

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS LIVE SALE OF LATIN AMERICAN ART | MAY 19, 2021

Led by fresh to market Fernando Botero triptych

Including contemporary works by Claudio Bravo, Tilsa Tsuchiya and Kazuya Sakai



FERNANDO BOTERO (B. 1932)

The Bather
oil on canvas

93 x 49½ in. each
93 x 148½ in. overall

Painted in 1975.

Triptych.

Estimate: \$1,800,000-2,500,000

NEW YORK – Christie's is pleased to present the live sale of Latin American Art on May 19, 2021 in New York. The sale will include a range of works from modern and contemporary masterpieces to finest examples of 17th and 18th-century Spanish colonial painting. Highlights from this season will include exceptional works by Rufino Tamayo, Tilsa Tsuchiya, Francisco Toledo, Fernando Botero, Joaquín Torres-García, Claudio Bravo and Sergio Camargo.

The sale will be headlined by **Rufino Tamayo's** *Naturaleza muerta* (estimate: \$1,800,000-2,500,000), an arresting early work by the artist that refreshingly reimagines the traditional still life subject. *Naturaleza muerta* reveals Tamayo's love of the European avant-garde from Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque to Giorgio de Chirico and the legacy of Cubism as well as his commitment to visualizing his Mexican identity. Spread across Tamayo's abundant table is a variety of vessels and fruits, most notable among them are the three pink watermelon slices, a signature motif of the artist that he directly related to his childhood spent in Oaxaca and Mexico City. At the center of the composition, a bottle with a label showing just the word "Mexico," inserts another dose of *Mexicanidad* into this seemingly European composition. Just to the right of this bottle stands another, which cleverly reads "Tamayo" on the label.



RUFINO TAMAYO (1899-1991)

Naturaleza muerta

oil on canvas

30 x 59 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Painted in 1935.

Estimate: \$1,800,000-2,500,000

Another top lot of the sale is **Fernando Botero's** *The Bather* (estimate: \$1,800,000-2,500,000). A triptych, appearing at auction for the first time, the work is expected to be among the record prices paid for a painting by the artist. Placid and majestic, the subject of *The Bather* is a classic Botero woman—an imposing, rotund beauty we see from the front, back, and side. In each panel, she dwarfs her male companions who we see swimming in the pistachio-green pool or resting on a pink towel. As in the best of Botero's work, *The Bather* hits perfect chromatic pitch with a soothing symphony of salmon hues, pastel greens and muted grays that reverberate throughout the composition.

The sale also includes works by Botero in different mediums including sculptures and works on paper, such as *Dancers* (estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000) and *Still Life with Soup Tureen and Watermelon* (estimate: \$150,000-250,000).

Among the exceptional contemporary works in the sale is an installation of 17 shaped canvases by Kazuya Sakai, 1960s reliefs by Sergio Camargo and a beguiling painting by the mystical Tilsa Tsuchiya. Rounding out the sale are twenty-two outstanding Spanish colonial works, a testament to Christie's dominance in the market that has been thriving in recent seasons, with growing demand from American and European collectors as well as institutions.

Related Features:

- [10 things to know about Fernando Botero](#)
- [Collecting guide: Spanish colonial art](#)

SALE HIGHLIGHTS



PROPERTY FROM AN
AMERICAN COLLECTION



TILSA TSUCHIYA (1929-1984)



CLAUDIO BRAVO (1936-2011)
Celestial Blue Paper



SÉRGIO CAMARGO (1930-1990)

FERNANDO BOTERO (B. 1932)
Still Life with Soup Tureen and Watermelon
 watercolor on paper
 43 x 54 in.
 Executed in 1981.
Estimate: \$150,000-250,000

Ser mítico
 oil on canvas
 31 x 23 in.
 Painted in 1971.
Estimate: \$150,000-250,000

oil on canvas
 39½ x 47½ in.
 Painted in 2006.
Estimate: \$400,000-600,000

Chant du couple en 16 temps
 (also known as *Couple en 16 temps*)
 oil on wood relief
 20 x 23¾ x ¾ in.
 Executed in 1966.
Estimate: \$150,000-200,000

SPANISH COLONIAL PAINTINGS



ANONYMOUS (PERUVIAN, 18TH CENTURY)
Saint Rose of Lima and the Infant Jesus
 oil on canvas
 40½ x 29¾ in.
Estimate: \$18,000-22,000



ANONYMOUS (MEXICAN SCHOOL, CIRCA 1750)
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
 oil on canvas
 47¾ x 38 in.
Estimate: \$40,000-60,000



ANONYMOUS (PERUVIAN, 17TH CENTURY)
Saint Raphael
 oil on canvas
 42¼ x 33½ in.
Estimate: \$18,000-22,000



ANONYMOUS (PERUVIAN, 18TH CENTURY)
The Virgin of the Immaculate Conception with Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Anthony of Padua
 oil on canvas
 60¾ x 40 in.
Estimate: \$20,000-25,000

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**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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