

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FEATURING
MARILYN MONROE TO COME TO THE MARKET HIGHLIGHTS THE
CONSTANTINER COLLECTION THIS DECEMBER AT CHRISTIE'S**



**Icons of Glamour and Style: The Constantiner Collection
December 16 & 17, 2008**

New York – Christie's is pleased to announce that the largest collection of photographs featuring Marilyn Monroe to ever come to market will be featured as a part of the sale of **The Constantiner Collection of Photographs** taking place on December 16th and 17th. This captivating compilation of photographs includes those that are both legendary and rarely seen, depicting the definitive icon over the course of her life from the time when she was not known to the world through to the weeks leading to her tragic and untimely death.

The Constantiner Collection offers an extensive and deeply personal insight into the life and career of Monroe – the greatest screen siren of all time. Demonstrating the many facets of Monroe’s complex life, this collection fully celebrates her beloved public image with a range of jubilant works, while a selection of candid and profoundly intimate photographs provides a powerful observation of her personal nature, exploring the fragile and vulnerable quality of her extraordinary appeal.



The star is presented through the lens and artistry of an impressive roster, including **Andy Warhol**, **André de Dienes**, **Tom Kelley**, **Elliott Erwitt**, **Eve Arnold**, **Garry Winogrand**, **Milton Greene** and **Bert Stern**. Portraits by **de Dienes** dating from 1945-1949 show the teenage Norma Jeane Baker in the first blossoming of her beauty (estimates from \$3,000) – pictured pg. 1; **Tom Kelley**’s famous 1949 color nude of Monroe on a red background was featured in the premier issue of *Playboy* as the magazine’s first ‘Sweetheart of the Month’ (estimate: \$10,000-15,000); the celebrated scene of Monroe standing on a subway grating with her skirt billowing up is captured through several lenses including those of **Erwitt**,

Winogrand – pictured pg. 1 (estimate: \$5,000-7,000), and **George Zimbel**. **Richard Avedon**’s 1957 portrait captures a sad, touching, off-guard Monroe (estimate: \$25,000-35,000) – pictured pg. 1, while a suite of 59 prints – made as a dedicated exhibition for Le Mois de la Photo in Paris in 1992 – includes all the key images from the extended shoot from 1962 by **Bert Stern** for American *Vogue* that became *The Last Sitting*. The planned September 1962 *Vogue* feature was just about to go to press when news came through of her tragic death. The text was changed and it ran as a memorial tribute (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) – pictured.

The Constantiner Collection will also feature an extraordinary selection of works by Helmut Newton, Richard Avedon and Irving Penn. – *Separate release available*

Auction: 16 & 17 December, 2008

Viewing: 12-16 December, 2008

About Christie’s

Christie’s is the world’s leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 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 600 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 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie’s has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer’s premium

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Images available on request

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