

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S LONDON CONTEMPORARY WEEK OFFERS EXCITING COLLECTING OPPORTUNITIES THIS OCTOBER



Zhang Xiaogang *A big family series*
(estimate: £320,000-400,000)



Andy Warhol *Dollar Sign*
(estimate: £400,000-600,000)

- **Coinciding with Frieze Art Fair, Christie's London to Offer Biggest, Broadest and Best Selection of Contemporary Art and Post War Art in the Auction Marketplace**
- **£30 Million of Art to be Offered in London in Five Sales from 15-17 October 2006**

The Contemporary Sale: Sunday, 15 October 2006 from 3.00-6.00pm

The Michael Clark Company Benefit Sale: Sunday 15 October 2006 from 3.00-6.00pm

The Yoav Harlap Collection: Sunday 15 October 2006 from 3.00-6.00pm

The Italian Sale: Monday, 16 October 2006 at 7.00pm

Post War & Contemporary Art: Tuesday, 17 October 2006 at 1.00pm

London – Following the record breaking success of the inaugural Contemporary Sale in October 2005, Christie's is pleased to announce a week of five sales, collectively estimated to fetch in excess of £30 million, that will offer the biggest and broadest selection of the finest quality Contemporary, Post-War and Italian Art available in the auction marketplace. Strategically timed during a week when the world's focus will be on London's international contemporary art market, including Frieze and a host of contemporary art exhibitions and events, Christie's sales will be on view at both Christie's King Street and Christie's South Kensington from 11 October, with sales taking place at Christie's King Street between 15 and 17 October 2006.

“Christie’s continues to dominate this highly competitive area of the auction market. Led by Pilar Ordovas, Christie’s European Post War & Contemporary Art team features an unrivalled group of experts who have drawn together an exceptionally strong week of sales. We have never before had five major post-war and contemporary sales in one week. Frieze has helped to create a fabulous backdrop for these auctions and the world’s major collectors will congregate in London in October to compete for the great works we will be selling.” says Jussi Pykkänen, President, Christie’s Europe. “In addition we will be holding our sixth sale of 20th Century Italian Art during what promises to be an exceptional week of London sales.”

The Contemporary Sale, a select and tightly-edited auction of the highest quality contemporary art from the last 20 years will take place on Sunday 15 October 2006 from 3pm. Highly sought after works by the leading names in the field will be offered including Peter Doig’s sublime *Pink Mountain* (estimate: £500,000-700,000). Marlene Dumas is represented by *The Cover-up*, an oil on canvas painted in 1994 (estimate: £350,000-450,000) and major works by giants of the contemporary art scene, from Damien Hirst, Sarah Lucas and Elizabeth Peyton will feature. The sale also features a strong American artist presence with *Two-Wheel Wagon Wheel Chandelier*, 2004 by Californian artist Jason Rhoades (estimate: £70,000-90,000); *Santa Octopussy*, 2004 by Paul McCarthy (estimate: £50,000-70,000) together with works by Richard Prince and Christopher Wool.

Of particular note is a major offering of works by contemporary Chinese artists. Christie’s is the global market leader for this exciting collecting area, which has grown by 30% in the last year alone. Until now works have been sold in Christie’s record breaking Hong Kong sales – this season major works will be offered in the London October sales week and in New York in November reflecting the truly international appeal and demand for this exceptionally sought after collecting field.

Since the death of Chairman Mao in 1976, Chinese artists, particularly in the urban centres of Shanghai and Beijing, have been able to freely experiment with Western techniques and bold political themes in ways that were unthinkable during the Communist regime. Two major Chinese contemporary works will feature in the sale by Sichuan artist Zhang Xiao Gang (b. 1958), once a leader of the popular Southeast Artist Group who is particularly interested in the status of the traditional Chinese family. The sale will offer *A big family series* (estimate: £320,000-400,000), a work from his most important series *Bloodline: The Big Family*, begun in 1993 and *Baby*, 2005 (estimate: £150,000-200,000). *Mao* by Yan Pei Ming (b. 1960) from 1999 (estimate: £120,000-180,000) and Fang Lijun’s (b. 1963) oil on canvas, *Untitled*, 1997 (estimate: £120,000-180,000), will also be offered.

An exceptionally strong selection of German Contemporary art will feature works by many of the leading artists in the field. Painting highlights include an important figurative oil on canvas by Daniel Richter, *Suden* (estimate: £150,000-200,000); Thomas Scheibitz’s, *Brillux*, an oil on canvas painted in 1999 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and Eberhard Havekost’s *Sauerstoff*, an oil on canvas, painted in 2003 (estimate: £50,000-70,000). Amongst the photographic highlights includes Andreas Gursky’s *Singapore Borse*, 1997 (estimate: £120,000-180,000) and Thomas Demand’s *Fenster (Window)*, 1998 (estimate: £60,000-80,000).

To be sold as part of **The Contemporary Sale** Christie's is proud to announce **The Michael Clark Company Benefit Sale**, to be held on Sunday 15 October. This 20 lot auction will comprise of works donated by friends and collaborators of Michael Clark, one of this country's most significant and influential dancers and choreographers. The majority of pieces have come directly from the artists' studios or have been specially commissioned for this sale – most have never before been seen by the public and offer an outstanding opportunity for collectors. The works, including pieces by Damien Hirst, Jim Lambie, Sarah Lucas and Elizabeth Peyton are being auctioned to help raise funds needed to engage a high calibre group of dancers in the longer term, enabling Michael Clark to continue working with them over a sustained period, to explore new ideas and projects, and to realise a mature body of work.

The Yoav Harlap Collection of European and American Post-War and Contemporary art will also be offered for sale in London on 15 October 2006. The Harlap Collection comprises thirty-five major works spanning five decades, from the late 1940s to the early 1990s, and includes key, signature pieces by Arman, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Christo, Lucio Fontana, Keith Haring, Yves Klein, Piero Manzoni, Claes Oldenburg, Mel Ramos Mimmo Rotella, Jean Tinguely, Andy Warhol and Tom Wesselmann. Many of the pieces have fascinating early provenance and are the best possible examples in their scale or genre. Overall the collection is expected to realise in excess of £6 million. *Please see separate press release for further information.*

Christie's sixth annual **The Italian Sale** on Monday 16 October at 7pm presents a comprehensive overview of important Italian art through modern, post-war and contemporary eras and will include major paintings and sculptures from Italy's leading modern and contemporary artists. *Please see separate press release for further information.*

The week concludes with the sale of **Post War & Contemporary Art** on Tuesday 17 October at 1pm. This dynamic sale will offer in excess of 200 art works of exceptional quality which will include cutting-edge and upcoming artists. Highlights include three superb German abstract paintings - a painting by Daniel Richter, *Blue* (estimate: £60,000-80,000), Frank Nitsch's *OGY-12-2004*, a dynamic abstract canvas from 2004 (estimate: £30,000-40,000) and Thomas Scheibitz's *Mufan* (estimate: £50,000-70,000)

The Post War highlights boast a large Andy Warhol *Dollar Sign* (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and a rare and early sculpture by Jean Dubuffet, *Torse d'athlète* (estimate: £150,000-200,000), which comes from The Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Gerhard Richter is represented by a highly sought after *Abstraktes Bild* (estimate: £300,000-500,000) and Donald Judd's *Untitled*, executed in 1985 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) is also offered. The Post-War and Contemporary Art Sale will also offer several works by Chinese contemporary artists, including Xue Song's *Marilyn* (estimate: £4,000-6,000), Yan Peiming's large scale painting *Tete* (estimate: £60,000-80,000) and Beijing based Yue Minjun's *No. 3* (estimate: £20,000-30,000). The sale will also feature works by Guo Jin and Li Shuang among others.

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors

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 sale total for Post-War and Contemporary Art was achieved at Christie's London when the evening sale total realized £37 million (\$64.5 million).

USA TODAY at the Royal Academy of Arts

Sponsored by Christie's

6 October – 4 November 2006

Christie's is pleased to sponsor USA TODAY, an exhibition featuring new work from the Saatchi Gallery by forty young American artists which will run from 6 October to 4 November 2006 at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Over one hundred new works of art will be presented including paintings, sculptures and photographs.

International Exhibition Tours:

The Contemporary Sale

9-12 September: Christie's New York, Rockefeller Centre

21-23 September: Cologne, Römisch-Germanisches Museum, Roncalliplatz 4

26-27 September: Zurich, Hotel Greulich, Herman Greulich-Strasse 56

The Yoav Harlap Collection

9-12 September: Christie's New York, Rockefeller Centre

18-23 September: Christie's Paris, Avenue Matignon

28-29 September: Christie's Milan, Palazzo Clerici

5-6 October: Hong Kong, Grand Hyatt

The Italian Sale

9-12 September: Christie's New York, Rockefeller Centre

27 September: Unicredito PB, Via XX Settembre, 31, Turin

29 September: Palazzo Clerici, Via Clerici 5, Milan

1 October: Fondazione del Monte, De Bologna e Ravenna, Via delle Donzelle, 2, Bologna

London Viewing:

At Christie's 8 King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT, London

Wednesday 11 October 9.00am – 4.30pm

Thursday 12 October 9.00am – 4.30pm

Friday 13 October 9.00am – 4.30pm

Saturday 14 October 10.00am – 6.00pm

Sunday 15 October 10.00am – 12.30pm

At Christie's 85 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, SW7 3LD

Wednesday 11 October 9.00am -5.00pm

Thursday 12 October 9.00am -5.00pm

Friday 13 October 9.00am -5.00pm

Saturday 14 October 10.00am-4.00pm

Sunday 15 October CLOSED

Monday 16 October 9.00am -5.00pm

Sales:

Sunday 15 October from 3.00pm to 6.00pm

The Michael Clark Company Benefit Sale

The Contemporary Sale

The Yoav Harlap Collection

Monday 16 October

The Italian Sale at 7.00pm

Tuesday 17 October

Post War & Contemporary Art at 1.00pm (Please note this sale will take place at King Street and viewing will be at Christie's South Kensington)