

# SAATCHI GALLERY CHRISTIE'S

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## Sculpture from Saatchi Gallery sells for £3.1 million at Christie's

23 artist records including for Tracey Emin's  
*To Meet My Past* (£481,875 / \$770,518 / €567,649)

Proceeds to support the Saatchi Gallery's continuing policy for  
free admission and art education

Over 7000 visitors in 6 days to *Thinking Big* exhibition

Top three prices for women artists



CHRISTIE'S

LOT 13

GBP	400,000
USD	639,600
EUR	471,200
CHF	580,800
RUB	20,306,800

CONVERSIONS APPROXIMATE

CHRISTIE'S

BIG

**London – *Thinking Big***, a special auction of major contemporary sculpture and installation offered from the Saatchi Gallery, took place this evening at Christie's and realized £3,086,350 / \$4,935,074 / €3,635,720. A unique auction concept, this sale offered 50 works with no reserves and no estimates. Proceeds from the auction will support the Saatchi Gallery's continuing policy for free entry to all exhibitions and free education programme for schools.

To accommodate the monumental scale and scope of the work, ***Thinking Big*** is on public view at The Sorting Office on New Oxford Street, a vast former postal depot in central London. The public exhibition continues until Sunday 20 October.

The top price of the auction was paid for *To Meet My Past*, a four poster bed by Tracey Emin, which sold for £481,875 / \$770,518 / €567,649 – a world record price for the artist at auction. The sale represented artists from around the globe and attracted bidding and buying from 5 continents, including both private collectors and institutions. In total, 23 artist records were established representing 46% of the auction, and the top 3 prices were paid for works by female artists (Tracey Emin, Rebecca Warren and Berlinde de Bruyckere). Creating this new platform has lifted many artists and their markets to a more global forum.

**Francis Outred, *Christie's Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Europe***: *"This project has been a celebration of global sculpture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the work has been sold to foundations and private collections across the world. The work came from five continents and attracted bidding and buying across five continents. We made 23 artist records, including for six artists who hadn't been offered at auction before. We are also thrilled that the exhibition has welcomed over 7,000 visitors since the weekend and that the auction attracted such interest, raising such a significant sum in support of the Saatchi Gallery's policy of free entry and free art education. The Saatchi Gallery was the first art space in the UK to show a whole host of artists before they became household names, from Jeff Koons and Bruce Nauman to Andreas Gursky, Sigmar Polke and Damien Hirst, and the contemporary art scene would not be what it is today without their vision. We are thrilled to have been able to work with them over the past year in presenting this exhibition and auction."*

**Philippa Adams, Senior Director, Saatchi Gallery**: *"We are thrilled that so many of these works have been acquired by some of the world's great collections. Christie's enthusiasm for this venture has helped us maintain our policy of free admission to all our exhibitions, and to develop our free education programme, which show students from the 2000 schools each year the exciting new art we find from around the world."*

***Thinking Big*** featured the work of 50 artists who have been shown at the Saatchi Gallery, including YBAs, such as Tracey Emin and the Chapman brothers, as well as newer talents such as Toby Ziegler, Kader Attia, Conrad Shawcross, Kris Martin and Sterling Ruby. The many leading contemporary artists included Berlinde de Bruyckere, whose work at the Belgian Pavilion was a highlight of the 2013 Venice Biennale; Gert and Uwe Tobias, who had a solo show at London's Whitechapel Gallery earlier this year; and David Altmejd, Karla Black and Liu Wei, all of whom were selected for Art Basel's *Art Unlimited* show of large-scale sculpture this year.

Full results of the auction can be found [here](#).

## **Editor's Notes:**

### **About Saatchi Gallery**

The Saatchi Gallery was founded in 1985 with the aim of bringing contemporary art to as wide an audience as possible and to make it accessible by providing an innovative platform for emerging artists to show their work. Over the last four years the Saatchi Gallery has hosted ten out of the top fifteen most visited exhibition in London, according to *The Art Newspaper's* survey of international museum attendance, and is also ranked amongst the world's top three most liked museums on Facebook and Twitter by *Museum Analytics*. The Saatchi Gallery's website has become a global meeting place for people interested in contemporary art. Proceeds from this auction will support the Saatchi Gallery's ongoing policy of free admission to all exhibitions and its free education programme which includes over 2000 school visits each year.

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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***

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