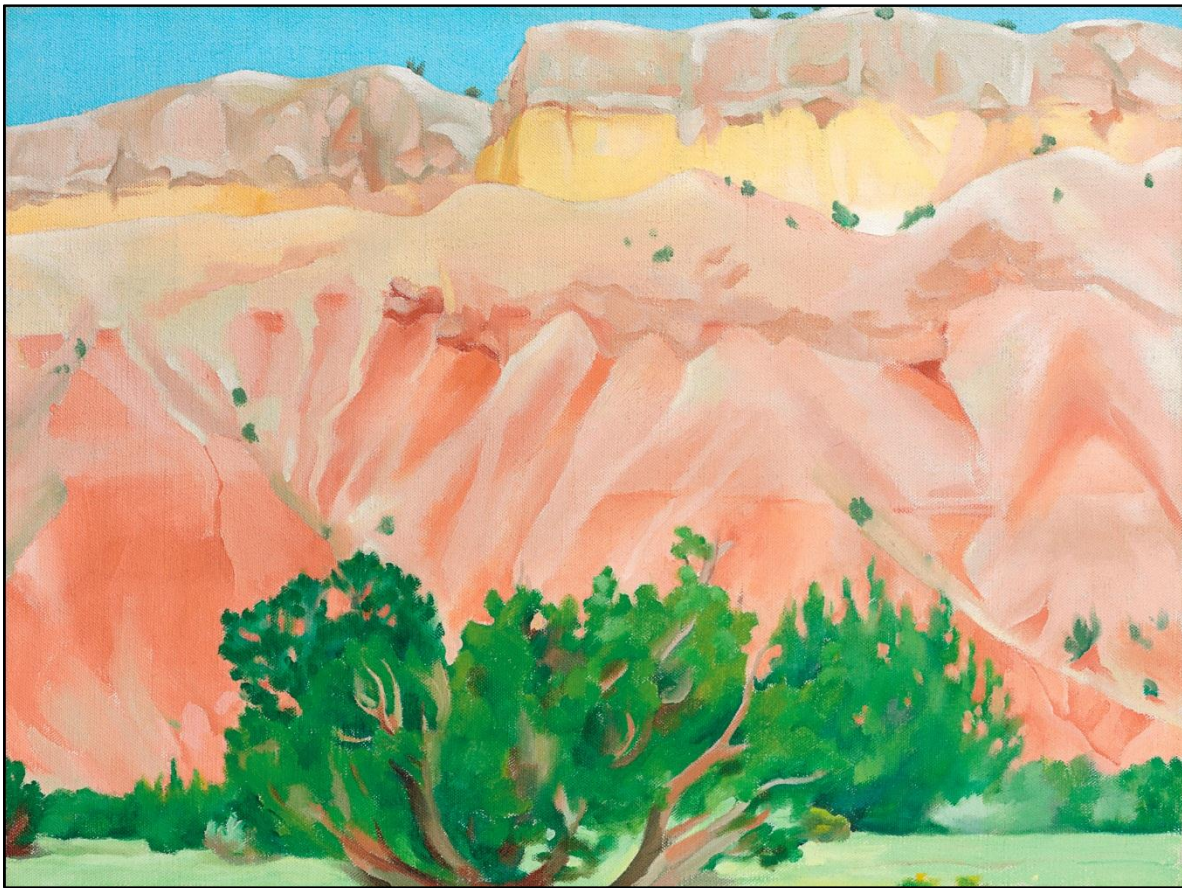


CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S SHOWCASES MASTERWORKS OF AMERICAN MODERNISM

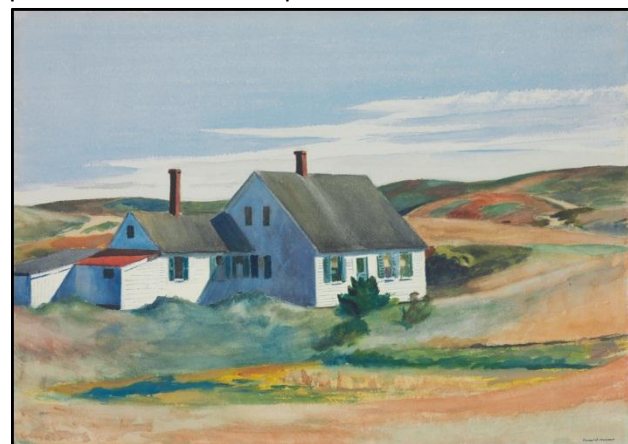
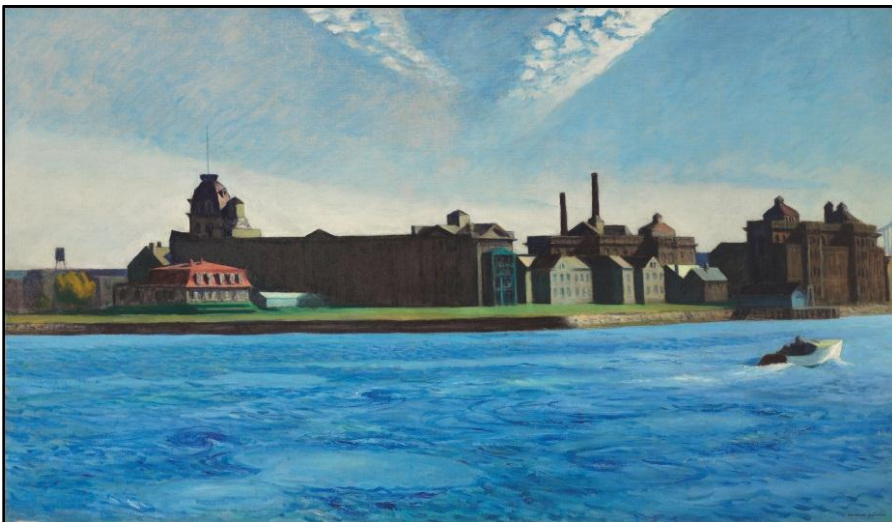
WORKS BY O'KEEFFE, WYETH, BURCHFIELD, HOPPER, AND AVERY
TO HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S SALE OF *AMERICAN ART* ON 23 MAY IN NEW YORK



Georgia O'Keeffe, *My Backyard*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24 in., Painted in 1943
Estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000

New York – On 23 May, Christie's will present the Spring sale of American Art, with modern masters Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Milton Avery and others, highlighting the event. The sale will feature works from prominent private collections including *Three Generations of Wyeth: The Collection of Eric and Cynthia Sambol*, which is comprised of a stunning group of 13 pieces by N.C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth, and a selection of works from the Collection of Andy Williams. In all, 140 exceptional works from a diverse group of artistic movements in American Art across the 19th and 20th centuries will be offered, including Modernism, Impressionism, and Illustration.

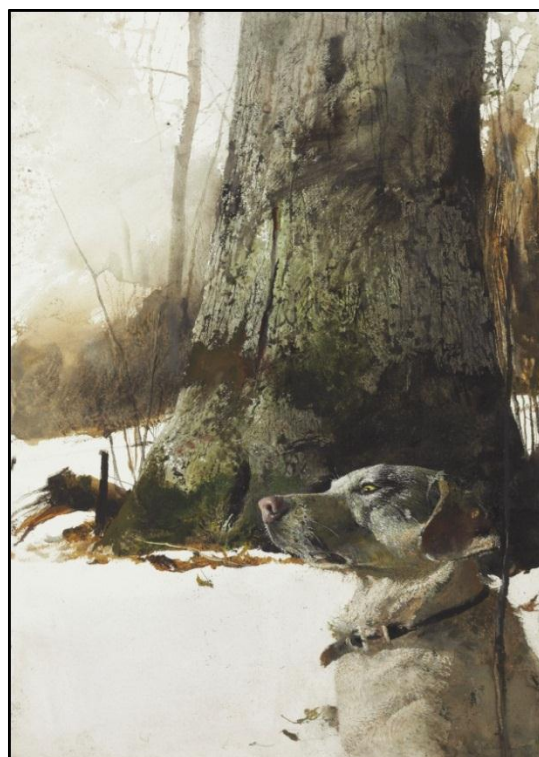
Leading the sale is **Edward Hopper's** magnificent, large-scale painting *Blackwell's Island* (pictured right; estimate: \$15,000,000-20,000,000). The work, which has never been offered at auction, has been exhibited at renowned institutions, such as The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute. More recently, *Blackwell's Island* was included in the first major retrospective of the artist's



New York's East River and used the banks and bridges as his subject several times between 1911 and 1935. For more information on *Blackwell's Island*, please click [here](#). Also by Edward Hopper is *Kelly Jenness House* (pictured left; estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000), one of the eight watercolors the artist executed in 1932. Painted in Hopper's signature style, the work presents a view of a Cape Cod House as one would glimpse the scene from the window of a passing car. The sense of distance and detachment in *Kelly Jenness House* places the painting among Hopper's finest works.

My Backyard by **Georgia O'Keeffe** (pictured page 1; estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000) is a wonderful example of the New Mexican landscapes with which the artist has become so closely associated and is being sold to benefit the Foundation for Community Empowerment in Dallas Texas. The work, which was painted in 1943 when O'Keeffe was frequently traveling to the Southwest, emphasizes the monumental and spiritual qualities of the region. As with her finest works, the strength of *My Backyard* lies in its careful balance of realism and abstraction, its intricate layering of objective and subjective meaning, and its wonderful synthesis of form and color.

Three Generations of Wyeth: The Collection of Eric and Cynthia Sambol will also be offered in the sale on May 23. Comprised of thirteen works by N.C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth, the collection includes important and notable works from three generations of arguably the most remarkable American art family dynasty of our time. Six works by **Andrew Wyeth** will be offered in the Sambols' collection and *Rocky Hill*



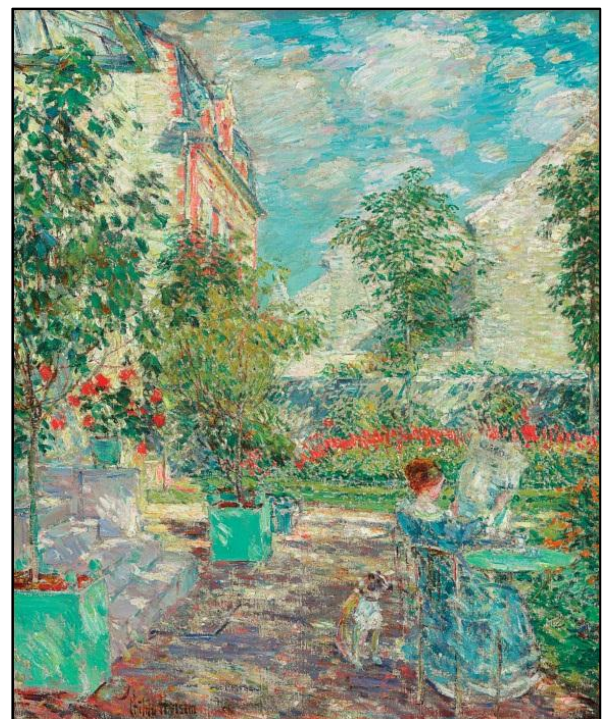
(pictured page 2, bottom right; estimate: \$1,800,000-2,400,000) embodies the hallmarks that have made him one of the most enduring figures in American Art. Andrew often worked in series, becoming devoted to particular locations and the subjects, thereby allowing him to lend sincerity to his style without sentimentality. The subject of *Rocky Hill* is his faithful dog Nell, who Wyeth often revisited as a subject. The work not only embodies a sense of loneliness, but also pays tribute to the passage of time and the people and places that inhabit the artist's daily life in Maine and Pennsylvania. The permanence of the forest and terrain juxtaposed with the living creature, standing at attention, make *Rocky Hill* among Andrew Wyeth's most profound representations of the theme of the passage of time. Please click [here](#) for more information on *Three Generations of Wyeth: The Collection of Eric and Cynthia Sambol*.



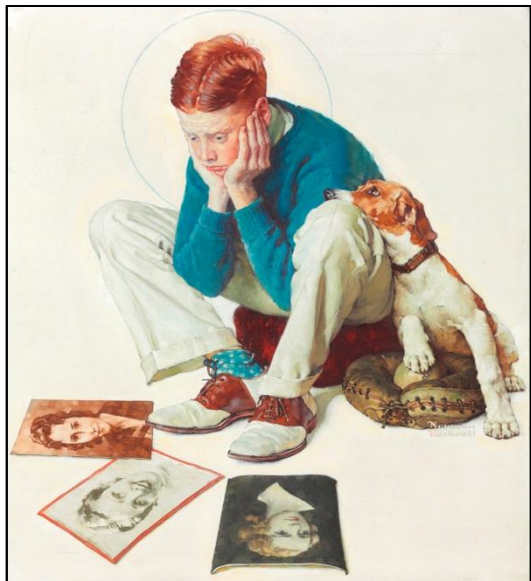
Six works from the Andy Williams' collection will be included in the sale, including two important paintings by **Milton Avery**, *The Musicians* (pictured left, estimate: \$400,000-600,000) and *Pale Flower* (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). The success of Milton Avery's art lies in his ability to modernize a familiar domestic scene through his carefully orchestrated arrangement of color and pattern. He translates his subject matter into a unique lexicon of shapes and forms that fit together to create a cohesive composition. Painted in 1949, *The Musicians* was executed during the most critical period of Milton Avery's career, when he incorporated the simplified, blocked forms for which he became known. In

addition to their broad popular appeal, Avery's bold, abstracted shapes exerted an important influence on Post-War American painters, especially Mark Rothko and Adolph Gottlieb. His work also reflects the same painterly concerns that consumed the pioneers of French modernism. Like Matisse, Dufy, and Picasso, Avery arranges planes of saturated color while retaining the two-dimensional surface of the canvas.

The sale will also offer a fantastic array of Impressionist works, including **Childe Hassam's** *In a French Garden* (pictured right; estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000), which demonstrates the artist's abilities at the height of his career. The work features a favorite theme of the artist, women and flowers, as he depicts a model, likely Mrs. Hassam, reading a newspaper in a lush garden. Hassam painted *In a French Garden*, at the summer residence of his friend Ernest Blumenthal in the Parisian suburb of Villiers-le-bel. The artist found the grounds to be wonderfully inspiring, completing several other museum-quality works there, including *Gathering Flowers in a French Garden* and *Geraniums*. The vibrant palette and varied brushwork of *In a French Garden* demonstrate Hassam's developing Impressionist technique and contribute to the brilliant vision of a peaceful domestic moment. Also among the sale's Impressionist highlights are *The Palm Leaf Fan* by **Thomas Wilmer Dewing** (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000), a beautiful composition that pays



homage to the works of Whistler and Vermeer, and *July Afternoon* by **Guy Rose** (estimate: \$300,000-500,000), often considered the most prominent Californian Impressionist painter.



A quintessential oil on canvas by Norman Rockwell is just one of the many illustrations that will be offered on May 23. *Starstruck* (pictured left; estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) was painted for the September 22, 1934 cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* and depicts a young boy fawning over Hollywood's leading ladies of the day. Distracted by the beautiful movie stars, the boy has cast aside his childish pursuits of baseball and playtime with his faithful sidekick. The fact that both the boy and his dog are pining for the attention of an unwitting subject underscore the scene's charm.

VIEWING:

Christie's,
20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York
18-22 May 2013

AUCTION:

Christie's Sale of
American Art
Thursday, 23 May 2013

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