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Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

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**ANDY WARHOL'S SEMINAL LARGE SELF-PORTRAIT AND  
JEFF KOONS' 'WINTER BEARS' LEAD CONTEMPORARY  
MASTERWORKS ON OFFER IN VALENTINE'S WEEK**



Jeff Koons (b. 1955), *Winter Bears*, 1988  
Estimate: £2.5 million to £3.5 million

***Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction***

16 February 2011 at 7pm

Catalogues: <http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?id=85AD2B59158C5EA285257765002E16F8>  
<http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?id=7B1F273A8BBAA05485257765002E5173>

**London** – Christie's announce the auctions of Post-War and Contemporary Art which will take place on 16 and 17 February 2011 in London and which are expected to realise a combined total of £46,246,000 to £66,447,000 (corresponding auctions in February 2010 - £34.9 million to £50.5 million). Highlights from the Evening auction are on public exhibition at Christie's New York from 24 to 26 January. The full auctions will be on public exhibition in London from 12 to 16 February.

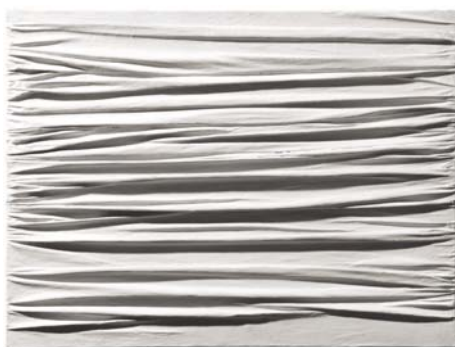
**Francis Outred, Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art, Christie's Europe:** *"I am very excited by the upcoming auction which is probably the strongest and most diverse we have had in London since I joined Christie's in January 2009. Showing some of the most important art from Europe and America of the last fifty years, it also showcases the best art which has emerged across the globe over the last decade. Anchored by the re-discovery of the outstanding monumental self-portrait by Andy Warhol, it is also great to offer Jeff Koons' seminal 'Winter Bears'. An incredible life-like representation in wood which is child-size, this re-fashioning of the Adam and Eve story as cutesy Alpine bears clutching a heart shaped bag, where all seems too perfect to be true, represents one of Koons' greatest musings on the nature of modern relationships. It seems very apt to be offering this work in Valentine's week."*

The ***Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction*** will offer 64 lots with a pre-sale



estimate of £36,000,000 to £51,940,000 and is led by a rediscovered, highly important, monumental-scale self-portrait by **Andy Warhol (1928-1987)**. Executed in 1967 the present work is an addition to an historically important series of 10 self-portraits, five of which are in museums and eight of which were brought together as the centre-piece of the artist's retrospective at MoMA two years after he died. The picture has been in a private collection since 1974 when it was acquired from Leo Castelli, Warhol's primary dealer, and is expected to realise £3 million to £5 million (separate release available on request).

Another leading highlight is *Winter Bears*, 1988, a seminal work from **Jeff Koons' (b. 1955)** highly acclaimed *Banality* series which launched him as an international art star in the late 1980s. At over 120 cm in height, the pair of child-sized sculptures, with their wide eyes, matching 'his and hers' clothing and cartoonish faces, wave to us and welcome us into the distinct world of Jeff Koons. If the *Banality* series was Koons' idealised human civilisation or 'Garden of Eden', the *Winter Bears* represented Adam and Eve, the perfect depiction of human unity, as an Alpine European couple. Painstakingly carved out of wood which has then been polychromed in the traditional manner redolent of the great Medieval church sculpture in Germany, Koons has here lent a human and spiritual air to a cartoon-like creation. Their size and physicality lends them a thoroughly human quality which begins to jar the lines between cartoon and reality, and high and low art. Offered at auction for the first time having been in the present collection since 1994, it is expected to realise £2.5 million to £3.5 million. Another version of *Winter Bears* resides in the collection of the Tate Modern in London.



**Dina Amin, Director and Head of Evening Auction:**

*"The global personality of the sale is reflected in works from China, Brazil, India and Iraq as well as major works from America and Europe. We are particularly pleased to have strong representations of Eduardo Chillida, Gerhard Richter and Lucio Fontana, alongside an extremely rare pioneering portrait by Martial Raysse."*

## Highlights - Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction

### Italy

The dawn of conceptual art is represented at the auction through two Italian pioneers of the movement; **Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)** and **Piero Manzoni (1933-1963)**. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, these two artists transformed the landscape of contemporary art with works that went on to inspire, among others, Warhol, Koons, Hirst and Gursky.

*Concetto spaziale*, 1961, by **Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)** (right) is a sumptuous symphony of gold which explores the ideas and concepts of space and the immaterial in the same year that Yuri Gagarin would become the first man in space. From the artist's breakthrough series *Olii*, which includes the celebrated Venice series of the same year, the present work relates very closely to *Concetto spaziale, Venezia era tutta d'oro*, now in the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid. It is expected to realise £2 million to £3 million. Also by the artist, *Concetto spaziale, Attesa* was executed in 1964 and is a beautiful, crisp minimalist work in white which emphasizes the purity of the slash against a background reminiscent of Manzoni, whom he had strongly influenced and who had died the previous year. It is expected to realise £1 million to £1.5 million.



*Achrome* by **Piero Manzoni (1933-1963)** (illustrated by quote, p.2) is an early, majestic example of the artist's most celebrated series of works. Executed in 1958-59, it is of a relatively large scale of 60cm by 80cm and is offered at auction for the first time. Created through the marriage of soaked kaolin and canvas, the work has been allowed to develop autonomously to mesmerizing effect. It is expected to realise £1.8 million to £2.5 million.

### United States



*Untitled* by **Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988)** is an important, early work executed in 1981, the year in which the artist moved from the street to the studio. Acquired by the current Italian owner *circa* 1982, the year after it was painted, this important, early and rarely seen work captures the raw energy and power of the artist before his star rose in the art world. It is expected to realise £1 million to £1.5 million. 'While I was there looking at the painting [the present work], the owner came closer to me and said: 'When Basquiat knew that the painting was here, he came back to see it again. As soon as he saw the painting, he started crying. He said that he would never be able to do paintings like this again' (T. Lo Porto, quoted in Phoebe Hoban, 'Vita Lucente e Breve di un Genio dell'arte', Rome, 2006).



## France

*L'année dernière à Capri (titre exotique)* by **Martial Raysse (b. 1936)** is one of the artist's most important works. Painted in 1962, it captures the point at which *Nouveau Réalisme* the movement that he pioneered, met with Pop Art in striking fashion. An exceptionally early milestone from the early history of Pop Art, this vibrant, larger than life work measures 184cm x 134.6cm and is offered at auction for the first time having been in the same private collection since *circa* 1975. It is expected to realise £1 million to 1.5 million with proceeds to benefit a charitable Foundation.



## UK

*Branded* by **Jenny Saville (b. 1970)** (*left*) is an epic, early portrait measuring 7 foot in height and 6 feet in width. Painted in 1992, it was one of the first works by the artist acquired by Charles Saatchi as he began to champion her work and it was subsequently exhibited in 2000 at the National Portrait Gallery's *Painting the Century: 101 Portrait Masterpieces 1900-2000*. It was acquired at auction by the present owner in 2000 for a then world record price for the artist and is expected to realise £700,000 to £1,000,000.



*Arginine Decarboxylase* by **Damien Hirst (b. 1965)** was executed in 1994, the year that he was nominated for the Turner Prize, and is one of the largest of the artist's early, celebrated spot paintings. It is expected to realise £400,000 to £600,000.

## Germany

*Athamor* by **Anselm Kiefer (b. 1945)** is a haunting and provocative presentation of a Reichstag-like building as a vast, ruined and burnt-out brick oven painted in 1991, the period soon after German reunification. A monumental and highly important work that represented both a warning and an image of hope and possibility to the German people, it is expected to realise £800,000 to £1,200,000.



**Gerhard Richter (b. 1932)** is widely regarded as the father of post-modern painting and the auction will offer 4 of his works each from different, influential periods in his career:

- *Stadtbild*, is an almost abstract townscape painted in 1969 as the artist moved away from the photo-realist style that had dominated his output during that decade (estimate: £400,000 to £600,000).

- *Gilbert & George*, 1975, is one of a series of six portraits of the celebrated British artists, two of which are in museums (Tate Modern, London and National Gallery, Canberra) (estimate: £600,000 to £800,000) (*right*).

- *Abstraktes Bild*, 1990, is a mesmerizing work that represents the pinnacle of the artist's move into abstraction (estimate: £1 million to £1.5 million)

- *Ausschnitt (Kreutz)*, 1971, is a masterly painting, a photo-realist depiction of a brushstroke (estimate: £1.2 million to £1.8 million) (*left*).



*Untitled V*, 1997, by **Andreas Gursky (b. 1955)** (*below*) is one of the most important and recognisable of the artist's works, showing 6 rows of sport shoes – a symbol representing consumerism and popular culture in the 1990s. Executed in 1997 and measuring 4 metres in length, the present work is one of an edition of only six, another of which established a then world auction record price for the artist in 2002. Offered from an important private European collection, it is expected to realise £800,000 to £1,200,000.



## Spain

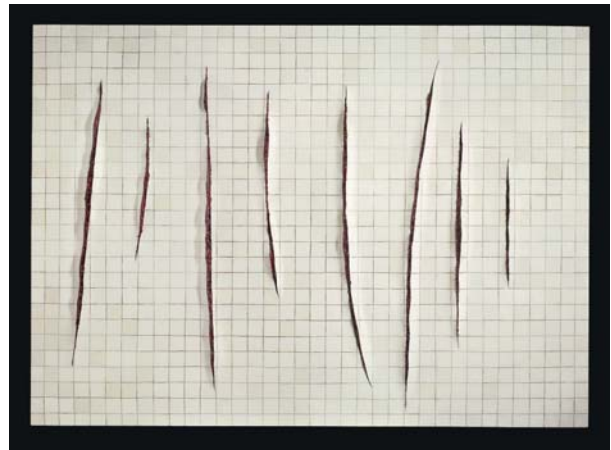


The auction will offer three outstanding works by **Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002)**, each a powerful example of the artist's command of form and space executed in three vastly differing materials. *Lo profundo es el Aire XX (How Profound is the Air XX)*, 1998, is carved from a vast block of translucent alabaster in such a way that it poetically explores and demonstrates the conceptual penetration of solid material by light and space (estimate: £600,000 to £800,000) (left); *Elogio del Vacío V (Eulogy of the Void V)*, 1984, is made from cor-ten steel and expected to realise £350,000 to £450,000; and *Mural G-46*, a large and comparatively rare clay work from 1984 carries an estimate of £300,000 to £400,000.

*Tres equis*, 1990, by **Miquel Barceló (b. 1957)** belongs to one of the most celebrated series of paintings by the artist in which he portrays images and interpretations of Bullfights. Offered from an important European collection, it is expected to realise £400,000 to £600,000.

### 21<sup>st</sup> century global artists

A strong group of global artists from the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be presented at the auction including works by Charti Kher from India, Yan Pei Ming from China and Adriana Vãrejao from Brazil. *Parede com Incisões a la Fontana II (Wall with Incisions a la Fontana II)*, 2001, is an important masterpiece by **Adriana Vãrejao (b. 1964)**, one of Brazil's most prominent contemporary artists. The work shows a vast representation of a tiled wall which has been dramatically punctuated with slashes which recall the work of Lucio Fontana. However, these slashes allow a glimpse through to an apparently fleshy background, giving the illusion of an existence beneath the surface. One of the most important works of South American contemporary art to be offered on a global auction platform, it is expected to realise £200,000 to £300,000.



The *Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Auction* will take place on Thursday 17 February 2011 and will offer 215 lots with a combined pre-sale estimate of £10,246,000 to £14,507,000, with individual estimates from £10,000.

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*Images available on request*  
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