

**For Immediate Release**

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## **CHRISTIE'S LONDON POST WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART WEEK TOTALS £66.6 MILLION / \$135 MILLION**

- **Christie's Leads the London October Post War & Contemporary Art Sales Week**
- **Top Lot Sold at Auction this Week: Francis Bacon's *Rent Cheque Painting Study from the Human Body, Man Turning on the Light* Sold for £8,084,500 / \$16,371,113 / €11,528,497**

**London** – Christie's **Post War & Contemporary Art** sales week held from 14-16 October 2007 totalled £66,565,575 (\$135,108,066 / €95,088,567), the highest ever total for the October Post War & Contemporary Art auctions in London. Strategically timed during a week when the world's focus is on international contemporary art in London, the sales saw over 750 clients register to bid in person, in writing, on the phone and through Christie's LIVE.

*"It has been a superb week in London with every major collector from around the world travelling to the capital to attend our auctions and the events surrounding the Frieze Art Fair. Christie's newly-designed salerooms and galleries provided a spectacular backdrop to both our exhibitions and highly successful auctions this week, which have seen the market maintain its strong position. Over the next six weeks we host major auctions in New York, Hong Kong and Dubai and look forward to this very positive trend continuing,"* said **Jussi Pykkänen, President of Christie's Europe.**

*"The Post War & Contemporary Art market continues to thrive and the results this week have shown the continued strength of the market. Boosted by new and established collectors from the US, Europe, Russia, the Middle East and China, we have seen particularly strong results for both older-generation European and American artists and newly emerging artists notably from China,"* said **Pilar Ordovás, Head of Post War and Contemporary Art, Christie's London.**

The **Post War & Contemporary Art Evening sale including Double Vision** held on Sunday 14 October 2007 totalled £39,810,200 (\$80,615,655 / €56,769,345), the highest ever total for Christie's October Post War & Contemporary Art sale in London and double the previous total for this sale of £19 million in 2006. 10 new world auction records were established for artists from across the world including China, Europe, Australia and America.

The top selling lot for the week was *Study from the Human Body, Man Turning on the Light* by Francis Bacon (1909-1992) which sold for £8,084,500 (\$16,371,113 / €11,528,497), the fourth highest price for the artist at auction. The picture was offered by the Royal College of Art who were given the work directly by the artist as rent for the use of a studio in Cromwell Road in 1969 and who were selling the painting in order to raise funds for a major new campus.

Christie's seventh annual **The Italian Sale - 20th Century Art** on Monday 15 October 2007 totalled £14,759,000 (\$30,019,806 / €21,164,406), the second highest total ever for this sale at Christie's,\* with six new world auction records established.

The week of sales ended with the **Post War & Contemporary Art** sale on Tuesday 16 October 2007 which totalled £11,996,375 (\$24,472,605/ €17,154,816).

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

\* Christie's **The Italian Sale - 20th Century Art** held in October 2006 totalled £15,657,600 (\$29,029,190 / €23,188,905), the highest ever total for this sale in London.

#### **Christie's Post-War & Contemporary Art**

Christie's is the leading marketplace internationally for Post-War and Contemporary Art with global sales in 2006 totalling £442 million/\$822 million. Christie's New York *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale* in May 2006 became the most valuable auction ever in the category, and the second highest art auction in history totalling \$384,654,400. In June 2007, the highest ever European sale total for *Post-War and Contemporary Art* was achieved at Christie's London when the evening sale realised £74.1 million /\$147.3 million.

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

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

For more information on the RCA's Battersea development, contact Aine Duffy, Head of Media Relations at the RCA: +44 (0)20 7590 4127