

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

DAVID HOCKNEY'S *GUEST HOUSE GARDEN*, FROM THE *L'ART À FLEUR DE PEAU* COLLECTION, WILL HIGHLIGHT THE 20th / 21st CENTURY: EVENING SALE INCLUDING THINKING ITALIAN, LONDON ON 15 OCTOBER 2021

- David Hockney's *Guest House Garden* will be offered at auction for the first time with a pre-sale estimate of £5,000,000-7,000,000
- *Guest House Garden* has not been seen publicly for 20 years when it was last exhibited in 2001
- The painting originates from the *L'art à fleur de peau* Collection, with more than 100 further works presented in a dedicated sale in Paris on 13 October 2021
- 'Christie's 20th / 21st Century: Evening Sale Including Thinking Italian, London will incorporate the Hong Kong and New York sale rooms, taking place on 15 October 2021



David Hockney, *Guest House Garden* (2000, estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000)

LONDON – David Hockney's *Guest House Garden* (2000, estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000) will highlight Christie's 20th / 21st Century: Evening Sale Including Thinking Italian, London on 15 October 2021. The painting originates from [L'art à fleur de peau Collection](#), with more than 100 works being offered in Paris

in a dedicated sale on 13 October 2021. *Guest House Garden* is a deeply personal vision dating from a pivotal moment in David Hockney's practice. The work was acquired from the artist's solo exhibition at Galerie Lelong, Paris, in 2001 and has been unseen in public since then. *Guest House Garden* belongs to a small group of paintings and drawings depicting the artist's garden, which he began during the summer of 2000 in London while exhibiting at the National Gallery, and continued back in Los Angeles, where the garden depicted is located. Though bathed in Californian luminosity, these works marked the beginning of a significant shift in Hockney's practice, heralding many of the qualities of the Yorkshire landscapes that would come to dominate his oeuvre from 2004 onwards. Highlights from the *L'art à fleur de peau* Collection, including *Guest House Garden*, will be unveiled at Christie's in Paris from 8 to 12 September 2021. David Hockney's *Guest House Garden* will then be in view in Hong Kong from 21 to 24 September and New York from 29 September to 3 October before being exhibited in London from 9 to 15 October 2021.

Katharine Arnold, Co-Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art, Christie's, Europe: "*David Hockney's sumptuous Guest House Garden is drenched in luminous light and represents a pivotal moment in the artist's oeuvre where his sense of home, be it California or Yorkshire, began to dominate his artistic vision. The work was created at a moment when Hockney's international career had reached new heights with seminal exhibitions in Paris marking a significant shift for him on the global stage and yet his life was touched by tragedy in the death of his mother. The painting has not been seen since it was first exhibited in 2001 and we are thrilled to offer Guest House Garden in our global 20th/ 21st Century: Evening Sale Including Thinking Italian, London during Frieze Week this year. We are sure that the exceptional quality of the painting will resonate with international collectors as we welcome them back to London.*"

In the early 2000s, David Hockney began to look more closely than ever before at the various places he had come to call home, his eye sharpened by rigorous visual research for his landmark 2001 thesis *Secret Knowledge*. Here, Hockney's vivid palette and complex geometric drama infused his garden with an almost anthropomorphic quality. It is a vision of warm familiarity, seen through fresh inquisitive eyes. The turn of the millennium was also a time of great professional triumph for Hockney. In 1999, he had mounted three major solo exhibitions in Paris, including his landmark retrospective at the Centre Georges Pompidou and a seminal show at the Musée Picasso: the first by a living artist. Sadly, it was also at this time that the artist's mother passed away at the family home in Yorkshire. Her ill health over the previous few years had drawn Hockney increasingly back to his homeland, sparking a longing for the landscapes of his childhood.

His sojourn in the UK during the summer of 2000 brought the theme of home to the forefront of his mind once more: views of his gardens in London and Los Angeles, some created from memory, mingled with scenes from Yorkshire, each infusing and inflecting one another. The winding coastal highways that had dominated his California landscapes became garden paths and country roads; the light and colour of the West Coast transplanted itself onto British soil. This blurring of boundaries would ultimately lead Hockney back home, seemingly identifying the same drama and luminosity in his native landscape that he had previously observed in the canyons, sunsets and sweeping vistas of California. *Guest House Garden* eloquently captures Hockney's arrival at this crossroad.

In the intimacy of a domestic garden, the artist finds a veritable theatre of colour, form and texture. Hockney's palette is one of near-Fauvist saturation, recalling the spirit of Henri Matisse, André Derain that the artist had formerly channelled in his views of Nichol's Canyon, Mulholland Drive and the sea at Malibu. The work's tall bank of trees and fresh, clear skies, meanwhile, seem to prefigure Hockney's depictions of the Yorkshire Wolds, where strains of pale blue would flicker through dense, vertical woodlands. During the 1990s Hockney's focus on floral still-life had led him to renew his engagement with the work of Vincent van Gogh, and something of Van Gogh's vivid, otherworldly light is palpable here. The trees, in particular, seem to emit an almost human quality redolent of Van Gogh's own depictions of forests and groves. These combined influences would ultimately lead Hockney to a new home in France, where his garden in rural Normandy became the subject of a new series showcased at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, this summer.

Christie's will present a sale dedicated to *L'art à fleur de peau* Collection in Paris on 13 October. This exceptional grouping reflects a woman's passion for post-war and contemporary art, representing some of the greatest international figures of the 20th century. Further to *Guest House Garden*, seminal pieces by Fernando Botero, Chu Teh-Chun, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Barbara Kruger, Louise Nevelson and Manolo Valdés will also be offered. *L'art à fleur de peau* Collection also reflects a strong appetite for French

artists, including Philippe Cognée, Olivier Debré, Gérard Garouste, Gilles Aillaud, Richard Texier and Maurice Estève.

Paul Nyzam, Head of L'art à fleur de peau Collection Sale: *"French collections of this quality are rare. We are therefore particularly honoured to be able to showcase this ensemble at Christie's this autumn. Marked by a passion for artworks from the French scene during the second half of the 20th century as well as an openness to international artists, the collector demonstrated a loyalty to some of the most important dealers in Paris. The collection therefore draws a portrait of the woman who created it. A woman who is both impulsive and whimsical, driven by an insatiable curiosity for contemporary creation and a confident taste for bold artworks. A woman who has art on her mind."*

Christie's has always been committed to highlighting collections built by people with discerning taste and a keen eye, and in particular contemporary art collections assembled by women. This sale follows on from the sales of the Bénédicte Pesle (2018), Anne Tronche (2019) and Marion Lambert (2020) collections. L'art à fleur de peau reveals the pioneering nature of a collector's taste as well as underlining the ambition and trajectory of the journey undertaken in the search for new artists. The artworks will be presented in dialogue with each other, for instance, Jim Dine will be placed alongside Hervé Télémaque, George Condo with Zoran Music, Emil Nolde with Bernard Frize, and Victor Brauner with Sam Szafran.

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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.

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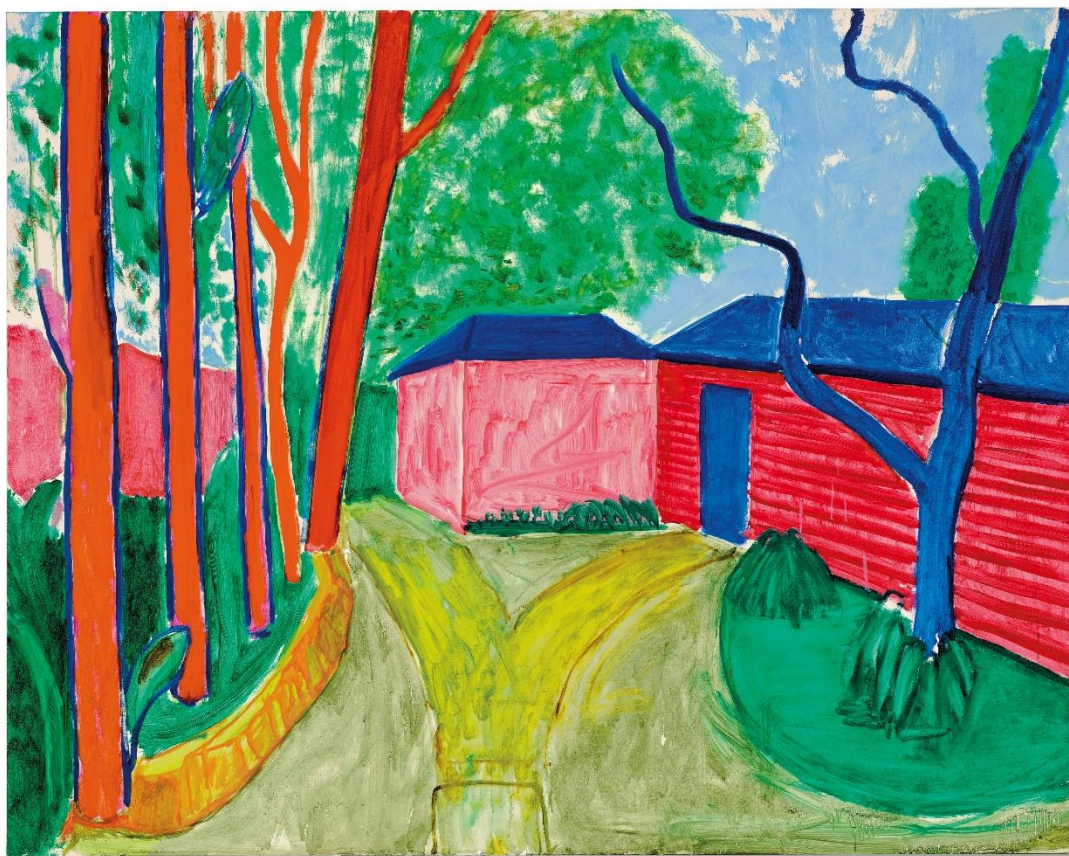
CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE - LONDON AND PARIS – 9 SEPTEMBER 2021 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

L'art à fleur de peau A Collector's journey

Paris - Wednesday 13 October 2021

London - Friday 15 October 2021



David Hockney

Guest House Garden

Estimate : £5,000,000-7,000,000

London and Paris - Christie's will present the sale of an important group of works assembled by a French collector on the 13 and 15 of October between the salerooms in Paris and London. Comprising over 100 pieces, this exceptional collection reflects a woman's passion for post-war and contemporary art. The collection includes some of the greatest international figures of the 20th century, such as David Hockney, whose *Guest House Garden* will be offered at auction for

the first time (2000, estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000), Fernando Botero, Chu Teh-Chun, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Barbara Kruger, Manolo Valdés and Louise Nevelson. It also reflects a strong appetite for French artists, including Philippe Cognée, Olivier Debré, Gérard Garouste, Gilles Aillaud, Richard Texier and Maurice Estève.

Estimated between 9 and 13 million euros, the sale will take place in two stages: in **Paris** the majority of the collection will be offered on the 13 of October and in **London**, the highlight of the collection, a masterpiece by David Hockney will highlight the 20th / 21st Century: Evening Sale Including Thinking Italian, London on 15 October 2021. *Guest House Garden* belongs to a small group of paintings and drawings depicting Hockney's garden that he began during the summer of 2000 in London while exhibiting at the National Gallery, and continued back in Los Angeles. Though bathed in Californian luminosity, these works marked the beginning of a significant shift in Hockney's practice, heralding many of the qualities of the Yorkshire landscapes that would come to dominate his *oeuvre* from 2004 onwards.

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Christie's has always been committed to highlight collections built by people with discerning taste and a keen eye, and in particular, contemporary art collections assembled by women. This sale follows on from the sales of the Bénédicte Pesle (2018), Anne Tronche (2019) and Marion Lambert (2020) collections. *L'art à fleur de peau* Collection reveals the pioneering nature of a collector's taste as well as underlining the ambition and trajectory of the journey undertaken in the search for new artists. The artworks will be presented in dialogue with each other, for instance, Jim Dine will be placed alongside Hervé Télémaque, George Condo with Zoran Music, Emil Nolde with Bernard Frize, and Victor Brauner with Sam Szafran.

A focus of the collection is work featuring the body and flesh, with Fernando Botero's example standing out as one of the most significant inclusions. Produced in 1988 in a large format (130 x 183 cm), *Femme à la guitare* (estimate: €500,000-700,000) is an emblematic example of the Colombian master's creative genius; it depicts a naked woman with voluptuous round curves holding a guitar, languidly reclining on a pink sofa. As always with Botero's work, despite the figure's generous forms, a sense of grace and lightness emerges from the painting.

The collection includes two works by French-Chinese artist Chu Teh-Chun who moved to France in the 1950s, including the oil on canvas *Lueurs imprévues*, created in 2003 (estimate: €200,000-300,000). This painting illustrates lyrical abstraction, a pictorial movement that gave free rein to spontaneous inspiration. The work of Zao Wou-Ki, a friend of Chu Teh-Chun's, is also well represented by two works: a watercolour, *Untitled* executed in 1993 (estimate: €60,000-80,000) and a silkscreen print from 2006, *Saint Tropez* (estimate: €10,000-15,000).

Several female artists are also represented in the collection: Magdalena Abakanowicz, Geneviève Asse, Rebecca Horn, Louise Nevelson, Kiki Smith, Shirin Neshat and Barbara Kruger, whose *Talk to me*, produced in 2000 (estimate: €150,000-200,000) is a highlight. Famous for her photo-montages of black and white press photographs, Kruger hijacks the advertising image on consumer subjects. The shocking taglines that accompany her creations place her in the category

of the political artists of the 1980s. Through her work, Kruger attempts to introduce doubt into the viewer's mind and shows the power of language.

Sale: Wednesday 13 October at 4 pm

Pre-sale Exhibition in Paris: From 8 to 13 October from 10am to 6pm. Open on Sunday 10 October from 2pm to 6pm.

Christie's: 9 avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris.

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