

# CHRISTIE'S

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## BANKSY'S *DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH* WILL HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY EVENING SALE



BANKSY  
*Diamond In The Rough*  
signed and dated 'BANKSY 10' (right edge)  
spray paint on truck door  
75 7/8 x 36 5/8 x 4 in. (192.7 x 93 x 10.2 cm.)  
Executed in 2010.  
\$3,000,000 – 5,000,000

**New York** – Christie's is pleased to present Banksy's *Diamond In The Rough*, 2010 (estimate: \$3,000,000 – 5,000,000) as a leading highlight in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Evening Sale in New York City taking place at Rockefeller Center this May. The work is a brilliant combination of readymade surfaces and Banksy's instantly recognizable style. It leverages perceived notions of rebelliousness attached to street art in order to bring more attention to the genre. Its ingenuity lies both in the artist's seemingly simple choice of subject matter and its ability to spark conversation about the art form as a whole. A cultural statement itself, *Diamond In The Rough* stands as testament to the place of street art in the canon juxtaposed with society's inability to completely extract it from its perceived history.

Painted on a steel and glass truck door, *Diamond In The Rough* employs extant graffiti as the backdrop for a young girl rendered in Banksy's signature stencil mode, positioned at the bottom of the frame. Her hand cradles a glowing gem with shine lines emanating on all sides, reminiscent of the playful

compositions of Keith Haring. A direct predecessor of Banksy, Haring also famously engaged public transit as his canvas decades prior, prefiguring some of Banksy's own work.

**Ana Maria Celis, Christie's Head of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Evening Sale**, remarks, *"One of the most enigmatic figures in 21<sup>st</sup> century art, Banksy is a noted critic of society and capitalism who continues to push the envelope in recontextualizing the historical significance of street art. Banksy's activated walls, doors, and various detritus with his stencils, sprays, and brush are entrancing—they simultaneously speak to a specific moment in contemporary culture and pay homage to the living organism that is the metropolitan city. We are thrilled to have Diamond In The Rough in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Evening Sale this May. Incredibly fresh to market, it is a brilliant example of Banksy's unmatched ability to inject meaning into found objects and flawlessly incorporate urbanity into his practice."*

*Diamond In The Rough* made its debut in the 2010 seminal MOCA survey *Art in the Streets*, the first major US museum exhibition of graffiti and street art. The work was acquired by the present owner directly following the exhibition and has remained in the same collection since. The artist uses the same motif on the walls of the city of Detroit during a visit there around the same time the present example was created, however that work has since been destroyed. A simpler composition of a girl holding a gem painted on the cinderblock wall of an abandoned Detroit storefront, its attempted removal by unnamed parties resulted in its ultimate demise.

### Exhibition and Tour Dates:

The work will be on exhibition at Christie's London April 5 – 8 and Christie's Hong Kong April 20 – 21 before returning to New York, where it will be on view at Christie's New York ahead of the Marquee Week sale in May.

### Note to Editors:

This lot will be accepting bids in crypto-currency.

**PRESS CONTACT:** Jessica Stanley | 212 636 2680 | [jstanley@christies.com](mailto:jstanley@christies.com)

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

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