

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

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**AN EXTRAORDINARY LINE-UP OF PHOTOGRAPH SALES  
HIGHLIGHT THE FALL AUCTION SEASON AT CHRISTIE'S**

**Magnificent range of Photographs from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary color prints**



**October 7-8, 2009**

**New York** – The Christie's line-up for the Photographs season this October 7 & 8 will include four major sales showcasing the very finest in the medium, from historical 19<sup>th</sup> century works through to contemporary prints. The four sales are: *The American Landscape: Color Photographs from the Bruce and Nancy Berman Collection*, *Photographs by Sally Mann from a Private Collection*, *Washington, D.C.*, *The Miller-Plummer Collection of Photographs* (separate releases available), and the traditional Various Owners *Photographs* sale. All four sales will be preceded by a museum-quality exhibition at the Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center beginning October 3. The four auctions in their entirety are expected to realize in the range of \$6-9 million.

### Photographs (Various Owners)

Leading the Various Owners sale of Photographs on October 8 is a magnificent portfolio of *The North American Indian* by Edward S. Curtis. Formerly of the Lammot du Pont collection until 1969, the complete 40-volume set of illustrated text volumes and photogravures is expected to realize \$700,000 to \$900,000. This rare portfolio will be sold to benefit the Wilmington Institute Library in Wilmington, DE.



Exceedingly rare is the 1906 platinum print *Water Lilies*, by Adolph de Meyer (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), pictured right. Recognized by Alfred Stieglitz as one of the greatest images of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, *Water Lilies* came to form part of Stieglitz's storied collection bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the 1930's. The present print represents the only other known platinum print of this image and one of three prints of this image. The third print is a silver print, which is being offered in the Christie's sale of the *The Miller-Plummer Collection of Photographs*. *Water Lilies* shares an affinity with the symbolist art of the time, its curvilinear forms similar to art nouveau.

A quintessential Parisian *carte postale* print of the 1920's, André Kertész's *The Stairs of Montmartre, Paris, 1926* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) once belonged to the folio of twenty-one vintage prints that was assembled by Kertész himself and was coveted and tucked away in his apartment only to be discovered after the artist's death.

At the core of the sale is another enduring classic of the medium, a rare early print by Manuel Alvarez Bravo, *El Ensueño*, 1931 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000).



Highlighting the offerings by American masters are two works by Robert Frank: an oversized print *Fish Kill, New York, 1965* (estimate: \$60,000-90,000), pictured left, and an enlarged *Contact Sheet, The Americans*, (estimate: \$25,000-35,000). A remarkable portrayal of mid-century American life, these pictures were presented in his seminal book *The Americans*, first published in France in 1958 and in the US the following year, and will be the subject of a major exhibition this fall at

the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Also by Frank is a rare combination print, *Mary and Pablo NYC*, 1951 and 1954 (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).

From the Collection of Jane Paxson, is a rare and wonderful *Self-Portrait* by Ansel Adams from 1930 (estimate: \$15,000-25,000). Canonized for his breathtaking landscapes, it is a rare treat to have Adams follow the conventions of portraiture and turn the camera on himself. Another portrait of one of the great 20<sup>th</sup> century masters is Margrethe Mather's 1921 platinum print of *Edward Weston* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



Of the contemporary color photographs on offer is *Greenwood, Mississippi* by William Eggleston (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), pictured page 1. An exquisite image *Hope 5*, 2005 by Erwin Olaf (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) will present collectors a wonderful opportunity to acquire the contemporary artist's already iconic work. Other works in the auction include photographs by Lee Friedlander, Diane Arbus, Brassai, Walker Evans, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Hiroshi Sugimoto.

#### **Auctions:**

- *The American Landscape: Color Photographs from the Bruce and Nancy Berman Collection*, October 7 at 2pm (separate release available)
- *Photographs by Sally Mann from a Private Collection, Washington, D.C.*, October 7 at 5pm (separate release available)
- *The Miller-Plummer Collection of Photographs*, October 8 at 10am (separate release available)
- *Photographs (Various Owners)*, October 8 at 2pm

**Viewing:** Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center, October 3-6\*

\**Photographs (Various Owners)* will be on view through October 7

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as 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 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan,

Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available on request*

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*Images from this sale are available at <ftp://ftpus.christies.com> (user name and password: christies)*

