

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S SALE OF POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART
SETS RECORD TOTAL IN THE FIELD AT \$157,441,600**

Christie's breaks auction record for any Post-War work with Mark Rothko's 'Homage to Matisse' selling at \$22,416,000

Christie's breaks the million dollar barrier at auction with Richard Prince's 'Untitled (Cowboy)' selling at \$1,248,000

Eighteen new world auction records set for Post-War and Contemporary art

New York – Christie's evening sale of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* at Rockefeller Center totaled a grand \$157,441,600 tonight, a record for any sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art worldwide, ever. The sale saw 18 new world auction records and was 99% sold by value and 94% sold by lot. The top lot of the evening was Mark Rothko's seminal *Homage to Matisse* which sold for \$22,416,000. Thirty-seven works sold for over \$1 million, and 92% of the lots fetched prices within or above pre-sale estimates. Buyers were 82% American, 5% European, 3% Asian and 10% other.

"Tonight's sale was the most amazing sale of my career," said Christopher Burge, Honorary Chairman of Christie's Americas and the evening's auctioneer. "It was intensely exciting with a total and percentages that reveal a true hunger in the market. The atmosphere in the room was electric with intense bidding. It was an evening that will be a landmark event in the annals of the art market."

The evening's most breathtaking moment arrived when Mark Rothko's *Homage to Matisse* which was part of *Property from the Collection of Edward R. Broida*, sold for a staggering \$22,416,000, not only a new world auction record for the artist, but also a record price for any work of Post-War art ever sold at auction. Painted in 1954, Rothko's *Homage to Matisse* is one of the major artistic achievements of the 20th century, a historical tribute paid by one sublime colorist to another. Other highlights from the

Broida collection were David Smith's *Jurassic Bird* which set a new world auction record for the artist at \$4,944,000 and Philip Guston's *Zone, 1953-54*, a dazzling and well-known example of Guston's abstract period which made \$5,504,000. *Property from the Collection of Edward R. Broida* totaled \$45,096,000 and was 100% sold.

A second astounding private collection offered in tonight's sale was *Property from the Collection of Lee V. Eastman*. Mr. Eastman was de Kooning's lawyer and a sublime selection of works by the Dutch artist was presented. The highlight was de Kooning's majestic *Untitled*, a ravishing abstract work, painted in 1977, which fetched \$10,656,000. Other spectacular works by the artist included *Untitled*, circa 1975 (\$3,600,000) and *Cross-legged figure*, 1972 (\$1,976,000). *Property from the Collection of Lee V. Eastman* totaled \$31,531,200 and was 100% sold.

The excitement was palpable when Christopher Burge announced Roy Lichtenstein's 1963 painting *In the Car*. The flawless provenance, exquisite quality and rarity of the painting all contributed to its appeal. The iconic work sold for an impressive \$16,256,000, easily exceeding the previous Lichtenstein auction record of \$7.15 million, achieved for *Happy Tears* at Christie's in 2002.

From the same Private European Collection came two stunning self-portraits. In Warhol's *Self-Portrait*, the artist mercilessly depicts himself as a fragile and aged creature, exposing his weaknesses and agonies. It sold for \$3,264,000. Completely different in character was Jeff Koons' *Self-Portrait*, a bust commemorating the artist's new status as a god, seemingly rising from a kryptonite-like amalgam of crystals, his eyes closed in apparent contemplation of his own state of perfection. Executed in 1991 and the centerpiece of Koons' infamous 'Made in Heaven' series, it fetched \$3,936,000.

The rush for Richard Prince continues and three powerful works were feverishly fought over. *Untitled (Cowboy)*, taken from the popular Marlboro cigarette advertising campaign, and arguably the most important and iconic example of Prince's work achieved \$1,248,000, setting a new world record for the artist. It was also the first photograph to sell for more than \$1 million at auction.

Further highlights included Francis Bacon's *Study for a Pope I* (\$10,096,000) which set a new world auction record for the artist; Lucian Freud's *Naked girl perched on a chair* (\$5,728,000); and Elizabeth Peyton's marvelous portrait of *Colin de Land* (\$856,000), which set a new world auction record for Peyton.

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Images available on request

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