

For Immediate Release

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**RARE MARKET APPEARANCE:
GERHARD RICHTER'S ICONIC *DÜSENJÄGER (JET FIGHTER)*
TO BE OFFERED IN CHRISTIE'S SALE OF POST-WAR AND
CONTEMPORARY ART**

**Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale
November 13, 2007**



New York – Gerhard Richter's *Düsenjäger (Jet Fighter)*, 1963 will be among the highlights of Christie's evening sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art on November 13 in New York. An iconic Photo-Painting from the earliest phase of Richter's career, *Düsenjäger* is part of an exclusive group of works depicting military aircrafts – many of which reside in museum collections. It is one of the largest and rarest of the artist's monumental depictions of a single fighter jet in motion. This extraordinary work is being offered by well-known Chicago collectors Lewis and Susan Manilow and is expected to realize in excess of \$10 million.

One of Richter's earliest Photo-Paintings from the 1960s, *Düsenjäger (Jet Fighter)*, 1963 derives from an exclusive and important group of paintings whose sole subject matter was military aircraft. Reportedly based on photographs selected at random from the media, at first sight these career-defining works were meant to capture the "objective" nature of photography. However, the stimuli behind their creation were much more multi-layered and complex and

these images obviously uncovered the seeds of contention that undergirded their provocative content. *Düsenjäger* – one of the largest and most iconic in its monumentalized, close-range depiction the fighter jet in motion – is particularly resonant in that it was painted at a pivotal moment in West German history when the country was attempting to emerge from the militaristic ghosts of its past, while simultaneously being embroiled in the fierce political battles of the Cold War. Thus, *Düsenjäger* – a painting of a newspaper cutting depicting a jet – is a work that, despite its seemingly mundane ordinariness, would have certainly pricked West Germans’ political sensibilities at the time. Richter, however, often denied the clearly controversial nature of much of his imagery from the early years of his oeuvre, claiming his choice of subject matter, though selected with great care and attention towards its aesthetic and pictorial value, was never chosen with regard to its social or political implications. However, his contemporaneous renditions of *Hitler*, his *Uncle Rudi* (a young soldier killed while serving Hitler’s army) and his *Aunt Marianne* (also a victim of the Nazi regime), are each filled with the difficult awareness of their content and, like *Düsenjäger*, suggest Richter knowingly employed the impersonal “distance” of photographic images as tools to pick at his country’s fragile morale fiber.

Düsenjäger is being offered by Lewis and Susan Manilow, well-known patrons of the arts who have long been on the forefront of the Chicago art scene and who have made extraordinary contributions to the cultural life of the city. Mr. Manilow is one of the founders and a former President and Trustee of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and is an active supporter of the Arts Institute of Chicago where he is a lifetime trustee. He has served on the boards, councils and committees for institutions around the United States including the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Harvard Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. The Manilows devotion to the arts extends to performance art as well, with generous support to Chicago’s Goodman Theatre.

Auction: Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale November 13 at 7pm

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