

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF LEE V. EASTMAN TO HIGHLIGHT THE SALES OF IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN AND POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART THIS FALL

Collection Features the Most Important Group of de Kooning Works Ever to Appear at Auction

Impressionist & Modern Art -- November 1, 2005

Post-War & Contemporary Art -- November 8, 2005

New York – *Property from the Collection of Lee V. Eastman*, which includes an unprecedented group of paintings, drawings and sculpture by Willem de Kooning, as well as key works by other major artists ranging from Giacometti, Matisse and Picasso to Rothko, Motherwell and Kline, will be presented by Christie's New York during the evening sales of *Impressionist and Modern Art* on November 1 and *Post-War and Contemporary Art* on November 8. The collection is expected to realize in excess of \$30 million.

The New York School, led by de Kooning and Pollock and further shaped by artists such as Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell, Franz Kline and Philip Guston, was crucial in shifting the capital of the art world from Paris to New York after the 1940's. By revolutionizing a pictorial language that had previously been completely defined by European Modernism and the work of Picasso and Braque, they developed a new style which was driven by the vitality and intensity of New York's unique spirit. Carefully assembled over the last thirty years and representing key artists of European Modernism as well as Abstract Expressionism, *Property from the Collection of Lee V. Eastman* brilliantly reflects the creative energy that connected two of the most important movements in art history.

The group of de Kooning works collected by Lee Eastman is the most important selection of works by the artist ever to have appeared at auction. The works span the artist's career from 1944 until 1977. The highlight of this superb ensemble is *Untitled*, a ravishing abstract work, painted in 1977 (estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000), which is closely followed by an equally compelling *Untitled*,

executed circa 1975 (estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000). In all, the evening sale will offer 11 works by de Kooning, including several works on paper and two bronzes, *Cross-legged figure*, 1972 (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) and *Head*, circa 1969-72 (estimate: \$300,000-400,000).

With de Kooning as a leitmotiv, Lee Eastman looked for other key works that had helped to shape modern American art history. These include a 1960 painting by Franz Kline, *Untitled* (estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000); Mark Rothko's *Untitled* from 1960, embedded in hues of red and orange (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000) and Robert Motherwell's *Elegy to the Spanish Republic #122*, an intense work executed in 1972 (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000).

Alongside the Post-War and Contemporary Art, a select group of Impressionist and Modern Art provides *Property from the Collection of Lee V. Eastman* with even greater depth and allure. This element of the collection will shine in Christie's evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* on November 1. With the intensely active market for sculpture in mind, the appearance of several sculpted works by Giacometti, Lipchitz and Matisse will provide another excellent opportunity for sculpture collectors. Highlights include Alberto Giacometti's *Buste de Diego*, conceived in 1957 and cast later (estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000) and *Grand nu accroupi (Olga)*, a Matisse bronze, conceived in 1909-10 and cast in 1952 (estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000). Also offered are Picasso's *Buste de Femme*, painted in Royan on December 4, 1939 (estimate: \$3,000,000-5,000,000), as well as his *L'Atelier*, painted on October 29 1955 (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000).

Lee V. Eastman was a New York based lawyer, active in the arts and entertainment industry, whose client base included Willem de Kooning and Paul McCartney. He was one of the most avid and active art collectors in America, and from the mid 1960's onwards, his collection was known and admired by everyone connected to the art scene. Eastman was an extremely generous champion of the arts with a discerning eye and exquisite taste. With the presentation of this legendary collection, Christie's offers a unique opportunity for collectors worldwide to acquire rare and important masterworks from a period of great intellectual ferment in modern American and European history.

Auction: Impressionist and Modern Art
Post-War and Contemporary Art

November 1 at 7 p.m.
November 8 at 7 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's London, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and New York

October & November

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sale of *The Eastman Collection* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.