

*For Immediate Release*

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Contact: Margaret Doyle 212.636.2680  
[Mdoyle@christies.com](mailto:Mdoyle@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S TO SELL EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF PIONEERING MoMA  
CURATOR DOROTHY C. MILLER**

*Important Examples of American Post-War Art Include Jasper Johns'  
Stunning Gray Numbers, Valued at \$5-7 Million*

*New York – Christie's will offer The Dorothy C. Miller Collection – a wide-ranging assemblage of Post-War art, American folk art, and American tribal and decorative arts amassed by one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential curators – in a series of sales this fall, including a special single-owner session on November 12, at Rockefeller Center.*

*Throughout her 35-year career as a curator at New York's Museum of Modern Art, and as the visionary force behind a series of exhibitions entitled Americans, Dorothy Miller introduced the work of several generations of artists from Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Charles Sheeler and Stuart Davis to Frank Stella and Jasper Johns. She and her husband, Holger Cahill, developed close relationships with key figures in the art world, and many of the pieces in her collection came directly from the artists' studios or first gallery exhibitions.*

*The star lot of the collection is Jasper Johns' Gray Numbers of 1957 (estimate: \$5,000,000–7,000,000), a surprisingly lush example from Johns' Numbers series that possesses a delicate and nuanced encaustic surface. Dorothy Miller bought the painting from the artist's first exhibition at the Leo Castelli gallery in 1958; at the same time, she and MoMA Director Alfred Barr selected White Numbers for the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Gray Numbers was the first of*

*the Numbers paintings by Johns and was hand-painted without the stencils used in the later works in the series.*

*Gray Numbers will be offered in Christie's evening sale of Post-War & Contemporary art in a special section with nine other works from the Dorothy C. Miller Collection, including Franz Kline's Four Square, 1953 (estimate: \$1,500,000–2,000,000) and Alexander Calder's Red Ghost, 1949 (estimate: \$500,000–700,000). (See list of highlights at end of press release).*

#### *Dorothy C. Miller*

*Collector and curator Dorothy C. Miller, who died on July 11, 2003 at age 99, was the last surviving member of a pioneering generation of curators who helped to define, exhibit and collect modern art in the United States. The most influential curator of contemporary American art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York during the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, Miller was the first professionally trained curator to be hired by the legendary Alfred H. Barr, the museum's founding director.*

*In a remarkably short time, Miller became the resident American art expert at MoMA, proving to possess a unique ability to recognize several generations of new and innovative artists, working in many different styles. From 1942 to 1963 she organized eight Americans exhibitions, introducing the new work of over 120 artists. Miller's most influential Americans exhibition was The New American Painting, which traveled to eight European museums in 1958 and 1959 and introduced to European audiences the work of William Baziotis, Sam Francis, Arshile Gorky, Adolph Gottlieb, Philip Guston, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell, Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still, and Bradley Walker Tomlin, among others. Provocative for its time and the recipient of mixed reviews, the exhibition established the importance of the new American painting to an international audience.*

#### *Special Exhibition*

*Christie's will mount a private extended preview exhibition beginning in October. Displaying both the fine and decorative art from the collection – including works that have been gifted to educational institutions and family members by Dorothy Miller's estate – the exhibition will be enhanced by the inclusion of original catalogues, manuscripts, and correspondence by Dorothy Miller and her husband, Holger Cahill. The exhibition will be open by invitation and private appointment only.*

*In addition to this special exhibition, works from the Dorothy C. Miller Collection will be exhibited publicly in the regular pre-sale exhibitions of their respective sales (see schedule below).*

*Commemorative Catalogue*

*In conjunction with the sale, Christie's is producing an exclusive publication that will include Dorothy Miller's entire collection - including works that have been gifted to educational institutions and family members by her estate - as a tribute to her life and career. The catalogue will feature comprehensive descriptive and historical information for each work of art and will include archival photographs.*

*Auctions: Post-War & Contemporary Art November 11 at 7 p.m.*  
*Jasper Johns, Gray Numbers, 1957 (estimate: \$5,000,000-7,000,000) cover lot*  
*Jasper Johns, The Litanies of the Chariot, 1961 (estimate: \$120,000-180,000)*  
*Alexander Calder, Red Ghost, 1949 (estimate: \$500,000-700,000)*  
*Alexander Calder, The Black Rocker, circa 1940 (estimate: \$350,000-450,000)*  
*Franz Kline, Four Square, 1953, (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,000,000)*  
*Franz Kline, Study for "White Forms," 1955 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000)*  
*Philip Guston, Drawing, 1953 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000)*  
*Lee Bontecou, Untitled Relief, 1960 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000)*  
*Fritz Glarner, Study for Tondo #54, 1960 (estimate: \$70,000-90,000)*  
*Bradley Walker Tomlin, Number 14, 1949 (estimate: \$70,000-90,000)*

*The Dorothy C. Miller Collection November 12 at 10 a.m.*  
*Commemorating Dorothy Miller's contributions to American art, this single-owner session will include a selection of Post-War, American, and Impressionist paintings; works on paper; prints, photographs; and American folk art. This session precedes Christie's day sale of Post-War & Contemporary art.*

*American Paintings December 4 at 10 a.m.*  
*Stuart Davis, Cigarette Papers (estimate: \$200,000-300,000)*  
*Stuart Davis, Sunrise (estimate: \$250,000-350,000)*

*Public Viewings: Post-War & Contemporary Art November 7 - 11*  
*The Dorothy C. Miller Collection November 7 - 11*  
*American Paintings November 29 - December 3*

*Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza*

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*Images available on request*  
*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*