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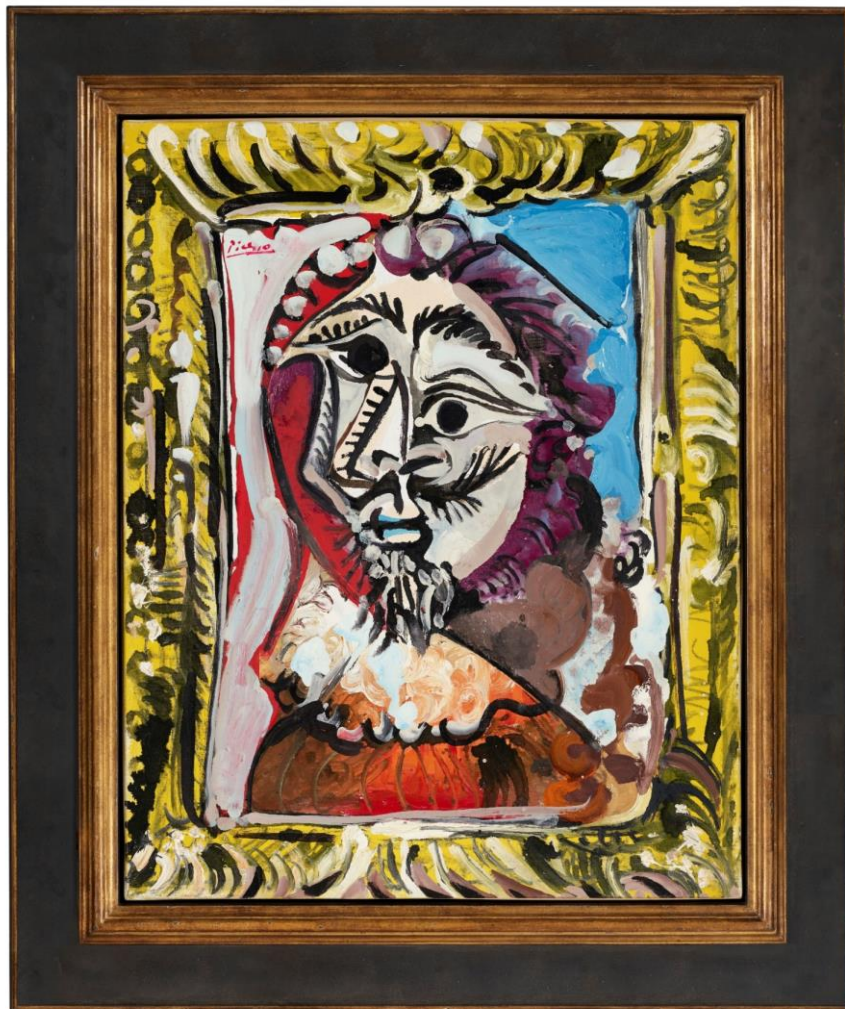
PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 14 APRIL 2022 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PABLO PICASSO'S *BUSTE D'HOMME DANS UN CADRE* FROM THE ESTATE OF SIR SEAN CONNERLY WILL LEAD CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG'S 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY ART EVENING SALE

**PART OF THE SALE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
THE SEAN CONNERLY PHILANTHROPIC FUND**

**THE MOST VALUABLE WORK BY PICASSO
TO EVER BE OFFERED BY CHRISTIE'S IN ASIA**

26 May | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
Buste d'homme dans un cadre

signed 'Picasso' (upper left); dated '29.3.69' (on the reverse)

oil on canvas

92 x 73 cm. (36 ¼ x 28 ¾ in.)

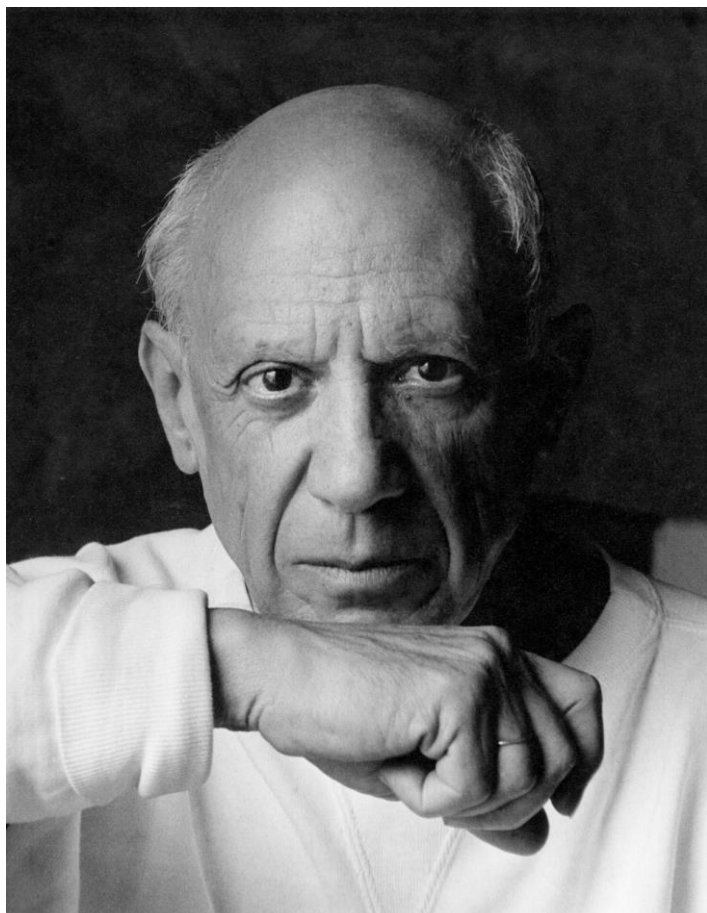
Painted in Mougins on 29 March 1969

Estimate on Request

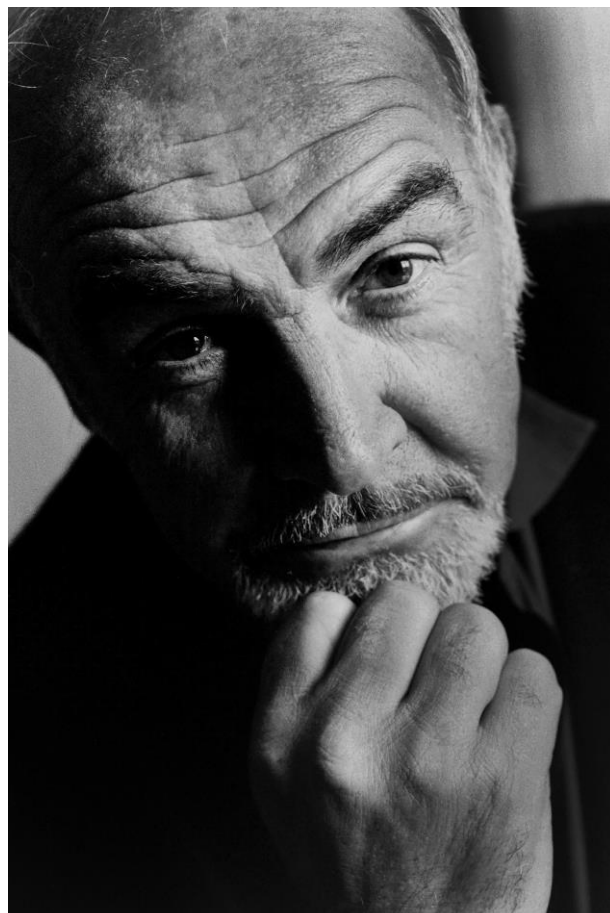
Hong Kong – Christie's is pleased to announce Pablo Picasso's *Buste d'homme dans un cadre* from the Estate of Sir Sean Connery, as a leading highlight of the 20th and 21st Century Art Evening Sale to take place on 26 May at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (estimate on request; in the region of HK\$150 million/ US\$19 million). Offered

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fresh to the market and extraordinary among Picasso's late works for its orderly composition, graceful, decisive lines, and intensity of expression, this seminal canvas is one of the finest and most striking of the artist's paintings from the last decade of his life.



Portrait of artist Pablo Picasso
June 2, 1954 in Vallauris, France.
Photo: © Arnold Newman Properties/Getty Images.



Portrait of Sir Sean Connery.
Photo taken by Simon Walker.

Stephane Connery, son of Sir Sean Connery, remarked, “Sean had an extraordinary sense of aesthetics, composition and movement honed by his career in a visual medium as well as his long marriage to Micheline, a fine and internationally exhibited painter. Further, he truly enjoyed visiting museums which sharpened his discerning eye. Our last visits included the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Barnes Collection, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., shortly before he decided to purchase “Buste d’homme dans un cadre”. He loved and owned numerous works by Picasso, and upon seeing “Buste d’homme dans un cadre” he was captivated by its expressive power and freedom. It seems fitting that this work would be sold in Asia as Sean had a tremendous affinity for Asia and its culture.

Before Sean passed away in 2020, he allocated a sizable portion of his estate to be used for philanthropic purposes. We -- his family -- are now working to create a fund that will offer support to organisations that reflect Sean’s interests and passions, and serve to keep his legacy of integrity, opportunity and effectiveness alive. These efforts will be focused in Scotland, where Sean was born, and the Bahamas, where he lived for over 30 years and adored like his homeland.”

Adrien Meyer, Co-Chairman of Impressionist & Modern Art, Christie’s, remarked: “It is a privilege for Christie’s to have been entrusted by the family of Sir Sean Connery with the sale of this fabulous Picasso self-portrait. No wonder is it that a titan of the film industry was drawn to this tour de force by the greatest modern art titan of all. Appearing at auction for the first time, this is simply one of the best works by the artist of his late period to ever come to market.”

Elaine Holt, Deputy Chairman and International Director, Christie’s Asia Pacific, commented, ““Buste d’homme dans un cadre” is without a doubt one of Picasso’s best “musketees”. Enhancing its importance is its incomparable provenance, which bound together the two icons of the 20th Century – the great Picasso, and Sir Sean Connery - a giant of the silver screen and art connoisseur extraordinaire. It is indeed Christie’s pride and honour to present this exceptional work, its world auction debut, in Asia in our Spring Evening sale.”

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Buste d'homme dans un cadre is an epic representation of Picasso's iconic musketeer motif: the pan-European, 17th Century swashbuckling archetype of masculinity, deriving its inspiration from celebrated golden age master painters such as Rembrandt and Velázquez, and literary giants Shakespeare and Dumas. In this painting, the sitter bears the gaze of Picasso's own intense black eyes, sporting a goatee worthy of the Cardinal Richelieu, a literary nemesis in Dumas' famed novel *The Three Musketeers* which Picasso re-read in 1966, sparking his inspiration for the series. In Picasso's version of Cardinal Richelieu in the present work, the subject displays an affable flair, through an intensely colourful palette depicting his distinctive hair and facial features; the strong gaze and wide collar of his costume recall the directness and intensity of Rembrandt's self-portraits.

In this work, the style of paint application is indebted much more to Vincent van Gogh: dense swirling strokes of paint emanate throughout, curling within his ruff, around his head and even up over the top of the painted frame—whereupon Picasso modernises the clever *trompe l'oeil* compositional device—referencing the ornate gilt of Baroque ornamentation in a playful bright yellow, energetically articulated with rapid, gestural strokes and scrawls of black, white, and sable, reminiscent of Van Gogh's unruly sunflowers and strong winds on wheat fields.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Preview (by appointment only):

Hong Kong | 20 – 21 April | 9/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central

New York | late April to mid-May | 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

Hong Kong | 21 – 26 May | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No. 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong

Auction:

Hong Kong | 26 May | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No. 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong

Image Download Link: please click [here](#).

Press Contact: Gigi Ho | +852 2978 6719 | gigiho@christies.com

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 *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.

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.

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**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.*

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Images available on request
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