

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2009

Contact: Sung-Hee Park spark@christies.com 212.636.2680

CHRISTIE'S GOES COUNTRY
INAUGURAL COUNTRY MUSIC SALE TO BE OFFERED
AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK



The Country Music Sale
December 3, 2009

New York- On December 3, Christie's is pleased to offer *The Country Music Sale* featuring property from the Estate of Hank Thompson, the first sale dedicated to the creation, history, and evolution of Country Music. The foundation of the sale is property from the estate of Texas Swing Band leader, songwriter and country performer Hank Thompson (highlights illustrated above). This sale also includes important property from the classic and marquee names in Country Music, including musical instruments, stage outfits, and hand-written lyrics from American artists such as Roy Rogers and

Dale Evans, Waylon Jennings, Hank Snow, Hank Williams, Conway Twitty, Bill Monroe, Buddy Holly, Johnny and June Carter Cash, Luther Perkins, and John Hartford.

“The property in this inaugural sale tells a story of Country Music through the objects owned and used by the performers. This is a rare opportunity for Country Music fans to acquire some of the finest instruments, costumes and memorabilia from legendary artists,” said Kerry Keane and Cathy Elkies, Christie’s Head Specialists for the sale.

Leading the sale is Buddy Holly’s Gibson J-45 guitar, *circa* 1942-43 (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$450,000-550,000). This guitar was used frequently during his performing years, possibly even during his performances with Elvis Presley or Bill Haley in his hometown of Lubbock, Texas. Distinctively personalized, Holly hand-tooled the leather cover and strap himself as a tribute to Elvis Presley, whom he first met in January 1955. The collection features additional important instruments, including an iconic Waylon Jennings Fender electric guitar, *circa* 1950 (estimate: \$80,000 – 120,000) with a custom-made white and black, hand tooled leather cover and a matching leather strap bearing the name *Waylon*; a C.F. Martin D-18 guitar, 1947, owned by Hank Williams, one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the 20th century (estimate: \$100,000-150,000); Hank Thompson’s Gibson J-200 guitar, 1948, with a later neck by Paul A. Bigsby (estimate: \$20,000-30,000); and Johnny Cash’s black Fender Malibu guitar, *circa* 1965, famous in Cash’s performance history in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s (estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



The elaborate hand embroidery and rhinestone glitter of Nudie Cohen’s stage wear became standard for the Western musician and was quickly embraced by Eastern Country performers by 1950. The clean lines and colorful sparkle of a Nudie suit became the standard issue wear regularly seen on many artists, such as Roy Rogers’s white lace-up stage shirt with rhinestones and blue leather tassels (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$1,000-1,500), Hank Snow’s red stage jacket and pants featuring a grape brocade (estimate: \$2,000-3,000), and Hank Thompson’s gray stage jacket and pants with electric blue brocade (estimate: \$4,000-5,000). Equally important is one of Johnny Cash’s black stage outfits designed by *Manuel*, (estimate: \$8,000-10,000), detailed with gold button-up embellishments and red piping and a pair of black leather, fringed, knee high stage boots (estimate: \$3,000-5,000).

Other highlights include Bill Monroe’s face-plate to his 1923 F-5 “Lloyd Loar” mandolin (estimate: \$5,000-7,000); a portfolio by photographer Jim McGuire of twelve silver gelatin portrait

photographs of country stars from Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings to Dolly Parton (estimate: \$5,000-7,000); and a group of five Elvis Presley original *Sun* 78 RPM records (estimate: \$2,000-3,000).

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app

Images from this sale are available at <ftp://ftpus.christies.com> (user name and password: christies)

