

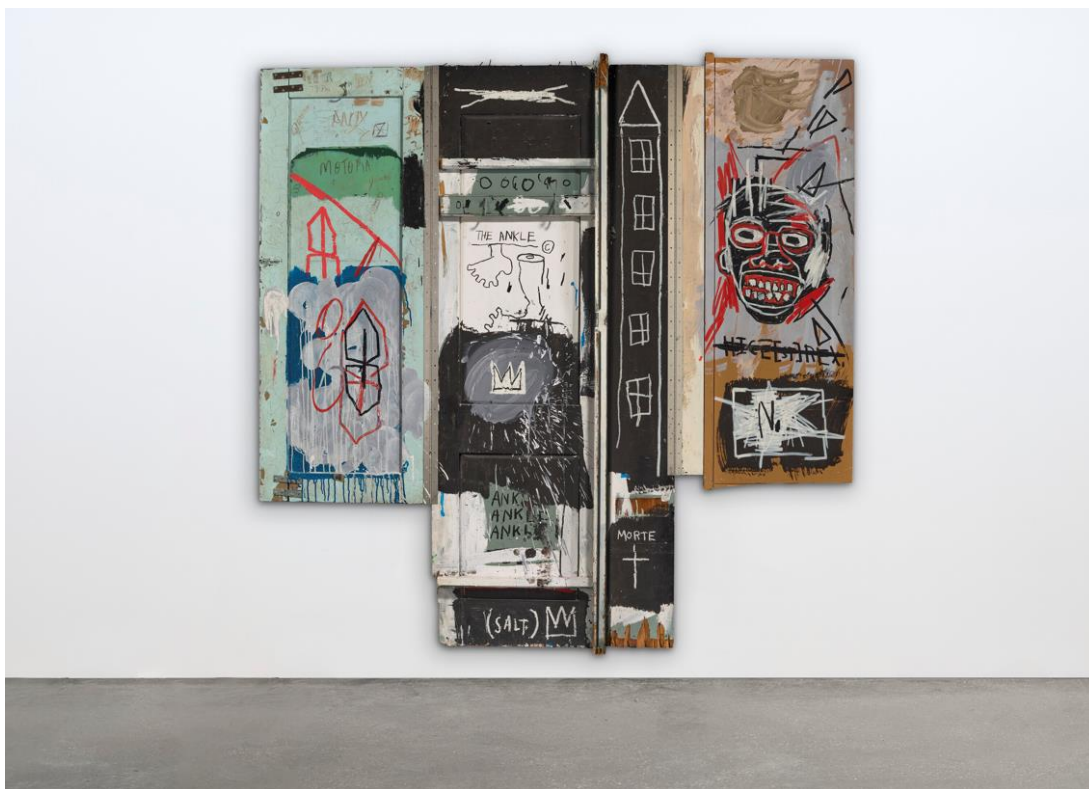
CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 24 2022

HERE IS THE KING

BASQUIAT MASTERWORKS FROM 1982

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG DERELICT
WILL LEAD CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK 21st CENTURY
EVENING SALE



Here is the King: Basquiat Masterworks from 1982

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT (1960-1988)

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Derelict

signed, titled and dated 'JEAN MICHEL BASQUIAT 1982 "PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG DERELICT"' (on the reverse of the left panel)

triptych—acrylic, oil, oilstick and hardware on hinged wood construction

overall: 81 5/8 x 82 3/8 x 3 5/8 in. (207.3 x 209.2 x 9.2 cm.)

Executed in 1982.

New York – Christie's is thrilled to present Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Derelict*, 1982 (estimate on request) as a leading highlight in the 21st Century Evening Sale this May in New York City at Rockefeller Center. This rare work is executed across three large conjoined panels, the construction of which was executed by the artist. Standing as both self-portrait and altarpiece, it represents a highpoint in the artist's brief but explosive career.

Created in the artist's Crosby Street studio, this masterwork reflects the raw energy and excitement of Basquiat's practice in 1982. Executed at the highpoint of his career, it was included in the artist's seminal show at Fun Gallery (November - December 1982), widely considered the best exhibition of his lifetime. One of the most remarkable works that Basquiat ever produced, this monumental painting synthesizes the artist's masterful painterly abilities with his early experience of life on the streets. It contains all of the artist's celebrated motifs: his signature three-pointed crown, his anatomical studies, his evocative words, and his vast array of expressive painterly gestures, standing as an encyclopedic manifestation of the artist's career. As such, it has been included in many seminal Basquiat retrospectives globally including the Brooklyn Museum (2005-2006), Fondation Beyeler and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2010-2011), and Fondation Louis Vuitton (2018-2019). Having been in the same collection for over two decades, this May will be the first time it has appeared at auction.

Ana Maria Celis, Head of Christie's New York 21st Century Evening Sale, remarks: "We are truly thrilled to offer *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Derelict* by Basquiat as a leading highlight of our 21st Century Evening Sale during this Spring's Marquee Week. This is a rare work of self-portraiture, containing a rich multitude of references that touch upon all aspects of Basquiat's life—ranging from his childhood to his meteoric rise to fame to ruminations of his own mortality. Its magnificent structure evokes the grandeur of altarpieces of the Northern Renaissance, with a highly unique picture support that classifies it among the most special within the artist's oeuvre."

During a time period when graffiti artists were largely criminalized, this work can be seen as Basquiat's altar to graffiti art and artists. Its creation predates and somewhat foretells the story of Michael Stewart, a young Black graffiti artist and close friend of Basquiat, who was arrested and subsequently died of injuries sustained while in police custody in 1983. As Keith Haring said: "[Basquiat] was completely freaked out. It was like it could have been him." Painted one year earlier, this work has been said to foreshadow this event— as well as the fate of the artist himself.

In the work, Basquiat portrays one of his iconic 'heads' on the side panel amongst a cacophony of words, signs, and symbols that serve as cultural markers for moments of the past, present, and future. The title also serves as a reference to James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, demonstrating Basquiat's preoccupation with literature and poetry. The spontaneous and frenetic combination of linguistic, figurative, symbolic and abstract elements come together in this masterwork in a fantastic linguistic conflation of sense and nonsense.



Here is the King: Basquiat Masterworks from 1982

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT (1960-1988)

See Plate 3

signed, titled and dated "BASQUIAT 1982 "SEE PLATE 3." (on the interior of the lower element)

acrylic, oil and oilstick on canvas and wood construction, in two parts

overall: 24 ¼ x 17 ¼ x 18 in. (61.5 x 44 x 45.8 cm.)

Executed in 1982.

\$4,000,000-6,000,000

The sale will also be highlighted by another work by Basquiat, **See Plate 3**, 1982 (estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000). This work, one of the rare sculptures by Basquiat, was held in the collection of Keith Haring until his death in 1990. The object debuted along with *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Derelict* at Fun Gallery in 1982. It has also been widely exhibited in major international Basquiat exhibitions and retrospectives, including Whitney Museum of American Art (1992-1993), Brooklyn Museum (2005-2006), traveling exhibition organized by Fondation Beyeler (2010) and Fondation Louis Vuitton (2018-2019).

PRESS CONTACT: Jessica Stanley | 212 636 2680 | jstanley@christies.com

PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)

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 *Salvator 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 or by downloading Christie's apps. The COVID-related re-opening status of our global locations is available [here](#)

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

