

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | 11 MAY 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASTERPIECES FROM THE S.I. NEWHOUSE COLLECTION AND 20TH CENTURY EVENING SALE TOTAL **\$506,571,600**

S.I. NEWHOUSE COLLECTION TOTAL: \$177,792,000

20TH CENTURY EVENING SALE TOTAL: \$328,779,600

RECORDS: HENRI ROUSSEAU AGNES PELTON KEN PRICE



Christie's Global President and Lead Auctioneer, Jussi Pykkänen, knocks down the top lot of the evening, Henri Rousseau's, *Les Flamants*

GLOBAL PARTICIPATION: 64% AMERICAS / 8% APAC / 28% EMEA

New York – Christie's kicked off its eight-day Spring Marquee Week of 20th and 21st Century Art sales with [Masterpieces from the S.I. Newhouse Collection](#) and the [20th Century Evening Sale](#). The salesroom was full, with many bids coming from the audience and in total, the two sales achieved \$506,571,600, selling 86% by lot, 90% by value, and 107% hammer against low estimate.

The evening began with 16 works from the collection of S.I. Newhouse, which achieved a total of \$177,792,000, selling 100% by lot, and 105.6% by low estimate. With this sale, the Collection of S.I. Newhouse is now established as the sixth highest collection total of all time, combined with a total of \$237,975,000 made during sales in 2018 and 2019. Highlights from this group included Francis Bacon's

1969 *Self-Portrait*, which made \$34,622,500, and Willem de Kooning's masterful *Orestes*, which brought \$30,885,000.

The 20th Century Evening Sale offered works from a strong group of estates and private collections:

- The Estate of Paul Allen, which made \$88,856,000
- The Estate of Alan and Dorothy Press, which totaled \$44,482,400
- The Estate of Sophie F. Danforth, which brought \$23,837,000
- The collection of Jacques and Emy Cohenca, which realized \$20,560,000

The top lot was Henri Rousseau, *Les Flamants*, which made \$43,535,000. Other highlights included, Pablo Picasso's *Nature morte à la fenêtre*, which sold for \$41,810,000; Ed Ruscha's *Burning Gas Station*, which made \$22,260,000; Georgia O'Keeffe's *Black Iris VI*, which sold for \$21,110,000, and David Hockney's *Early Blossom, Woldgatehe Gate*, which realized \$19,385,000.

Christie's set three records during the sale. Henri Rousseau's, *Les Flamants* – a rare example with impeccable provenance – soared past the artists' previous record of \$4,400,000 set in 1993, bringing \$43,535,000. Ken Price's *M. Green* made \$554,400, breaking the artist's previous record of \$509,000. Agnes Pelton's *The Fountains* made \$3,438,000, her first major work to appear at auction.

Max Carter, Vice Chairman, 20th and 21st Century Art, said, "*S.I. Newhouse towered over American cultural life for fifty years and his profound collecting legacy lives on in the many he influenced and inspired, and in this extraordinarily special series of sales we have been honored to hold at Christie's.*"

Vanessa Fusco, Co-Head of the 20th Century Evening Sale and Head of Impressionist and Modern Art Department, said, "*Les Flamants has been in the legendary Whitney collection since 1949 and it could easily be another century before we see a work of this caliber come to market. Tonight was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime moment and a career high. Rousseau is an artist who is undoubtably recognized as one of the grandfathers of modern art and until our sale, one of his masterpieces has not been available since the last world record price was achieved 30 years ago. Tonight, we beat that record tenfold and were able to offer Le Douanier alongside many of the artists whom he inspired.*"

Emily Kaplan, Co-Head of the 20th Century Evening Sale, said, "*It was a true honor tonight to bring to market such exceptional estates and collections ranging from an exquisite group of nine works from Dorothy and Alan Press to the seven works that comprised the Final Installment of Paul Allen, which brought the highest collection total of all time to a staggering \$1.7 billion. We could not be prouder of the results of our 20th Century Evening Sale, and look forward to an exciting week of sales to follow.*"

NEWHOUSE COLLECTION IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)

20TH CENTURY EVENING SALE IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)

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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. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also 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 [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.

Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's *Everydays*](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. 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.

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