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POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING SALE REALISES £14,070,215 MILLION: LONDON'S HIGHEST SALE TOTAL IN THE POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY FIELD

- *Important Triptych Painting by Francis Bacon Sells for £2,357,250 Million at Christie's Tonight*
- *World Auction Records Established for Anish Kapoor, Emilio Vedova and Eduardo Chillida*

Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

24 June 2004

London – Christie's evening sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art held in London tonight achieved a total of £14,070,215 (\$25,509,300/ €21,105,323) and established world auction records for 3 artists. The top lot of the evening was Francis Bacon's Three Studies of Isabel Rawsthorne, which realised £2,357,250 (\$4,273,694/ €3,535,875). The sitter, Isabel Rawsthorne, is believed to have been Bacon's only female lover and his portraits of her painted throughout the 1960s and 1970s are widely regarded as among his finest works.

The sale was 96% sold by value and 90% sold by lot. Successful buyers this evening were 60% European, 20% American, 4% Asian and 15% Other.

“Following on the enormous success of our recent Post-War and Contemporary Art sale in New York in May, Christie's continues to dominate in this field,” said Fernando Mignoni, Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art at Christie's in London. “There was spirited bidding in the room and on the phone from beginning to end equally for both Post-War and Contemporary works, which shows the breadth of the market. We are delighted with the

extraordinary results for this sale, the highest total ever achieved in this category in London.”

The second highest lot of the sale was Yves Klein’s RE 29 (Blue Sponge Relief), 1957, which achieved £1,069,250 (\$1,938,550/ €1,603,875). The large and unique-square format is one of the first series of his sponge-reliefs and is among the most important and finest creations of his oeuvre.

Buyers also vied for Mark Rothko’s Untitled, 1969, one of the largest and most imposing examples from his dramatic and important late series of paintings, which sold for £923,650 (\$1,674,577/ €1,385,475) and Jean-Michel Basquiat’s Pyrex.Jaw, 1983, a vigorous depiction of a boxer, which achieved £654,850 (\$1,187,243/ €982,275).

An exceptionally strong selection of works by Spanish artists achieved very strong prices. Pase de pecho, a bullfight depicted by Miquel Barceló, painted in 1990, sold for £509,250 (\$923,270/ €763,875) and Eduardo Chillida’s large work in fired clay Mural G-46, 1984, achieved £363,650 (\$659,297/ €545,475), setting a world auction record for a terracotta work by the artist.

Further world auction records were also established for Anish Kapoor’s Untitled, which sold for £229,250 (\$415,630/ €343,875) and Emilio Vedova’s Dal ciclo della protesta '58, which realised £212,450 (\$385,172/ €318,675).

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Images available on request

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