's foray into the world of abstraction. Filled with a strange and abstract interplay of darkness and light, the image hints at the artist's increasing preoccupation with death, which would appear in other works, including a series featuring skulls.

Coinciding with the renaissance of contemporary painting, highlighted by exhibitions such as the Saatchi's 'Triumph of Painting', the sale will offer an extremely strong selection of the most important artists who are bringing the traditional medium of painting to the fore of contemporary collecting. Marlene Dumas, for whom Christie's established the current world record of £1,800,000 for the artist in the London February 2005 evening sale auction, is represented by two paintings in the sale, *The Broken Mirror* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) an oil on canvas painted in 1988-89 and *Handy*, painted 1992 (estimate: £100,000-150,000). *In the Park*, an oil on canvas

pained by Gary Hume in 1997 and Peter Doig's *Buffalo Station*, painted in 1998-99 (estimate: £100,000-150,000), are also offered (estimate: £60,000-80,000).

The evening sale boasts two works by Tuymans, both of which have featured in important exhibitions, including the recent Tate exhibition, *Lamproom*, painted in 1992 and (estimate: £120,000-180,000) *Embitterment* (estimate: £100,000-150,000), formed by three paintings, hung above one another, that document both rage and grief and which are connected by a central 'spine'.

Post War and Contemporary (day sale)

Friday, 24 June

Christie's London third Post-War and Contemporary Art sale of 2005 will feature internationally renowned artists, with estimates ranging from £2,000-£250,000. The cover lot of the sale is a fantastic Andy Warhol *Reversal Marilyn* (estimate: 220,000-260,000). Further important post-war works include one of the first 'Monochrome' painting by Yves Klein *M85* (estimate: £60,000-80,000), offered from the estate of Pierre Restany, the famous writer and art critic of the "Nouveau Realisme" movement. Another important artist from the "Nouveau Realisme" movement is Jean Tinguely, represented in the sale by one of his first mechanic sculptures (estimate: £50,000-70,000). A strong German Art section is represented by well established artists such as Gerhard Richter, with *Abstraktes Bild*, (estimate: £60,000-80,000), Georg Baselitz, with three early important works on paper ranging in date from 1964 to 1967, with estimates from £15,000-35,000 pounds) and Sigmar Polke. The sale will also include works from the new generation of contemporary artists, such as Neo Rauch with *Die Pilgernde*, (estimate: £65,000-85,000), Franz Ackermann, and Thomas Schütte, as well as several works by the acclaimed painters Marlene Dumas and Luc Tuymans. Of special note are seven works by Panamarenko, consigned from private collection. One of Belgium's most important 20th century artists, the seven works offered represent Panamarenko at the height of his career.

Notes to Editors

Impressionist and 20th Century Art at Christie's London in June 2005

Impressionist and Modern Art (evening sale), Tuesday, 21 June

Impressionist and Modern Art (day sale), Wednesday, 22 June

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper, Thursday, 23 June

Post War and Contemporary (evening sale), Thursday, 23 June

Post War and Contemporary (day sale), Friday, 24 June

Tours and Viewing

Highlights from the evening sale will tour to the following locations:

Hotel Gritti Palace, Venice 9-11 June

Post-War and Contemporary art sales will go on public view at Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road SW7 from 18 June onwards. Auctions will take place at Christie's 8 King Street, SW1

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Images available on request

Inaugurated in 2004, **Art Fortnight London** is a special two-week programme aimed at international collectors, curators and museum directors. Consisting of special exhibitions, auctions and cultural events, the fortnight celebrates London's pre-eminence as a centre of the international art market and its reputation as the leading trend setting, cultural capital of the world. This concept is the first effective partnership between the commercial art world with the capital's leading museums and galleries, demonstrating to the world the richness and diversity of London's cultural life. Now in its second year, **Art Fortnight London** will continue to illustrate the breadth and quality of art to see and collect in London, from Old Masters to Contemporary; it will also showcase London's wealth of expertise, academic resources and its reputation for cutting edge art. Full details of all events are available at www.artfortnightlondon.com