

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 20 JANUARY 2023

LUCIAN FREUD'S RARE EXPLORATIONS OF LANDSCAPE TO HIGHLIGHT 20TH / 21ST CENTURY: LONDON EVENING SALE NEXT MONTH

FORMERLY IN THE COLLECTION OF SIMON SAINSBURY,
SCILLONIAN BEACHSCAPE (1945-46) AND *GARDEN FROM
THE WINDOW* (2002) EMBODY FREUD'S ENDURING
PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD



Lucian Freud, *Scillonian Beachscape* (1945-46, estimate: £3,500,000-5,500,000)

Lucian Freud, *Garden from the Window* (2002, estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000)

London – Two rare and exquisite Lucian Freud paintings that trace the artist's enduring fascination with the natural world throughout his distinguished career will highlight Christie's 20th / 21st Century: London Evening Sale on 28 February 2023. Unseen in public since 1974, *Scillonian Beachscape* (1945-46, estimate: £3,500,000-5,500,000), is an early painting by the artist, and one of a handful of works inspired by a formative visit to the Isles of Scilly, accompanied by his close friend, the artist John Craxton. During the trip, Freud created a number of drawings and completed this canvas when he returned to London. Unusually for the artist, the composition of *Scillonian Beachscape* is directly based on one of his location drawings, *Untitled* (which was sold by Christie's

in October 2022). *Scillonian Beachscape* is presented alongside *Garden from the Window* (2002, estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000), which comes to auction for the first time. Both paintings are offered from the same private collection, and were formerly in the renowned collection of Simon Sainsbury.

Tessa Lord, Acting Head of Department, Post-War and Contemporary Art, Christie's London:
"Lucian Freud, revered as one of the greatest painters of the 20th century, continually returned to the natural world as a source of rich inspiration throughout his career. This lifelong fascination is perfectly encapsulated in these two exquisite paintings which offer viewers insight into both his early and late life. The significance of the natural world to Freud is currently being explored in an exhibition at London's Garden Museum. Each previously in the prestigious collection of the British philanthropist and businessman Simon Sainsbury, these two remarkable works will highlight our upcoming 20th / 21st Century: London Evening Sale. We expect them to resonate with our international collector base, particularly in light of London's National Gallery's recent centenary retrospective "Lucian Freud: New Perspectives" which will open at Thyssen-Bornemisza Museo Nacional, Madrid in February."

Scillonian Beachscape presents a dreamlike coastal scene in lush, sun-drenched colour. Captured in the crisp detail that defines Freud's work of this period, a tall sea-holly dominates the foreground, unfurling sharp, scalloped leaves. To the left, a puffin perches on a round, perfectly pitted pebble. With their precisely modelled shadows, the objects contrast with the backdrop's stylised, near-abstract fields of colour: they stand on a golden beach, which gives way to bands of blue and turquoise sea, and a distant strip of cyan sky. Two dark islets slice through the water like fins. Freud's early practice was defined by plant and animal subjects before he shifted his focus to portraiture. *Scillonian Beachscape* is also distinguished by its remarkable scale. At half a metre in height and three-quarters of a metre across, it stands alongside major early works including *Boy with a Feather* (1943), *The Painter's Room* (1945) and *Dead Heron* (1945), as one of the very largest paintings Freud had made by this date.

An exquisite portrait of nature painted at the height of Freud's powers, *Garden from the Window* offers a rare glimpse of life beyond the artist's studio walls. With exceptional detail, the artist captures the dappled play of light across the buddleia at the centre of his garden. Cropped to near-abstraction, leaves and petals are rendered with the same exacting textures that Freud applied to human flesh, their forms entangled like limbs. Painted in 2002, and unveiled at Tate Britain, London two years later, the canvas belongs to a series of works depicting the artist's garden at 138 Kensington Church Street. The wild, overgrown plot became a great source of inspiration to him during the last two decades of his life. More keenly aware than ever before of time's inevitable passage, Freud set about capturing the miraculous flux of light and life outside his window.

PRESS CONTACT:

Sara Macdonald | +44 (0)20 7752 3136 | saramacdonald@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 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.

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 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.

Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: www.christies.com or by downloading Christie's apps.

**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:

