

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 5 OCTOBER 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A BRANCUSI MASTERPIECE:
PIVOTAL MODERNIST WORK ESTIMATED AT \$10-15 MILLION
AMONG THE STAR LOTS OF IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART EVENING SALE
NOVEMBER 7 IN NEW YORK**

**PRIVATE COLLECTION OF TOP MODERNIST WORKS BY BRANCUSI, FEININGER, GIACOMETTI,
MOORE AND NOLDE ESTIMATED TO ACHIEVE IN EXCESS OF \$35 MILLION TOTAL**

**SPECIAL HOLOGRAM OF BRANCUSI'S *UNE MUSE* UNVEILED
AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG EXHIBITION OCTOBER 5 & 6**



CONSTANTIN BRANCUSI (1867-1957)
Une muse

Plaster, Height: 18 in. (45.7 cm.), Executed in 1912
Estimate: US\$10,000,000-15,000,000

New York – In keeping with increasing collector demand for exceptional examples of modernist sculpture, Christie's New York is pleased to announce its *Evening Sale* of Impressionist and Modern Art on November 7 will feature **Constantin Brancusi's *Une Muse*** --- a pivotal work in plaster that was among the first sculptures by the artist ever exhibited for American audiences. Executed in 1912, Brancusi's delicate, stylized rendering of a woman's head drew widespread accolades from collectors and the press when it debuted at the inaugural Armory Show of 1913 in New York. Armory Show co-founder Walt Kuhn was so enamored with *Une Muse* that he purchased it for his own personal collection, keeping this sculpture as well as a second version in plaster for the rest of his life.

Estimated at US\$10-15 million, *Une Muse* is among the highlights of an exceptional private collection of Modernist works that forms the core of the Impressionist & Modern Art *Evening Sale* this season and features important sculptures by **Alberto Giacometti**, **Henry Moore** and **Jacques Lipschitz** and paintings by **Lyonel Feininger**, **Emil Nolde**, and **Marc Chagall**, among others. Acquired in the 1980's with a careful eye and attention to detail, the many important works featured in the sale have not been seen in public in over 25 years. With 16 works in total, the collection is expected to achieve in excess of \$35 million.

Hologram image courtesy of Leovation Ltd.



As part of its international tour of highlights leading up to the November 7 auction in New York, Christie's has recreated Brancusi's *Muse* as a hologram – an innovative approach that allows collectors in Hong Kong to experience the work in three dimensions, while the plaster original stays in New York. The hologram (pictured left) is on public view October 5 and 6 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong as part of Christie's season preview of the major New York auctions.

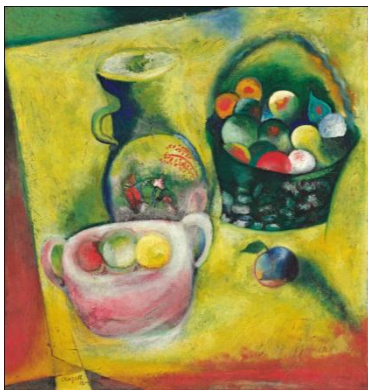
The ghostly visage of Brancusi's muse was inspired by Baroness Renée-Irana Frachon, who served as the model for the artist's earlier work, *La Muse Endormie* of 1909-10. Over the following three years, Brancusi continued to refine the ovoid figure, reaching for new levels of sculptural complexity and stylization while moving steadily toward the abstracted egg-like form that would become the central theme of his

work. With its upright pose, elegantly curving neck and expressive features, *Une Muse* captures a critical moment in the artist's creative evolution and has been widely heralded as a pivotal composition in Brancusi's mature career.

Since its first great success at the Armory Show of 1913, *Une Muse* went on to feature in Brancusi's first-ever museum exhibition, a 1955 retrospective at the Guggenheim that definitively established the then-88 year old sculptor as a monumental figure in Modern Art. The plaster entered the collection of the Guggenheim Museum in 1955 as a gift from Walt Kuhn's widow, and was featured in multiple exhibitions in the years following, including a 1976 retrospective devoted to Brancusi's body of work. *Une Muse* was last exhibited publicly in 1986, when it was acquired by the present owner at auction at Christie's New York.

PROPERTY OF A PRIVATE COLLECTION

In addition to Brancusi's *Muse*, the collection features a trio of important works by Giacometti, Chagall, and Feininger, all estimated at \$6-8 million.



MARC CHAGALL
Nature morte
Oil on canvas
Painted in 1910-1914
Estimate: \$6-8 million



ALBERTO GIACOMETTI
Tête sur tige
Bronze with dark brown patina
Conceived in 1947 and cast in 1952
Estimate: \$6-8 million



LYONEL FEININGER
Side Wheeler III
Oil on canvas
Painted in 1928
Estimate: \$6-8 million

Tête sur tige (Head on a rod) stands as one of the most haunting and deeply expressive works of **Giacometti's** mature career. With the head thrown back and mouth open as if screaming, this life-sized figure of a human skull impaled on a rod appears alarmingly alive, as though captured precisely in the agonizing moment between life and death. This unsettling premise had both fascinated and preoccupied Giacometti for some time, and in the years following the Liberation, he returned to Paris to begin producing the stylized human figures that would become his signature works. *Tête sur tige* was conceived in 1947 and first displayed in its original plaster version at Giacometti's landmark solo exhibition at Pierre Matisse's gallery in New York. The bronze version offered in the upcoming sale is among the first casts of the work, made in 1952.

By 1928, the year **Feininger** painted *Der Raddampfer III (Side Wheeler III)*, he was widely recognized as one of Germany's most important modern artists. Having mastered the tenets of Futurism and Cubism earlier in his career, he applied his deepening sophistication and nuanced skill to creating a powerful, large-scale depiction of a paddle-wheel steamship foundering on a stormy sea. As the third work in a series of three paintings done over 15 years, *Side Wheeler III* became Feininger's final statement on the theme of nature's immense power.

Nature Morte of 1910-14 was painted during **Chagall's** heady first years in Paris after leaving his home in Vitebsk, Russia at the age of 20. Already an accomplished artist, the young Chagall reveled in the rich array of artistic influences he found in Paris. Working feverishly to assimilate everything he had seen, Chagall began in 1912 to develop an impressive body of work that would catapult him to instant fame in the art world. *Nature Morte* — a rare conventional still life for Chagall — reveals the influence of several masters and movements at once, including Chardin, in the work's spare and meticulously arranged composition, Van Gogh and the Fauves in its ecstatic color choices, and Picasso and the Cubists in its use of free "passages" through which the colors of objects and background flow into one another.




ADDITIONAL COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



HENRY MOORE (1898-1986)
Reclining figure No. 4
 Bronze with brown patina
 23 inches long
 Conceived in 1954
 Estimate: \$1,200,000 – 1,800,000



JACQUES LIPCHITZ (1891-1973)
Spanish Servant Girl
 Bronze with brown patina
 35 ¼ inches high
 Conceived in 1915
 Estimate: \$1,000,000 – 1,500,000

	<p>HEINRICH CAMPENDONCK (1889-1957) <i>Verkündigung</i> Oil on canvas 22 x 22 inches Painted in 1917 Estimate: \$1,500,000 – 2,500,000</p>
	<p>EMIL NOLDE (1867-1956) <i>Meer bei Abenddämmerung (The sea at dusk)</i> Watercolor on paper 14 1/4 x 20 inches Estimate: \$400,000-600,000</p>
	<p>EMIL NOLDE (1867-1956) <i>Herbsthimmel am Meer</i> Watercolor on paper 14 1/4 x 20 inches Painted in 1940 Estimate: \$300,000-500,000</p>

Notes to Editors:

- In August, Christie's New York announced the first star lot of its highly anticipated *Evening Sale* of Impressionist and Modern Art on November 7: Wassily Kandinsky's *Studie für improvisation 8*. Estimated at \$20-30 million, the mystical scene of a conquering hero wielding a golden sword has the potential to set a new record price for any work by the artist at auction. [See the detailed press release here](#)
- The current record for a work in plaster by Brancusi is \$3.6 million, set at Christie's New York in 2005 for *Le baiser*.
- Brancusi's *Une Muse* is on public exhibition in Hong Kong in the form of a hologram. Viewing dates/hours are October 5 from 1000 to 1730hrs and October 6 from 1000 to 1800hrs at The Salons 1-4 of Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong.
- The NY press preview for this sale is Friday, November 2 at 9:30am.

The complete e-catalogue for this sale will be available online in mid-October.

AUCTION: Christie's New York
PUBLIC PREVIEW: Christie's, Rockefeller Center Galleries, New York

November 2012 at 7pm
3-7 November 2012

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

###

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

