

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Rhiannon Broomfield 020 7389 2117 rbroomfield@christies.com

THE CONTEMPORARY SALE

Icons and Up & Coming Contemporary Artists Set The Scene at Christie's London in October



**The Contemporary Sale
Christie's King Street
Sunday, 15 October 2006 at 3pm**

London – Christie's announces **The Contemporary Sale** dedicated exclusively to the most sought-after contemporary art in the market place which will be held in London on Sunday, 15 October 2006 at 3pm. This sale follows the outstanding success of the inaugural London Contemporary Sale in October 2005 which set 12 new world auction records and totalled more than £5.9 million. The Contemporary Sale heralds the start of Christie's London Contemporary Week of sales and is strategically timed during a week when the world's focus will be on London's international contemporary art market, and running alongside the Frieze and a host of contemporary art exhibitions and events.

"Christie's continues to be at the forefront of this highly competitive market. Following the enormous success of last year's October Contemporary Sale held during Frieze Week, we have built on the outstanding results to present an even higher profile and impressive sale," said Anthony McNerney, Associate Director and Co-Head of The Contemporary Sale, *"As the market develops, Christie's continues to respond and we are particularly pleased to be offering for the first time at Christie's London, a major selection of works by Contemporary Chinese artist, who are highly sought after by collectors in both Europe and America as well as Asia,"* said Katharine Burton, Specialist and Co-Head of The Contemporary Sale.

This select and tightly-edited auction of the highest quality contemporary art from the last 20 years will offer highly sought after works by the leading names in the field 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.*

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's on the Web at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors

Christie's leads the Contemporary Art Market sales. The February 2005 London evening sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art achieved £24,461,600 (\$45,792,115), the highest total ever realized in this category, while the June 2005 London evening sale totalled £24,459,600 (\$44,516,472). In New York, the May 2005 evening sale fetched \$133,707,200, the highest total for a sale in this category worldwide.

International Exhibition Tour:

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

Christie's King Street Pre-Sale Viewing Times:

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

Sale: Sunday 15 October from 3.00pm

The Michael Clark Company Benefit Sale

The Contemporary Sale

The Yoav Harlap Collection

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.