

## For Immediate Release

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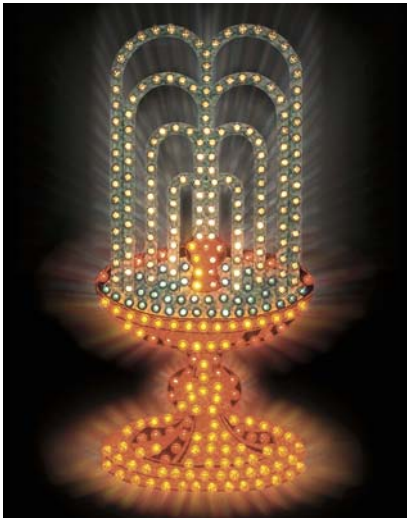
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## POP UP TO CHRISTIE'S FOR POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART



Tim Noble and Sue Webster, *Excessive, Sensual Indulgence* (estimate: £50,000-70,000)

### Post-War And Contemporary Evening Sale

5 February 2003

**London:** "Once you got Pop you could never see a sign the same way again, and once you thought Pop, you could never see America the same way again", Andy Warhol once famously said. *Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Evening Sale* on 5 February 2003 will offer works by Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Tim Noble and Sue Webster, Sigmar Polke and Andy Warhol, which demonstrate that the legacy of Pop art continues to endure, often as a language of irony and always reflecting the profundity of its vision.

*Excessive, Sensual Indulgence*, a stunning electronic fountain sculpture by Tim Noble and Sue Webster (estimate: £50,000-70,000), measuring nearly 2 metres high, is one of the highlights of

the evening sale. The work was produced for an edition of three, and the present work is the artist's proof, which has been uniquely adapted by Sue Webster for outdoor use, and since 1998 it has been hung in a garden in Dublin. The fountain is an iconic work from the Young British Artist scene, and, arguably, Noble and Webster's most famous work. The sculpture featured in Madonna's 'Drowned World' video and was later photographed with Sophie Dahl by David LaChapelle for inclusion in his Hotel LaChapelle book.

*Excessive, Sensual Indulgence* consists of 312 multicoloured light fittings and coloured bulbs which at night spill light in every direction. Using a series of funfair-type coloured lights to form the image of an endlessly flowing fountain, Noble and Webster have deliberately contrasted such lofty dreams of luxury and eternity with the cheap gaudy commercialism of real life.

Andy Warhol's *Double Elvis* (estimate: 1,400,000-1,800,000) is also to be offered. Made in 1963, this work, silkscreen and silver paint on linen, depicts a glitzy and rather camp double-image of Elvis Presley drawing a gun from his appropriately titled 1960 Western *Flaming Star*. The sale also boasts *Skull* (estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000) of 1976 by Warhol, from a series of paintings of human skulls from the mid-1970s that are acknowledged to be the black-humoured flip-side to his series of society and celebrity icon portraits.

German painter Sigmar Polke is represented by two works in the sale, *Für den dritten Stand bleiben nur noch die Krümel* (For the third class only crumbs remain) (estimate: £300,000-400,000) of 1997 and *Laterna Magica* (estimate: £200,000-300,000) of 1995. Polke's ironic version of Pop can clearly be seen as a whimsical reaction to the mass-media saturation and redefinition of reality that was taking place in the post-war Federal Republic of Germany - a process that was then frequently referred to as "Americanisation".

*Cracked Egg* (estimate: £260,000-350,000) by Jeff Koons, a painting of 1995-7 is offered from his *Celebration* series. The *Celebration* paintings represent highly consumer-based images from childhood festivities such as Birthday parties, Christmas presents and Easter eggs, and *Cracked Egg* is an extraordinarily detailed super-realist representation that aims to awaken the viewer's child-like delight and sense of wonder at the new.

The sale also includes a Damien Hirst's butterfly painting *Ooh you're lovely* (estimate: £150,000-200,000), from a series of monochrome paintings which take their genesis from his 1991 installation *In and Out of Love*. Stuck down into the paint on cosmetic-coloured monochrome canvases the butterflies evoke bizarre paradoxes between ideas of beauty and the fear of death, issues that lie at the heart of Hirst's work.

Highlights of the ***Post-War and Contemporary Day Sale*** include a silk screen by Andy Warhol, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, executed in 1975 (estimate: £100,000-150,000), and Nicolas de Staël's *Marine (Boats on Beach)*, an oil on canvas from 1954 (estimate: £70,000-100,000).

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*Images available on request*

*These auctions will be featured on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). A complete illustrated online catalogue will be published with hard copies available to purchase via the site. If a collector is interested in finding any specific works of art for their collection Christie's online search engine Lotfinder® Assistant can immediately source specific forthcoming items of interest.*

### **Exhibitions**

Selected works from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century evening sales will go on view at Christie's in New York between 22-25 January, and selected highlights from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century day sales will go on view at Christie's Paris between 21-23 January 2003.

### **Viewing**

Viewing for the Post-War and Contemporary day and evening sales will take place at Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7:

Saturday 1 February	1-4.30pm
Sunday 2 February	1-4.30pm
Monday 3 February	9- 7.30pm
Tuesday 4 February	9- 7.30pm

The auction will take place on 5 February 2003 at 7pm at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1

### **19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ART AUCTIONS AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN FEBRUARY 2003**

**German and Austrian Art (evening sale)**, 3 February at 5pm

**Impressionist and Modern Art (evening sale)**, 3 February at 7pm

**The Art of the Surreal (evening sale)**, 3 February, immediately following Impressionist and Modern Art

**Impressionist and Modern Art (day sale)**, 4 February at 2pm

**Post-War and Contemporary (evening sale)**, 5 February at 7pm

**Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper**, 6 February at 11am

**Post-War and Contemporary (day sale)**, 6 February at 2pm