

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1 NOVEMBER 2013

## ***CHRIST PREACHING AT COOKHAM REGATTA***

HIGHLY IMPORTANT WORK BY STANLEY SPENCER  
ONE OF THE MOST ORIGINAL BRITISH PAINTERS  
OF HIS GENERATION  
LEADS THE *MODERN BRITISH & IRISH ART* SALE  
AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN NOVEMBER

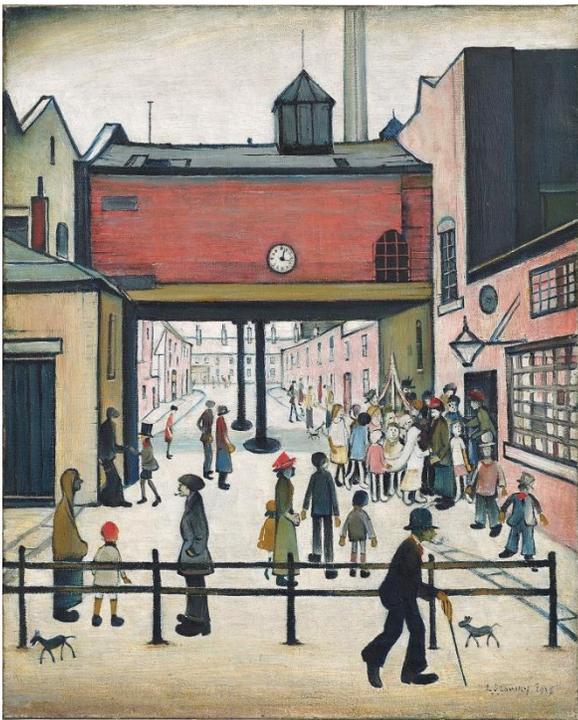


**London** – Christie's is proud to offer a highly important work by Sir Stanley Spencer, R.A. (1891-1959) in the *Modern British & Irish Art Evening Sale* which will take place on 20 November 2013. *Christ Preaching at Cookham Regatta: Conversation Between Punts* is part of Spencer's celebrated series painted in the 1950s, which explores the idea of Christ's presence in his home town of Cookham, Berkshire (estimate: £3 – 5 million, *illustrated above*). This series was the most important in the artist's career and the one he was working on towards the end of his life. Spencer painted imaginative, biblical scenes set in realistic and familiar landscapes and was one of the most original British painters of his generation.

**André Zlattinger, Senior Director, Head of Modern British Art, Christie's London:** “*We are delighted to present this masterpiece by Stanley Spencer; the series from which this work comes was the most important in the artist's oeuvre. The Evening Sale presents works from over 100 years of British Art and spans all categories.*”

The *Modern British Art Evening Sale* will also feature works by **L.S. Lowry, Ben Nicholson, Samuel John Peploe, Lynn Chadwick** and **Barbara Hepworth**. Comprising 42 lots the sale is expected to realise in the region of £12 million. The *Modern British & Irish Art Day Sale* on 21 November 2013 will present 120 works by leading British & Irish artists including **William Scott, Ivon Hitchens, Elisabeth Frink** and **Jack B. Yeats**. The *Day Sale* will also include a selection of works from the Estate of David Bomberg which are being sold to benefit Hadassah UK. For a dedicated press release please click [here](#).

## MODERN BRITISH PAINTING



Summer 2013 saw the highly successful **Laurence Stephen Lowry (1887 – 1976)** retrospective at Tate Britain which highlighted the enduring popularity of Lowry's glimpses into daily British life. His works focus predominantly in the north of England between the 1920s and 60s, drawing largely on the artist's own environment. Christie's continue to dominate the market for works by Lowry and are proud to offer *May Day* in *The Modern British & Irish Art Evening Sale* (estimate: £700,000 – 1 million, *illustrated left*).

*May Day* belongs to a group of pictures from the middle of the 1930s in which the artist presents a theatrical incident to the viewer which had occurred to punctuate the daily life of the city. These works are usually created in a vertical format, much rarer for Lowry than his characteristic landscape format, and as such, create a sense of drama and focus for the viewer as if he is witnessing a scene from a play. Many of these vertical format pictures seem to have

been created from the artist's architectural drawings of the 1920s, which also capture watching the scene unfold. The street child in the top hat who appears to be negotiating with a shady figure leaning against the side of the warehouse building, gives a pantomime sense of good and evil as the innocence of the May Day ceremony unfolds behind him.

British Pop artist Allen Jones R.A. (b. 1937) was at the end of a two-year stay in New York when he was struck by an article by the critic Max Kozloff that commented on what he perceived to be the adherence to a new set of academic principles by young painters. This galvanised Jones into a decision to break as many of those unwritten rules as possible. Jones embarked on a series of canvases, all in a square or nearly square format, each of which pictured a shapely pair of highly modeled female legs tightly encased in form-hugging rubber, leather or diaphanous silk. To complete these games of reality versus illusion, Jones appended to the lower edge of each of these canvases a plastic-faced shelf that brought the pictorial



fantasy right into the ‘real’ space of the spectator. Of this series, *Gallery Gasper* is one of the most wilfully decorative and ebulliently colourful, and particularly playful in its evocation of a shallow space (estimate: £200,000 – 300,000, *illustrated right*). Christie’s is currently staging the first ever exhibition of British Pop Art at the new Mayfair gallery space. *When Britain Went Pop!* aims to show how Pop Art began in Britain and how British artists like Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake, David Hockney, Allen Jones and Patrick Caulfield irrevocably shifted the boundaries between popular culture and fine art, leaving a legacy both in Britain and abroad. The exhibition will run until 23 November 2013. For more information please click [here](#).



The **Scottish Colourists** are represented by works by **Samuel John Peploe R.S.A. (1871-1935)**, **Anne Redpath, R.S.A., A.R.A., A.R.W.S. (1895-1965)**, and **Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell R.S.A. (1883-1937)**. *Still life with roses in a blue and white vase* by Peploe was painted in the first half of the 1920s at the height of the artist’s career, and this wonderful composition is among one of his most sophisticated and beautiful (estimate: £300,000 – 500,000, *illustrated left*). The soft tones and subtle square brush strokes produce the superbly balanced and harmonious colour which is so typical of his finest works of this period. Throughout Peploe’s life he was driven by the ambition to paint the still life, not as is often wrongly believed in a decorative sense, but as an intellectual exercise, combining the analytical and scientific process of pictorial composition.

## SCULPTURE

The selection of modern British sculpture on offer features works by **Dame Barbara Hepworth**, Dame **Elisabeth Frink** and **Henry Moore**. Leading the selection is *Carved and Pierced Form* by Hepworth (estimate: £250,000 – 350,000, *illustrated next page*). In 1959, Hepworth returned to carving in stone, a medium that had been central to her output in the 1930s, but that she had used only sparingly during the previous two decades. Dating from 1964, *Carved and Pierced Form*, demonstrates the mastery Hepworth had achieved in this medium. In 1964 she wrote to Norman Reid, ‘I am one of the few people in the world who know how to speak through marble’.



Hepworth acknowledges the landscape around her, an echo of the heavy sedimentary rock to be found in the Cornish coastline. By anchoring the marble on a solid grey slate base Hepworth has provided a grounded point that offsets the form, whilst juxtaposing the natural attributes of each material, the slate in particular a material plentiful in Cornwall. The marble is intended to be seen in the round, it changes colour and presents different perspectives with the different light and the angle of viewing. This enables the present work to provide the viewer with a piece that never remains the same, much as stone changes in an external landscape.



Two monumental head sculptures by Dame Elisabeth Frink – *In Memorium I* and *In Memorium II* are estimated at £200,000 – 300,000 each, *illustrated left*. The motif of the head was a crucial one throughout Frink’s career. As she explains, ‘Heads have always been very important to me as vehicles for sculpture. A head is infinitely variable. It’s complicated and it’s extremely emotional. Everyone’s emotions are in their faces.’

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**Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue**

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION:**

Saturday, 16 November 2013: 2:00pm – 5:00pm  
Sunday, 17 November 2013: 12:00pm – 5:00pm  
Monday, 18 November 2013: 9:00am – 4:30pm  
Tuesday, 19 November 2013: 9:00am – 4:30pm  
Wednesday, 20 November 2013: 9:00am – 3:30pm

**AUCTION:**

*Modern British Art Evening Sale*  
Wednesday, 20 November 2013  
7:00pm  
*Modern British & Irish Art Day Sale*  
Thursday, 21 November 2013  
10:30am

**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.*

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