

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER A LEADING SELECTION OF 20th CENTURY ART AT *BRITISH ART WEEK AUTUMN*

British Art Week Autumn, 15 – 23 November 2006

20th Century British Art

Friday, 17 November 2006



King Street – Christie's announce the sale of 20th Century British Art on 17 November 2006, which follows on from the record-breaking auction in June 2006 which realised £12.4 million, the highest ever total for the category anywhere. The November sale will offer a impressive collection of exceptional paintings, drawings and sculptures by a variety of artists including David Bomberg, Patrick Caulfield, Dame Barbara Hepworth, Patrick Heron, L.S. Lowry, William Scott and Graham Sutherland and is expected to realise in excess of £7 million.

Leading highlights of the sale include *Cuenca from Mount Socorro* by David Bomberg (1890-1957) (estimate: £600,000-800,000), *Blue Still Life* by William Scott R.A. (1913-1989) (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and *Nude with books* by Patrick Caulfield, R.A. *illustrated above* (1936-2005) (estimate: £250,000-350,000), all of whose artist records were established at Christie's in the corresponding June auction. *Cuenca from Mount Socorro* by David Bomberg was painted in 1934 during one of the artist's frequent tours of Spain. Bomberg would explore the Spanish countryside on a donkey, finding suitable vantage points from which to study and paint the mountain towns, and the present example highlights the artist's ability to conjure relief and form with his abstract style of landscape painting. *Blue Still Life* by William Scott *illustrated above right* was painted in 1956, the same year as *Brown Still Life* which was sold at Christie's in June 2006 for £366,400, the world record price for the artist. Both of the works share a similar theme and structure, and both were exhibited in Scott's 1972 Retrospective at the Tate. Scott adopted and developed his abstract style after spending time in New York in 1953, and the present example is a exceptional work from this period of the artist's career. *Nude with books* by Patrick Caulfield, painted in 1968, is particularly rare for a work by the artist in that it features a human figure. The subject of the painting is a naked woman gazing out of the canvas with an ambiguous look that could either suggest invitation or disturbance.



Springtime: Face à la mer is an exceptional example of Caulfield's ability to create objective atmosphere. Painted in 1974 on an imposing scale (304 x 211.5 cm), this work was created the year before *Sun Lounge* which was

sold at Christie's in June 2006 for £512,000, the world record price for the artist at auction. The present example portrays both interior and exterior space, creating a contrast and a feeling of unease. Fresh to the market having been purchased by the vendor's mother directly from the artist's studio, it is expected to realise £300,000-500,000.



A strong selection of works by L. S. Lowry (1887-1976) will also be included in the sale. *A River Bank*, painted in 1947, is being offered at auction by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council who bought the work from the Lefevre Gallery, London in April 1951 for £175. Depicting an industrial townscape in the style for which Lowry is best recognized, this is one of the finest works by the artist ever to appear at auction and is expected to realise £500,000-800,000 *illustrated left*. Further examples of the artist's work include *Shipping, Sunderland* which has an estimate of £200,000-300,000, *The Local Store*, painted in 1949 and bought by the vendor's father from the Lefevre Gallery in 1951 (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and *The Empty House* which was painted and purchased in 1958 and has been in the same family ownership since (estimate: £180,000-250,000).

The sale will also include a selection of 12 paintings being offered as The Property of a Private European Collector. This group is led by *Variation on a Theme II*, 1953, by Graham Sutherland, O.M. (1903-1980) *illustrated right* which is expected to realise £150,000-250,000, and also includes *Holkham, Norfolk, 1939-40* by John Piper, C.H. (1903-1992) (estimate: £70,000-100,000). Elsewhere in the sale, highlights include *Four Reds with White*, a striking abstract work by Patrick Heron (1920-1999) which carries an estimate of £70,000-100,000, *Palms near Marrakech* by Sir Winston Churchill, O.M., R.A. (1874-1965) which is expected to realise £70,000-100,000 and two impressive works by Frank Auerbach (b.1931), including *Julia* (estimate: £180,000-250,000) and *Reclining Head of J.Y.M.* (estimate: £120,000-180,000). *Lily of the Valley, South Parlour* by Winifred Nicholson (1883-1981) will also be offered at the auction, complete with the original gallery label on the reverse stating the price of the picture as £30 (estimate: £50,000-80,000).



Highlighting the sculpture section is *Three Forms (Zennor Carn)* by Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) (estimate: £120,000-180,000). This is one of her slate carvings made during the 1960s and 1970s made from thick layers of slate found deep in the Delabole Quarry in Cornwall, and inspired by the landscape surrounding her home in St Ives. A further sculpture highlight is the energetic *Nijinski Hare* by Barry Flanagan (b.1941) which is expected to realise £200,000-300,000.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com

Notes to editors:

- Works of art to be sold at the sale of *20th Century British Art* will be on public view from 12 to 16 November 2006 at Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's, SW1Y 6QT

- Christie's have held market share in the category of 20th Century British Art for over 10 years. This market dominance has been further strengthened by the last five auctions, which have been the most successful sales of 20th century British Art ever held and have realised a collective total of £39,061,472. The sale of *20th Century British Art* on 9 June 2006 realised a total of £12.4 million, the highest ever total for a sale of 20th Century British Art anywhere.

- On 15 November, Christie's will offer at auction *The Poetry of Crisis; The Peter Nahum Collection of British Surrealist and Avant-Garde Art*, one of the most important single-owner collections of modern British art in private hands. Comprising approximately 300 paintings, watercolours and drawings by a range of renowned artists including John Armstrong, Robert Colquhoun, Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, Paul Nash, William Scott and Graham Sutherland, this private collection has been assembled over a period of twenty years and represents the collecting passion and discerning eye of Peter Nahum, a leading expert on 19th and 20th century British art and regular contributor to the BBC's *The Antiques Roadshow*.

See separate release for details.

- From 15 to 23 November, Christie's hosts *British Art Week Autumn*, a series of sales and events dedicated to British art and furniture which follows on from the record-breaking *British Art Week* in June 2006 which realised £32.8 million, the highest ever total for a week of British art sales at Christie's. *British Art Week Autumn* is highlighted by two important collections; The Everett Collection, which includes approximately 30 paintings, drawings and watercolours by artists including Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and J.M.W. Turner, and Property from the Walker Collection, which is being offered by the descendants of Sir Andrew Barclay Walker, founder of the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, and includes an exceptional group of 14 paintings by J. F. Herring Snr.

See separate release for details.