

For Immediate Release

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LONDON CONTEMPORARY

Christie's dedicates new sale in auction calendar to Contemporary Art

London Contemporary
Christie's King Street
Sunday, 23 October 2005

London – This October, Christie's launches **London Contemporary**, a special sale dedicated exclusively to the most sought-after contemporary art in the market place today.

This tightly-edited sale will feature major works by giants of the contemporary art scene, from Richard Prince, Bruce Nauman, Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Mike Kelley and Jeff Wall, to artists whose stars have risen rapidly over the last decade or so, including Matthew Barney, Elizabeth Peyton, Daniel Richter, Dirk Skreber and Wilhelm Sasnal. **London Contemporary** will take place on Sunday 23 October 2005 during a week when the focus will be on London's international contemporary art market, running alongside the Frieze and Zoo Art Fairs as well as a host of contemporary art exhibitions and events.

"The contemporary art market in London has never been stronger. Over the last ten years, London has established itself as a centre of the international contemporary art scene. Artists from around the world have been drawn to the capital to work, and, in addition to the growing number of UK contemporary art galleries, a number of major international galleries have set up new bases in London", said specialist Katharine Burton. "Christie's was the first auction house to recognise the significance of the new developments in British art and the potential of the London market in 1998, with the launch of *Christie's Contemporary*, which held dedicated exhibitions and sales of contemporary art staged in warehouses in Clerkenwell and the East End", said Anthony McNerney, specialist and Head of Sale.

The best of British contemporary art is represented by Tracey Emin, with an important work entitled *Chinese Girls* of 2002 (estimate: £30,000-40,000). Well-known for her inimitable choice of medium, this appliquéd blanket portrays three young Chinese girls side by side, with the artist's signature intimate musings which in their apparent naïvety implicitly touch both on an overtly political subject matter - China's one child policy for example - and Emin's own relationship to motherhood. Three works by Damien Hirst also feature, illustrating pivotal elements of his artistic production, including a spin painting *Beautiful, Crumbling, Empire Painting (Like the one at Simon's House)*, 1996 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and a butterfly painting *Clean Life*, 2000 (estimate £180,000-220,000). While a

work by Glenn Brown, *Entertainment*, 1995 (estimate: £90,000-120,000), is a homage to Frank Auerbach, inverting the sculptural quality in Auerbach's work to produce a disconcertedly smooth paint surface in a witty and skilful pun on painting.

The current generation of young painters from Germany has received unprecedented international interest from curators, museum directors, gallerists and collectors alike in the last few years, marking a renewed fascination with painting as a medium in the contemporary art world. Many of these highly talented painters feature in **London Contemporary**: from the foreboding monumental canvas of camouflaged battleships by Dirk Skreber (£80,000-120,000), to a kaleidoscopic abstract by Daniel Richter (estimate: £50,000-70,000) and two exceptional works by stars of the 'new Leipzig' scene, Tim Eitel's *Mondrian (blau/ weiss)*, 2001 (estimate: £25,000-35,000) and Matthias Weischer's *Untitled*, 2003 (estimate: £18,000-22,000).

The most exciting and sought-after painter to emerge from Poland in the last few years is Wilhelm Sasnal. His work is hard to categorise – part abstract, part figurative – and his style, technique and subject matter are dazzlingly fluid. *Untitled* (2002) is an eerie surrealist composition that plays between abstraction and configuration, and features two men throwing bombs out of a balloon (estimate: £18,000-22,000).

One of the most significant works by Tokyo-based artist Yoshitomo Nara ever to be sold at auction will be included in the sale. Influenced by the Japanese comic book tradition and a fascination with the darker side of childhood, this large acrylic canvas entitled *All The World Is Yours* (2000) (estimate: £100,000-150,000), is typical of his deceptively simple paintings. Like all the colourful characters that Nara portrays, this fantasy, fairy-tale image of a little girl, with her devilish look and knowing expression, incorporates emotions that reconnect us to our childhood, when innocence and unruliness went hand in hand.

London Contemporary sale will take place at 4pm on Sunday, 23 October 2005, and marks the first time that an auction will take place on a Sunday at Christie's King Street.

International Exhibition Tour:

A selection of paintings from **London Contemporary** will be available to view at the following Christie's offices:

Munich:	20 September 2005 (10am – 5pm)
Stuttgart:	22 and 23 September 2005 (9am – 1pm)
Düsseldorf:	25 and 26 September 2005; 25 Sept (10am – 4 pm) & 26 Sept (10am – 3pm)
Berlin:	29, 30 and 31 September 2005 (10am – 5pm)
Athens:	10 and 11 October 2005

Christie's King Street Pre-Sale Viewing Times:

Friday, 21 October 2005	9am – 5pm
Saturday, 22 October 2005	10am – 6pm
Sunday, 23 October 2005	10am – 4pm

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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.