

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 26 APRIL 2021

CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER CONTEMPORARY ART DONATED TO BENEFIT **CORE**'S COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS

WORKS BY URS FISCHER, RASHID JOHNSON, AND JOEL MESLER TO BE
OFFERED IN 21ST CENTURY EVENING SALE ON MAY 11



PROPERTY TO BENEFIT CORE:
COMMUNITY ORGANIZED RELIEF EFFORT

URS FISCHER (B. 1973)

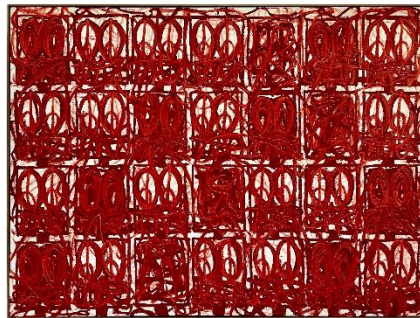
Quantum

aluminum composite panel, aluminum
honeycomb, two-component adhesive, primer,
gesso and solvent-based screen printing ink

96 x 72 in. (243.8 x 182.9 cm.)

Executed in 2019.

Estimate: \$400,000-600,000



PROPERTY TO BENEFIT CORE:
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RASHID JOHNSON (B. 1977)

Anxious Red Painting December 18th
oil on linen

72 x 96 in. (182.9 x 243.8 cm.)

Painted in 2020.

Estimate: \$200,000-300,000



PROPERTY TO BENEFIT CORE:
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JOEL MESLER (B. 1974)

New York, New York

acrylic and pigment on linen
84 x 65 in. (213.4 x 165.1 cm.)

Painted in 2021.

Estimate: \$40,000-60,000

NEW YORK – Christie's and **CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort)**, an emergency relief nonprofit co-founded by Sean Penn and Ann Lee dedicated to saving lives and strengthening marginalized communities affected by or vulnerable to crisis, are pleased to announce a new partnership devoted to raising critical funds for CORE's COVID-19 relief efforts across the United States.

A selection of contemporary artworks that have been generously donated by the artist themselves will be sold during Christie's 21st Century Evening Sale on May 11, 2021 in New York. The grouping includes works by Rashid Johnson, Urs Fischer and Joel Mesler, along with an artwork donated by Chuck Close to be offered in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale on May 14. Proceeds from the sale will directly benefit CORE's COVID-19 programs across Los Angeles, Navajo Nation, Washington D.C., Chicago, New Orleans, Georgia and North Carolina.

Lauded for his multifaceted approach and timely embodiment of our uncertain era, Rashid Johnson's dynamic *oeuvre* speaks to a world inundated with impulses and overstimulation, as well as an artist's journey through a treacherous world. The first of his large-scale red Anxious Audiences series to come to auction, *Anxious Red Painting December 18th* encapsulates some of the edge and frustration of life during COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. Swapping black and white media for a vibrant crimson, Johnson's new body of work exhibits an increased urgency in line with the severity of current affairs.

Through his diverse body of work, Urs Fischer demonstrates his ability to shift and change his modes of creation. *Quantum*, one of Fischer's most recent forays into photo-based compositions, is an example of his ingenuity in combining appropriated imagery with a deft eye for color and light. Marrying pop sensibilities with a tinge of digital materiality, Fischer creates an undulating composition rife with optical intrigue.

Appearing for the first time in a New York evening sale, Joel Mesler addresses universal themes by filtering them through humor, self-deprecation and surprising compositional juxtapositions. His painting *New York, New York* is a colorful and vibrant tribute to the city which has played a central role in the artist's life. The painting is a personal homage to the 'city that never sleeps,' set against a backdrop of vibrant colors and the words 'New York, New York' emblazoned across the surface as if trying to eradicate the gloom of a dark year.

Since the late 1960's, Chuck Close has led a renaissance in the art of portraiture, bringing the genre back to prominence in a time when photography and technology have threatened its very existence. In *Phil (Spiral)*, a portrait of composer Philip Glass to be sold in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale on May 14, Close returns to his infamous 1969 artwork of the sitter – one of the first paintings the artist ever completed.

Sean Penn, Co-Founder of CORE, states: *"We are grateful to Christie's and those who have generously donated pieces for this auction to support CORE's equity-focused mobile vaccination program and continued COVID-19 relief efforts protecting the marginalized communities who have been most affected by the pandemic. These funds will greatly aid our urgent mission to ensure that the available vaccine supply is distributed equitably and reaches the people who desperately need this life-saving resource."*

Ann Lee, Co-Founder of CORE, states: *"We are not out of the woods yet. COVID-19 has laid bare the deep inequalities that people in this country face. We are working directly with marginalized communities to ensure that those who need vaccines get them. We are immensely grateful to Christie's for their partnership to raise critical funds and awareness, and are sincerely humbled by those who have so generously donated pieces to benefit CORE's continued work on the frontlines of this crisis. History will remember those who are rising to the occasion during this inflection point for the human race."*

Rachael White Young, Specialist, Post-War and Contemporary Art, Christie's, notes: *"Christie's is honored to be partnering with CORE this season in their continued efforts at battling the COVID-19 virus, and we are humbled by the immeasurable generosity of the artists who have donated to the May auctions. It is a tremendous opportunity to present these artworks at auction, and a true privilege to do so when proceeds support such an important cause. We are incredibly grateful to these artists and their enormous gesture of philanthropy, and we are thankful for Sean, Ann and the CORE team for their determined fight against the COVID-19 pandemic."*

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About CORE

CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) is a nonprofit organization co-founded by Sean Penn and Ann Lee that is dedicated to saving lives and strengthening communities affected by or vulnerable to crisis. Within hours of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Penn mobilized a powerful network to take immediate action. More than 11 years later, CORE continues to lead sustainable programs focused on four pillars: emergency relief, disaster preparedness, environmental resiliency and community building. The organization has expanded beyond Haiti to support communities in The Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the United States. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, CORE has been operating free testing sites across the country alongside local partners, providing essential resources and contact tracing services as well as part of its integrated "CORE 8" approach to combat the pandemic. In 2021, CORE is working with its partners nationwide to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines as they become available to the communities the organization serves. More information: www.coreresponse.org/covid-19 and follow CORE on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

About Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting Private Sales for clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie's global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie's accessible to all.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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