

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | NEW YORK | 16 JULY 2021

## OPENING AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTHAMPTON

### GRACE HARTIGAN: NO RULES

A DEDICATED SELLING EXHIBITION

July 17 – August 8, 2021



Grace Hartigan (1922-2008)  
*East Side Peddler*  
signed and dated 'Hartigan '56' (lower right)  
oil on canvas  
29 ½ x 39 in. (74.9 x 99.1 cm.)  
Painted in 1956.

***'No rules...I must be free to paint anything I feel.'* - Grace Hartigan**

**NEW YORK** – Christie's Southampton is pleased to announce *Grace Hartigan: No Rules*, a selling exhibition devoted to the mastery and creativity of Grace Hartigan (1922-2008). Open to the public from July 17 to August 8 at Christie's newest gallery in the Hamptons, *No Rules* is comprised of 18 rarely-seen works from the 1940s through the 1970s that trace Hartigan's radical and fearless evolution as an artist, exploring abstraction, figuration and their intersection.

In his catalogue essay for the exhibition, curator and art historian Michael Klein notes, "*Since her passing in 2008, Grace Hartigan has been cast in the role of female Abstract Expressionist but, in fact, this is only partially true. As demonstrated by the show here, Hartigan's appetite for new ideas and fresh approaches was integral to her thinking and working as a painter.*"

In the 1950's, Hartigan was arguably the most celebrated woman artist of her day, with profiles in *Life* Magazine, *Newsweek* and *Time*, and a string of major gallery shows in New York. In 1958, she was the only woman to be included in the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition "The New American Painting" that later toured eight European countries. Museums and major collectors acquired the majority of her early works, including the architect Philip Johnson, Nelson Rockefeller, Peggy Guggenheim, and Beatrice Perry, among others. Her circle of artists and friends included Willem and Elaine de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Helen Frankenthaler, Franz Kline, and the poet Frank O'Hara.

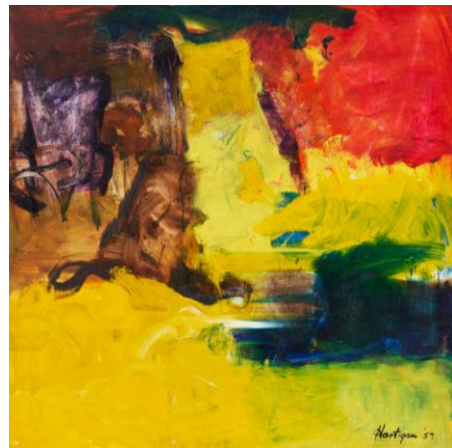
Yet despite her fame, Klein notes that Hartigan's name is not as instantly recognizable as many of her contemporaries, and her contributions to the history of New York painting and the Abstract Expressionist movement remain under-represented, despite her towering influence.

**Sara Friedlander, Deputy Chairman, Post-War and Contemporary Art** at Christie's noted: *"In May, our Christie's team successfully recalibrated the auction market for Grace Hartigan by achieving a new record price for her work – a stunning large-scale work from 1962 appropriately titled 'The Phoenix'". With this exhibition, which affords a deeper examination of Hartigan's varied styles and techniques across three decades of creative output, we hope to continue supporting the much-deserved revival of interest in Hartigan's work."*

The exhibition is a sweeping survey of Hartigan's work across three decades, including oil paintings, works on paper, collage and watercolors. In keeping with the spirit of Christie's east end location, many of the works selected for the show take their inspiration from the familiar landscapes of eastern Long Island, where Hartigan spent time in the summer during the years she lived and worked in New York City. Among the highlights for sale is *Still Life with Blue Wall*, painted in 1953; *East Side Peddler*, painted in 1956; *Study for Montauk Highway II*, a collage work executed in 1957; and *Kansas*, a large-scale abstract painted in 1959. *Grey Eyed Athena* and *The Snow Angel*, two prime examples of Hartigan's abstract expressionist technique, are included on loan for the exhibition.



*Still Life with Blue Wall*  
signed and dated 'Hartigan 53' (lower right)  
oil on canvas  
23 1/8 x 31 in. (58.7 x 78.7 cm.)  
Painted in 1953.



*Kansas*  
signed and dated 'Hartigan '59' (lower right)  
oil on canvas  
87 3/4 x 86 3/4 in. (222.9 x 220.3 cm.)  
Painted in 1959.



*Study for Montauk Highway II*  
signed twice and dated 'Hartigan '57 G.H.' (lower right)  
oil, paper collage and printed paper collage on paper  
22 1/2 x 28 1/2 in. (57.1 x 72.4 cm.)  
Executed in 1957.



*The Snow Angel*  
signed and dated 'Hartigan '60' (lower right); signed again, titled and dated again "THE SNOW ANGEL" 1960 HARTIGAN' (on the stretcher)  
oil on canvas  
69 x 75 1/4 in. (175.2 x 191.1 cm.)  
Painted in 1960.

#### About Christie's Southampton, Featuring Carpenter's Workshop Gallery

Located in a newly-refurbished 5,600 square foot glass-front building, Christie's new outpost in Southampton features fine art exhibitions integrated with 20<sup>th</sup> century design from Carpenter's Workshop Gallery. Conceived as a vibrant hub of activity for the local art-collecting community, the gallery regularly hosts joint exhibitions, events, receptions and brand



collaborations. Christie's residency in Southampton, which will run through 2022, follows on the success of last summer's pop-up exhibition in the Hamptons, which drew hundreds of clients to a masterworks exhibitions of auction highlights over the extended 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Christie's Southampton is located at 1 Pond Lane, in the heart of Southampton Village, close to the Southampton Arts Center and the Peter Marino Foundation.

#### Location Details and Contact Information:

##### **Christie's Southampton, featuring Carpenter's Workshop Gallery**

1 Pond Lane, Southampton

**Hours:** 11am – 6pm, Tuesday through Sunday, closed Mondays

**Contact:** [southampton@christies.com](mailto:southampton@christies.com) to arrange a guided visit with Christie's on-site specialists

**Website:** [www.christies.com/privatesales/grace-hartigan](http://www.christies.com/privatesales/grace-hartigan)

**Instagram:** @christiesinc @carpentersworkshopgallery

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**Note to editors:** Christie's New York set a new world auction record for any work by Grace Hartigan with the sale of *The Phoenix*, a large-scale oil painting from 1962 from The Perry Collection, which sold for \$687,500.

**Images available upon request**

#### **PRESS CONTACT:**

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#### **About Christie's**

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvador Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or by downloading Christie's apps. The COVID-related re-opening status of our global locations is available [here](#).

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*Images available on request*

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