

## For Immediate Release

22 June 2006

Contact: Christina Freyberg 0207 389 2664 cfreyberg@christies.com

### POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING SALE AT CHRISTIE'S TOTALS £25.9 MILLION / \$47.8 MILLION / €37.6 MILLION

- **Second Highest Total for Post-War and Contemporary Art at Christie's Europe**
- **8 New World Auction Records Established at Christie's London**

#### Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale Christie's King Street - 22 June 2006

**London** – The market continued to respond strongly to important Post-War and Contemporary Art as Christie's London evening sale of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* which totalled £25,899,600 (\$47,784,762/€37,683,918).

The highlight of the sale was a previously unseen Francis Bacon triptych *Three Studies for a Self-Portrait*, 1980, which sold for £3,816,000 (\$7,040,520/€5,552,280), a world auction record for a triptych by the artist. 8 new world auction records were established tonight at Christie's. The auction was 90% sold by lot and 87% sold by value. 11 works of art sold for over \$1 million (4 for over £1 million). Buyer activity was 63% European, 32% American and 5% Middle East.

*"These results demonstrate that the global audience for Post-War and Contemporary Art continues to grow. Over the past three years, we have seen a significant increase in new collectors entering the market, which in turn has fuelled owners to consign great works of Post-War and Contemporary art for sale at Christie's. As we saw earlier in the week, buyers are discerning and enthusiastic for the best pieces available. Tonight we saw a strong and steady sale with a depth of interest that bodes well for next season,"* said Fernando Mignoni, Director and Pilar Ordovas, Head of Evening Sale, Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Art Department.

The top lot was Francis Bacon's *Three Studies for a Self-Portrait*, 1980, which realised £3,816,000 (\$7,040,520 /€5,552,280). A further work by Bacon, *Composition (Figure)*, 1933, sold for £400,000 (\$738,000/€582,000) establishing a new auction record for a work on paper by the artist.

Increased interest for Spanish artists work was reflected in tonight's auction prices. A new world auction record was achieved for Eduardo Chillida's early iron masterpiece *Rumor de Limites VI*, 1960, considered by many to be his finest sculpture, which sold for £2,024,000 (\$3,734,280/€2,944,920), over three times the pre-sale estimate. Strong prices were also realised for Miquel Barceló's frenzied work *Plaza con dos puertas*, 1990, which sold for £366,400 (\$676,008/€533,112) and Manolo Valdés's *Figura Con Falda Negra*, painted in 1992-93, which realised £153,600 (\$283,392/€223,488). The international market prices for these Spanish works of art bode well for Christie's Spanish Sale that will take place in Madrid on 4 October 2006.

Andy Warhol was well represented in the sale and there continues to be an enthusiastic response from the market to his works. An early work on paper from 1962, *Dance Steps* sold for £433,600 (\$799,992/€630,888), while Warhol's *American Indian (Russell Means)*, from 1976, set against a green background, realised £1,464,000 (\$2,701,080/€2,130,120), a record for a work in this series. *Ohne Titel (Lieber Maler male mir...)* 1983, belongs to one of Martin Kippenberger's most important series and sold for £478,400 (\$882,648/€696,072). While Joseph Beuys' striking installation *Boxkampf für die Direkte Demokratie* executed in 1972 sold for £344,000 (\$634,680/€500,200) and set a new world auction record for the artist.

New world record auction prices were established for both Sarah Lucas's installation *New Religion*, executed in 1999, which sold for £96,000 (\$177,120/€139,680) and Antony Gormley's captivating cast iron sculpture *Fold II*, 1988-89, which realised £198,400 (\$366,048/€288,672), while Peter Doig's *Pink Briey*, 1997, sold for £288,000 (\$531,360/€419,040).

Other highlights include Lucio Fontana's *Concetto Spaziale, Attese*, 1961, which realised £545,600 (\$1,006,632/€793,848), while Yves Klein's *IKB*, 1957, sold for £993,600 (\$1,833,192/€1,445,688). This was one of eleven works exhibited in the first show that displayed only Klein's signature blue paintings. Gerhard Richter's *Two Sculptures for a Room by Palermo*, 1971, was also highly sought after this evening and realised £624,000 (\$1,151,280/€907,920), setting a new world auction record for the sculpture by the artist.

Among the more recent contemporary art in the sale was an important work by Maurizio Cattelan entitled *Frank and Jamie*, 2002, which realised £400,000 (\$738,000/€582,000) and Hiroshi Sugimoto's *Tyrrhenian Sea, Conca*, 1994, sold for £299,000 (\$ 552,024/€435,336). German artists were also sought after including Albert Oehlen's work *C.T.* painted in 1995 which sold for £243,200 (\$448,704/€353,856), equalling the world auction record for the artist. Matthias Weischer's *No 32 Ohne Titel* realised £131,200 (\$242,064/€190,896) and Daniel Richter's *Antitreiben*, 1996, sold for £131,200 (\$242,064/€190,896). Another new world auction record price was established for Enzo Cucchi's *Quadro Santo*, 1980, which sold for £568,000 (\$1,047,960/€826,440).

The Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale takes place tomorrow.

Images available on request

Visit Christie's on the Web at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

### Notes to Editor

Christie's is the largest marketplace internationally for Post-War and Contemporary Art with global sales in 2005 totalling £1.8 billion (\$3.2 billion). Christie's New York evening sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art in May 2006 realized £79 million (\$147million) the second highest total for a sale in this field. While in February 2006, the highest ever European sales total for Post-War and Contemporary Art was achieved at Christie's London when the evening sale total realized £37 million (\$64.5 million).