

Press Release

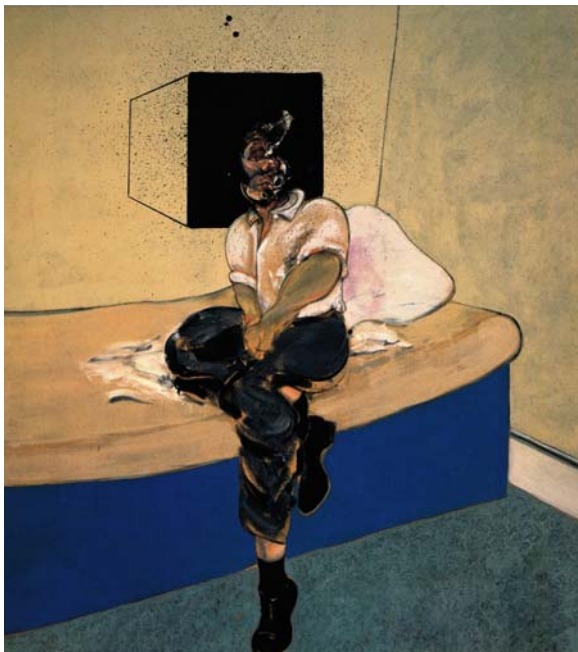
CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**EXCEPTIONAL WORK BY FRANCIS BACON LEADS CHRISTIE'S
NEW YORK POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING
SALE IN NOVEMBER**



**Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale
November 12, 2008**

New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of the Francis Bacon's *Study for Self-Portrait*, 1964, (estimate on request) in the New York *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale* on 12 November 2008. A rare example of a full length self-portrait, this work is truly a consummate representation of the artist's complex character, as well as a tour-de-force of his indelibly original style of painting.

According to Christie's International Co-Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art, Brett Gorvy, "This crucial work by Francis Bacon is bound to attract international interest in the November Evening Sale. Study for Self-Portrait, is a rare and outstanding apogee in Bacon's creative output."

Study for Self Portrait is triumph of Bacon's unapologetic metamorphosing of the human form. Grasping his hands while sitting on a bed, the subject is twisted from head to toe. The work affords the viewer a visceral awareness of the subjectivity within the artist, managing to achieve a sentiment that is both sensual and unsettling, lushly painted but underscored with a sense of violence. *Study for Self-Portrait* draws upon Rembrandt's renowned self-portraits in its introspective depiction of Bacon's inner struggle. Bacon depicts himself with a distorted twisting face so as to illustrate the complex matrix of perspectives that lie within, achieving a haunting effect that not only presents his physical person, but in fact reveals every pulsation existing within his being.

Bacon executed the present work in one of the most significant years of his career and life, experiencing the enormous satisfaction of critical acclamation in both a *catalogue raisonné* and a monograph by John Russell, and the unbearable anguish of the death of his lover, Peter Lacy. However, it was in this wake of professional success and personal tragedy that Bacon transitioned from a maverick to a master, a triumph which is evident within *Study for Self-Portrait*.

Today, Bacon's self portraits are widely regarded as one of his most important bodies of work, and unquestionably part of the canon of great self-portraits in the history of art. This assessment became apparent last spring based on the tremendous demand for such works at *Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sales* when the intimate-scaled works *Three Studies for Self-Portrait*, 1976 realized \$28,041,000/£14,380,000/€18,090,968 in New York, and *Three Studies for Self-Portrait*, 1975 led the June sale in London with £17,289,250/\$34,457,475/€21,767,166.

Auction: November 12

Viewing: November 8-12



About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as 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 in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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