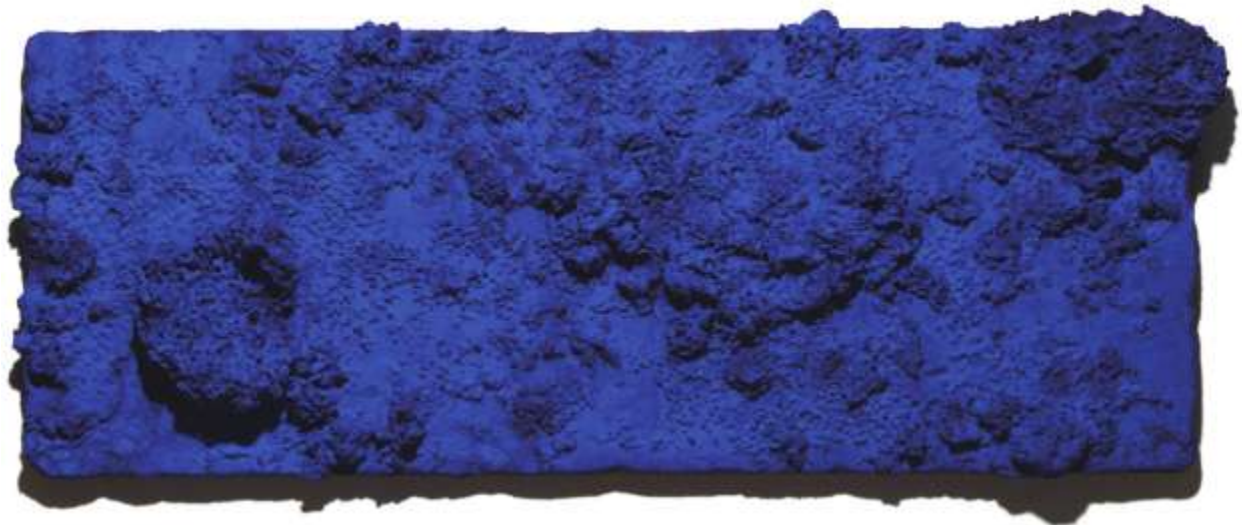


CHRISTIE'S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER
A SEMINAL YVES KLEIN'S
SPONGE RELIEF FROM 1958
FROM THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM**

Yves Klein's *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)* - Unseen on the Market Since 1960



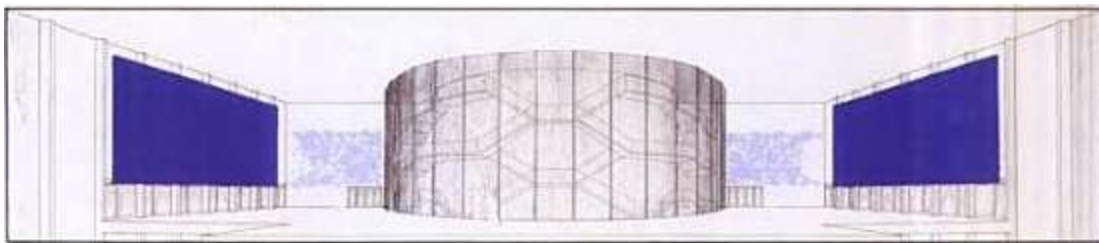
Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)
Painted sponges on particle board
20 3/4 x 53 3/4 x 3 in. (51.8 x 136.5 x 7.6 cm.)
Executed in 1958
Estimate: \$7,000,000-10,000,000

**Post-War and Contemporary Art – Evening sale
Wednesday 14 November 2012**

New York - Christie's is proud to offer *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)* an important painted sponge relief, unseen on the market since 1960. Consigned by the Brooklyn Museum, all proceeds from the sale will be directed to the creation of a board-designated fund for the purchase of work by contemporary artists. Dated from 1958, *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)* is one of the first relief using sponges, a technique which became a metaphor in Klein's work, as its porous surface completely absorbed his signature 'IKB' blue color, giving a material presence to the immaterial. This work is one of the first, small-format sponge reliefs, as

designs for the monumental decoration of the Gelsenkirchen theatre in Germany, commissioned in 1958.

In January 1958, Yves Klein was among the four artists commissioned to decorate the new Gelsenkirchen Opera House in Germany. The construction work would last fourteen months. Music, drama and the idea of a *Gesamtkunstwerk* (universal artwork) combined to inspire the artist's first sponge reliefs on a scale that, for the period, was no less than considerable in size. Klein created six giant murals: four IKB sponge reliefs and two textured blue monochromes. The horizontal orientation of *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)*, in combination with the inscription of 'Gelsenkirchen - 58', further links the work to Klein's period working on this important project. The time Klein spent at the Gelsenkirchen theatre is one of the most pivotal moments in his career for several reasons, including the international recognition it provided and one of the first times that the artist created reliefs using sponges, something that would become a signature style in the following years.



Design for the walls of Gelsenkirchen Theater and Opera House, 1958

Klein's sponge-reliefs are among the finest and most important creations in his oeuvre. It was for him a physical manifestation of the dialogue that he hoped to induce between the "sensibility" of the viewer and the vast monochromatic expanse of intense blue that emanated from his paintings.

Yves Klein noted in a text for his 1957 show with Colette Allendy: *"When working on my pictures in the studio, I sometimes used sponges. Naturally they turned blue very rapidly! One day I noticed how beautiful the blue in the sponge was, and the tool immediately became a raw material. The extraordinary capacity of sponges to absorb everything fluid fascinated me. Thanks to the sponges I was going to be able to make portraits of the observers of my monochromes, who, after having seen, after having voyaged in the blue of my pictures, return totally impregnated in sensibility, as are the sponges."*

THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

The Trustees of the Brooklyn Museum have voted to deaccession and sell *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)*, a 1958 work by the French artist Yves Klein. The work will be sold to establish a board-designated fund for the purchase of work by contemporary artists. While recognizing that the Klein is an important work, the Museum feels strongly that it can better serve the public by using funds realized from the sale of this seldom-exhibited work, which has little context at the Brooklyn Museum, to further enhance its already dynamic acquisition program in contemporary art, in accordance with the collection plan approved by the Board of Trustees.

“While the *Yves Klein* is an exceptional work of art, there is no context for it within the collection of the Brooklyn Museum. For this reason, it has been exhibited only once in the two decades it has been in the Museum's collection. The proceeds from its sale will create a fund that will be used to actively acquire 21st century works that will dramatically enhance the Museum's already forward-looking collection and is in keeping with the Museum's strategic collection plan. We believe this direction will better serve the Museum's visitors both today and in the future” **declared Arnold L. Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum**

Yves Klein, *Accord Bleu (Sponge Relief)*, executed in 1958, came to the Brooklyn Museum in 1992 as a bequest from former Trustee William K. Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs acquired the work on June 21, 1960 from Galerie Rive Droite in Paris.

Note to Editors

Christie's has established world record prices for Yves Klein in all mediums, including an anthropométrie, fire painting and gold, blue and pink sponges, as well as resetting the record for the artist twice in the last two months:

- *Le Rose du Bleu (RE22)*, 1960 \$36,636,992 June 2012 - Christie's London

World Auction record for the artist

World record price for a French post-war artist at auction

- *FC1 (Fire Color 1)*, 1962 \$36,482,500 May 2012 - Christie's New York

Second Highest Price for the artist at auction

Preview

London

6-12 October 2012

Paris

17-19 October 2012

New York

10-13 November 2012

Sale

New York

14 November 2012

Christie's New York - 20 Rockefeller Plaza

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 £502 million / \$808.6m

in 2011, an increase of 44% 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.*

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