

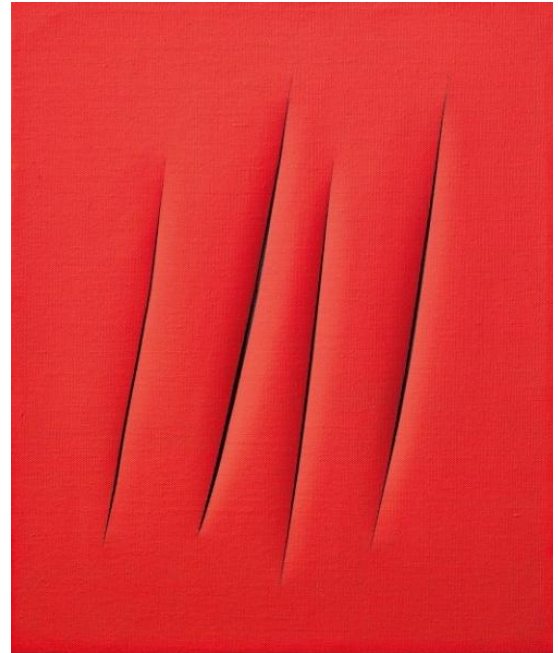
# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | Milan  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 12 March 2014

## FOLLOWING CHRISTIE'S RECENT RECORD BREAKING AUCTIONS OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ITALIAN ART

### MILAN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

AUCTIONS ON 2 & 3 APRIL 2014 WILL OFFER WORKS BY  
BURRI, CASTELLANI, FONTANA & MANZONI



**Milan** – Following its successful debut last year, Christie's is pleased to announce the auctions **Milan Modern and Contemporary** which will take place on 2 & 3 April 2014 at Palazzo Clerici, Milan. As global demand has never been stronger for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Italian art, *Milan Modern and Contemporary* will build on Christie's recent record breaking auctions of Italian art by continuing to provide the top of the market with a carefully selected group of works synonymous with exceptional quality. The sale will offer, among others, some rare masterpieces of Informal Art, Post-War Italian art, Arte Povera, Modern classics and the Futurist movement, that come from prestigious private Italian collections and are being presented at auction for the first time.

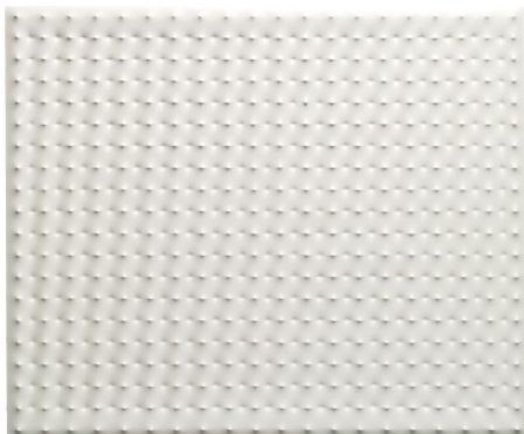
An important selection of works by some of the greatest modern Italian masters, such as **Lucio Fontana** and **Alberto Burri**, will be highlighted in the sale, as well as important artists working during key moments in Milan in the 1960s: **Agostino Bonalumi**, **Enrico Castellani**, **Dadamaino**, **Nanda Vigo** and **Piero Manzoni**. Christie's is also proud to sponsor the major Piero Manzoni retrospective at Palazzo Reale, Milan (26 March – 2 June 2014).

**Mariolina Bassetti, Chairman of Christie's Italy, and International Director in the Post-War & Contemporary Art Department:** *"The Global demand for 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian Art has never been higher, as witnessed during the record Italian Art sale in London in October 2013, which totalled £26,798,000 / \$43,278,770 / €31,621,640, and more recently in February this year when the single owner sale 'Eyes Wide Open: An Italian Vision' set a benchmark for Post-War Italian art and Arte Povera, realizing £38,427,400 / \$63,020,936 / €46,074,453, making Christie's the market leader for 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian art".*

**Renato Pennisi, Co-Head of Modern and Contemporary Art Department, Head of Sale, Christie's Italy:** *"We are pleased to pay tribute to the city of Milan by offering at auction a special selection dedicated to the most acclaimed and requested artists working during the exciting era of Milan in the 1960's, including an impressive Castellani dated 1967, an iconic red four cuts by Fontana and a rare Achrome dated 1960 by Manzoni. We are also very proud to present two works from Alberto Burri's rare 'Muffa' series".*

The sale is led by Lucio Fontana's **Concetto spaziale, Attese** (estimate: €700,000 – 1,000,000, *illustrated page 1 right*). With its four elegant cuts spaced out rhythmically against its sumptuous red background, this masterpiece perfectly encapsulates the eloquent combination of the conceptual and the sensual that underpinned so many of the artist's works. Executed in 1964-65, this work is presented to the market in perfect condition, after being in the same private collection for over three decades.

Following the exceptional results of *Combustione Plastica*, by Alberto Burri, which sold in London this past February at a world record price for the artist at auction at £4,674,500 / \$7,666,180 / €5,604,726 (estimate: £1,700,000-2,200,000), Christie's is pleased to offer another selection of four works by the artists during the auction in Milan, including two **Muffa** paintings (estimate: €500,000 – 700,000, *illustrated page 1 left* and estimate: €300,000 – 400,000, *illustrated right*). Part of a series of only 27 paintings, the *Muffa* are rare and significant works in which the artist was experimenting with new materials and started using fabric and pumice stone in his compositions to recall organic elements. From an historical point of view, the *Muffa* are key works to understand the evolution of Burri's style. Discerning collectors will have the opportunity to acquire works of historical significance at accessible levels.



Further highlights of the sale include Enrico Castellani's iconic 1967 masterpiece *Superficie Bianca*, (estimate: €300,000-500,000 *illustrated left*); and Piero Manzoni's rare *Achrome* from 1960 (estimate: €120,000-180,000, *illustrated right*). Coming from a refined Italian private collection, the present work by Castellani is one of the rarest dated



1967, which combines elegant symmetry of the 'estroflessioni-introflessioni' undulation of the canvas with the artist's iconic, white, monochromatic signature. Another key highlight of the auction, Manzoni's *Achrome*, this is one of the rare examples made of polystyrene and inorganic phosphorus, which makes the work glow green in the dark, that the artist used as new media for experimenting with the monochrome.

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## MILAN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

Palazzo Clerici, Milano  
2 & 3 April 2014

**Agostino Bonalumi**

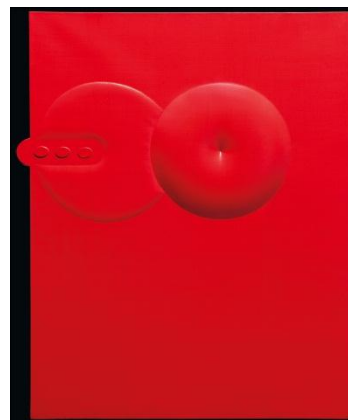
*Rosso*

Vinyl tempera on canvas

93 x 76,5cm

Executed in 1965

Estimate: €100,000-130,000



**Agostino Bonalumi**

*Blu*

Wood, glassresin and nitro

80 x 80cm

Executed in 1969

Estimate: €70,000-100,000



**Giuseppe Penone**

*La velocita del vegetale – il lento ripetersi della  
scultura 6 biforazioni*

Charcoal on card and wooden sticks

Executed in 1985

Estimate: €80,000-120,000



**Giulio Paolini**

*Antologia*

Wood, canvas, photographs

59,7 x 90,2cm

Executed in 1974

Estimate: €40,000-60,000



**Giacomo Balla**

*Vortice di rose*

Tempera, wood, canvas

130,5 x 131cm

Executed in 1919

Estimate: €80,000-120,000



**Mario Schifano**

*Il tratto appenninico (particolare)*

Veneer on canvas

199.8x 178cm

Executed in 1965

Estimate: €120,000-180,000



**Emilio Vedova**

*Il combattimento*

Oil on canvas

130,5 x 131cm

Executed in 1948

Estimate: €140,000-180,000





**Giorgio de Chirico**  
*Il vaticinatore*  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 46cm

Executed in 1944 (from an original idea in 1914)  
Estimate: €350,000-450,000

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# CHRISTIE'S

## MILAN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

Palazzo Clerici, Milan

### Auction:

Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 7 p.m. lots 1-49

Thursday 3 April 2014 at 3 p.m. lots 50-105

### Exhibitions:

**Turin** – Palazzo Birago, Via Carlo Alberto 16

*Friday 14 March 2014* – from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. (a selection of works)

**Rome** - Musei del Complesso Monumentale di San Salvatore in Lauro

*Piazza San Salvatore in Lauro 15*

From Thursday 20 March to Saturday 22 March 2014 – from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. (a selection of works)

**Milan** - Palazzo Clerici

*Via Clerici 5*

From Friday 28 March to Tuesday 1 April 2014 – from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

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### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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.