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Christie's Hong Kong is Proud to Unveil

FEMALE ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST ARTIST JOAN MITCHELL'S MASTERPIECE *UNTITLED*

Leading the 20th and 21st Century Art Evening Sale

**Artist's Auction Debut at Christie's Asia
During Major International Retrospective**

30 November | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre



JOAN MITCHELL (1925 – 1992)

Untitled

oil on canvas

278 x 199 cm. (109 1/2 x 78 3/8 in.)

Painted in 1966 – 1967

Estimate: HK\$80,000,000 – 120,000,000/ US\$11,000,000 – 15,000,000

Hong Kong – As a leading highlight of the 20th and 21st Century Art Evening sale on 30 November, Christie's proudly unveils **Joan Mitchell's** magnificent, iconic masterpiece ***Untitled*** with an estimate in the region of **HK\$80,000,000 – 120,000,000/ US\$11,000,000 – 15,000,000**, marking the revered

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female Abstract Expressionist artist's auction debut at Christie's Asia. The auction market leader for Joan Mitchell's work, the sale continues Christie's track record of presenting the most exceptional Western artists to the Asia region. An artist of global importance and esteem, *Untitled* comes to auction amidst a major international retrospective of Joan Mitchell's work. Breathtaking, joyous, and monumental, this is a museum-quality piece by one of the most important female artists of the 20th century.

Elaine Holt, Deputy Chairman and International Director, Christie's Asia Pacific, remarked, "A painting of uninhibited exuberance, *Untitled* is a symphony of colour and dynamic line – a seminal masterpiece and a creative pinnacle in Joan Mitchell's oeuvre. Held within its vibrant brushwork and suggestions of thriving natural forms is a legacy that encompasses, not only Abstract Expressionism, but the power and values of modernist icons – van Gogh, Monet, Cezanne. Successful throughout her career, an exception to the norm for a female artist at the time, Mitchell is a leading vision in the Western art historical canon. It is a great privilege to be presenting her work for the first time at Christie's Asia, for our discerning clients throughout the region and beyond."

A work of new-found joy and optimism: *Untitled*, kaleidoscopic in colour and fervent in gesture, is representative of a clear shift in style and sentiment for Mitchell. The painting is preceded by the artist's dark and turbulent 'Black Painting' series from the early 1960s, which she created during a period of personal, emotional challenge. In *Untitled*, angst gives way to optimism, and the painting embodies a palpable sense of energy and freedom, radiating with life.

Painted at a pivotal moment in Mitchell's biography: The artist moved to the French countryside in 1967, to an estate in Vétheuil, near Giverny – the home of Monet for 43 years, and the site of his famed garden and lily pond. The colour, light and bucolic idyll of Vétheuil's landscape had a profound impact on Mitchell's work. Conceived in Paris in 1966-67, shortly before Mitchell's move to the country, *Untitled*'s vibrant colours and animated linearity sing of the natural world, visualising the essence of what cannot be verbalised – nature's wild and unabashed complexity.

Abstract Expressionism with European Modernism: Distinguishing herself from her Abstract Expressionist peers, Mitchell's denial of resolute abstraction led her on a unique artistic trajectory. *Untitled* encapsulates Mitchell's ability to meld the gestural dynamism of Abstract Expressionism with themes and philosophies born from European Modernism. In its brush work, *Untitled* combines spontaneity with consideration, its forms evade specificity, and yet together create a complete and harmonious composition. The painting's primary and complimentary colours and sense of flora in bloom hark back to Vincent van Gogh, while its reverberating visualisation of a transitory moment in nature is entwined with the legacy of French Impressionism.

A revered and celebrated female artist of the Post-War era: Alongside the likes of Franz Kline and Willem de Kooning, Mitchell was a successful and recognised figure within New York's Abstract Expressionist scene in the 1950s – a feat at a time when female artists were typically overlooked and undervalued. She was one of the few female members of the exclusive Eighth Street Club, participating in the legendary 9th Street Art Exhibition in 1951, which would prove crucial for championing the Abstract Expressionist movement. After leaving New York for Paris in 1959, Mitchell continued to garner enduring acclaim.

Mitchell's work is held in the collections of esteemed institutions around the world. The artist possesses a prestigious and extensive exhibition history including the recent, highly-anticipated travelling retrospective at the Baltimore Museum of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, currently on view at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Public Preview:

Singapore | 29 – 30 October | The Arts House At The Old Parliament

New York | 12 – 15 November | 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

Hong Kong | 26 – 30 November | Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

Live Auction:

Hong Kong | 30 November | Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

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

About Christie's

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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 Salvator Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019). Christie's is also recognised as a reference for prestigious single owner collections, having auctioned 8 of the 10 most important collections in history.

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Recent innovations at Christie's include 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 use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and 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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**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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