

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S TO SELL THE WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF DOUGLAS S. CRAMER



Douglas S. Cramer at the Cincinnati Art Museum

### ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCERS IN THE HISTORY OF TELEVISION ONE OF AMERICA'S LEADING COLLECTORS OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**New York** - Christie's is honored to announce the sale of works from the Collection of Douglas S. Cramer as a highlight of its highly anticipated Post-War & Contemporary Art sales in November 2012 in New York. Cramer is one of the most successful producers in the history of television and renowned for such legendary shows as *Love Boat*, *Wonder Woman*, *Dynasty* and for developing *Batman*, *Peyton Place*, and *The Odd Couple*. He is also recognized as one of America's leading collectors of contemporary art, whose pioneering vision and early patronage of artists and museums has long had a major impact on the artistic landscape. Cramer exemplifies an art connoisseur with an incredible curiosity and passion for the new, while being faithful to the leading artists of the late 20th century – many of whom he has counted as his close friends. Consisting of ten works in the Evening sale, followed by a larger and comprehensive grouping of his collection that will lead the afternoon session of the Post-War and Contemporary Day sale, the collection is led by major works by **Jasper Johns**, **Ellsworth Kelly**, **Ed Ruscha**, **Cy Twombly**, **Richard Prince**, **John Currin**, **Elizabeth Peyton**, **Cecily Brown**, **Fred Tomaselli**, and **Mark Grotjahn**. Cramer has also been a passionate collector of works on paper, with works as diverse as **Willem de Kooning**, **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Frank Stella**, **David Hockney**, **Lucian Freud** and **Marlene Dumas**.

Cramer is one of the founders of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and was president of its board. He is also a longtime Trustee, and was for six years head of the Painting and Sculpture Committee at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan. Routinely ranked by the press as one of the top collectors worldwide, his generosity has earned him the 2011 Cincinnati Art Award. He has gifted works to major institutions such as the Tate Modern in London, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim and the Museum of Modern Art in New York amongst others. Works from his collection have been shown at many of the leading art museums in the United States and internationally.

*“This is a personal honor for me to work with a collector and taste-maker as revered as Douglas Cramer. During his amazing career as one of television’s leading producers, Cramer influenced generations of viewers around the world. This sale will be the first time that his collection is presented publicly in such a comprehensive way, and it is wonderful to share Doug’s journey as a collector and patron,”* **states Brett Gorvy, International Head, Chairman for Christie’s Post-War and Contemporary Art.**

The Collection, estimated around \$25 million, includes a cohesive range of works across a number of collecting fields and mediums. A major focus of the Collection is Cramer’s love for works on paper. Cramer has said that a collector should never buy a painting or a sculpture without first buying a drawing. He also recommends meeting the artist: *“Get to know the dealers; then the artists, if they are alive; and if possible, go to their studios. Most “hot” artists’ shows are sold out before they open because people bought art in their studios. When artists know you, that makes an enormous difference. It’s not by chance that my closest personal friends have included Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, Ed Ruscha, Ellsworth Kelly and Jim Dine.”\*\**

The Collection focuses on several works from the 1960’s and 1970’s by American artists including **Ellsworth Kelly, Jasper Johns, Ed Ruscha and Cy Twombly**. Cramer has collected works by Jasper Johns since he met the artist through Leo Castelli. *Paregoric as Directed Dr. Wilder*, (estimate: \$3,500,000-5,000,000) is an important work from 1962 that Johns offered to his doctor, after he received a prescription. Cramer also has a remarkable friendship and collecting relationship with **Ellsworth Kelly**. The Cramer Collection contains works from throughout the artist’s career, including *Orange Blue I*, a stunning early painting executed in 1964-65.

The Collection also offers cutting edge works of art by the most sought-after artists working today, such as **Mark Grotjahn, Fred Tomaselli, Richard Prince, John Currin and Cecily Brown**. **Mark Grotjahn** is known for his ongoing investigation of perspective. *Untitled (Red Butterfly II Yellow)* from the Douglas S. Cramer Collection is a radiant masterpiece – here the artist uses multiple vanishing points to create complex compositions of radiating lines in blood red, which seem to both recede from and approach the viewer at the same time. This painting is set to break the world auction record price for a work by the artist sold at auction.

## **Note to Editors**

In May 1997, Mr. Cramer sold 22 contemporary sculptures at Christie's in New York, for a total of \$ 2,906,275 million, with proceeds of the sale going to the Douglas S. Cramer Foundation.

In May 2008, Mr Cramer sold works in the Post War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

*Man-Crazy Nurse #2* by Richard Prince for \$7,432,000

*The Ring* by Roy Lichtenstein for \$3,401,000

*How Do We Know*, by Richard price for \$1,496,000

In November 1994, Mr Cramer has sold several works including David Smith, Mark Rothko, Howard Hodgkin.

\*\* Tips for investing in art, cashing in on canvas - by Douglas Cramer, A&S '53, collector and philanthropist  
University of Cincinnati magazine.

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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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*Images available on request*

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