

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 21 January 2014

CHRISTIE'S TO PRESENT AN EXCEPTIONAL POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION SEASON IN LONDON THIS FEBRUARY

Evening Auction includes masterpieces by Francis Bacon, Jeff Koons and Gerhard Richter

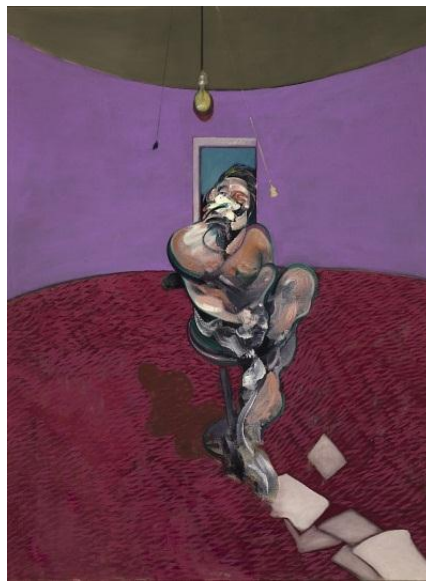
'Eyes Wide Open: An Italian Vision' - the most important private collection of Arte Povera ever shown in the UK, on view at Christie's Mayfair, with stand-alone Evening Auction at Christie's King Street

Damien Hirst's unique interpretation of Mickey Mouse to be sold with proceeds to benefit *Kids Company*

Still Sensational – a group of works by YBAs shown in the RA's *Sensation* show



GERHARD RICHTER (B. 1932)
Abstraktes Bild
oil on canvas - Painted in 1989
259.4 x 200.3cm
Estimate on Request



FRANCIS BACON (1909-1992)
Portrait of George Dyer Talking, 1966
78 x 58in. (198.2 x 147.3cm.)
Estimate: in the region of £30 million



JEFF KOONS (B. 1955)
Cracked Egg (Magenta), Executed in 1994-2006
mirror-polished stainless steel with transparent colour coating
198.1 x 157.5 x 157.5cm and 45.7 x 121.9 x 121.9cm
Estimate: £10 million to £15 million

London – From 6 to 14 February in London, Christie's will present an outstanding season of exhibitions and auctions dedicated to Post-War & Contemporary Art, representing the most important artists and movements of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Francis Outred, Christie's Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Europe: *"Following on from the success of New York in November, when new records for any auction globally, any work of art at auction and any work by a living artist were achieved, Christie's is delighted to present another exceptional series of Post War and Contemporary art auctions in London this February. The ground-breaking Italian spirit of Arte Povera emanates from the special collection of 'Eyes Wide Open' where major works by Pascali, Pistoletto and Fabro mix with their forebears Fontana, Burri and Manzoni and their international heirs in Schutte, Eliasson, Kapoor and Trockel to name but a few. We are also celebrating a British odyssey starting with Francis Bacon's stunning 'George Dyer Talking' from the same period, 1966, Bridget Riley's 'Chant 2' which won the Golden Lion in Venice in 1968 and ending with the group of works from the key exhibition of contemporary art from the last couple of decades, 'Sensation'. The generation of Hirst, Hume, Ofili and Saville often quote Arte Povera as a profound influence so to be able to bring these works together in February is particularly resonant. Following Koons' record-breaking sale in New York the appearance of his celebrated 'Cracked Egg' for the first time at auction should create tremendous excitement, and the Gerhard Richter 'Abstraktes Bild' is the finest abstract painting I have ever worked with. This should be a season to remember."*

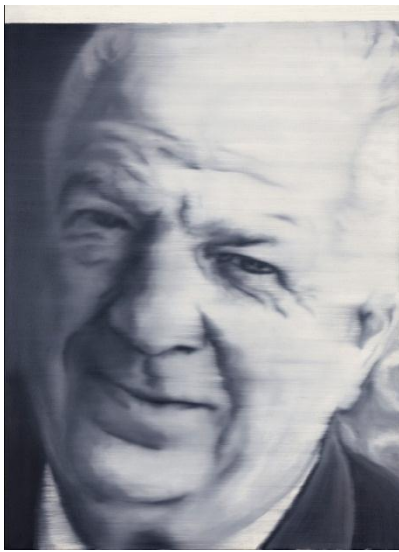
This exceptional week of sales begins with ***Eyes Wide Open: An Italian Vision***, a single-owner auction and exhibition featuring the largest and most important private collection of Arte Povera ever to be shown in the UK. The exhibition will open on 5 February and will be displayed across all three floors of Christie's Mayfair Gallery in New Bond Street (until 14 February; see separate press release [here](#)). The stand-alone auction will take place on 11 February at Christie's King Street.

The February season is led by the ***Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction*** on 13 February 2014, which will offer 49 works representing each decade of the past 60 years and reflecting watershed moments in contemporary art. The evening auction is led by masterpieces by Francis Bacon, Gerhard Richter and Jeff Koons and is expected to realize £87 million to £107.5 million, the second highest pre-sale estimate for a London auction in the category at Christie's, and the highest for the February season. The Evening auction will also showcase the evolution of British art from the 1960s to the present day, with outstanding examples by Francis Bacon, Bridget Riley, Gerald Laing, Jenny Saville, Damien Hirst, Chris Ofili, Gary Hume and Peter Doig.

TOP LOTS FOR THE POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING AUCTION

Following the record-breaking sale of Francis Bacon's triptych of Lucian Freud which sold for \$142 million in New York in November 2013, the *Post-War and Contemporary Evening Auction* in London will offer a portrait of the artist's great muse and love, George Dyer (estimate: in the region of £30 million, *illustrated on page 1 centre*). The most significant large-scale portrait of George Dyer to be presented at auction in more than a decade, *Portrait of George Dyer Talking* is being offered from a private collection (please find a separate press release [here](#)).

A headline lot of the Evening Auction is *Cracked Egg (Magenta)*, [1994-2007], a central sculpture from Jeff Koons' acclaimed *Celebration* series (estimate: £10 million to £15 million, *illustrated page 1 right*). *Cracked Egg (Magenta)* is the most significant work by Koons to be offered in London since 2008 when *Balloon Flower (Magenta)* sold for £12.9 million – a record price at the time. In November 2013, the record price for the artist was set at Christie's New York when *Balloon Dog (Orange)* sold for \$58.4 million, also setting a



new world auction record for a living artist, and becoming the most expensive contemporary art sculpture ever sold (please find a separate press release [here](#)). Gerhard Richter's monumental canvas *Abstraktes Bild*, from 1989 (estimate on request, *illustrated on page 1 left*) is arguably the greatest Richter abstract ever to come to auction and hails from the high point of the artist's abstract period (1988-1992). Works from this period are the purest articulation of the artist's improvised technique. As the American curator and critic Robert Storr has written, "... the tactile quality is...like moving lava with trace elements of different minerals providing the attenuated elastic patterns. ... in the unstable painterly terrain saturated hues run together and smear in aggressively impure, sometimes lurid, sometimes garish combinations while the grid itself wobbles and shudders in the ebb and flow of viscous pigment." (R. Storr, *Gerhard Richter: 40 Years of Painting*, exh. Cat., Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2002, p. 81).

The auction will also offer a masterful painting from Richter's earlier photorealist period entitled 'Portrait of Schniewind'. Unseen in public since the group exhibition at Galerie Parnass in Wuppertal in 1964 which represented a key commercial breakthrough for the artist, and from which many works are now in key museum collections, the portrait is directly inspired by photographs and newspapers found in his everyday environment. This is one of three portraits Richter undertook of his great patron Willy Schniewind, another of which now resides in the prestigious Doris and Donald Fisher Collection at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The painting is offered at auction for the first time having been in the same family since its creation (estimate: £2 million to £3 million, *illustrated above left*).

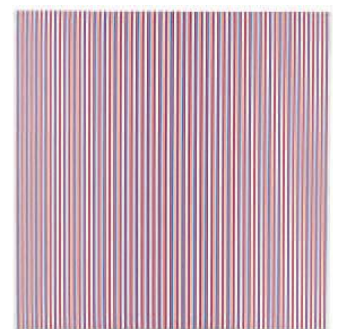
Christie's is delighted to be working with Damien Hirst on the sale of his painting *Mickey*, a unique depiction of Mickey Mouse, to be offered at the Evening Auction to benefit the charity Kids Company (estimate: £300,000 to £500,000, *illustrated right*). Hirst was invited by Disney to create a work of art that combines the fun and energy of Mickey Mouse with Hirst's own trademark style. The result is the ultimate spot painting, taking inspiration from Mickey's round shapes. Hirst is donating all proceeds of the sale to Kids Company, the charity founded in 1996 by Camila Batmanghelidjh which provides practical, emotional and educational support to vulnerable inner-city children and young people in London and Bristol (please see separate press release [here](#)).



ICONIC BRITISH ART FROM THE SIXTIES TO SENSATION



The Evening Auction will also offer an exceptional group of British Art from the 1960s to the *Sensation* generation. Gerald Laing's *Brigitte Bardot*, 1963, is an icon of British Pop, a movement which was recently subject to its first comprehensive exhibition in London at Christie's Mayfair from October to November 2013 (estimate: £600,000 to £800,000, *illustrated left*). Bridget Riley's *Chant 2* won the International Painting prize at the 34th Venice Biennale in 1968, making her the first woman and first Briton to win the prestigious accolade



(estimate: £2.5 million to £3.5 million, *illustrated above right*). The Evening auction also includes work by YBAs, all from the same private American collection, including Jenny Saville's *Plan* (estimate: £800,000 to £1,200,000, *illustrated below left*), Gary Hume's *Vicious* (estimate: £300,000 to £400,000, *illustrated below right*) and Chris Ofili's *Popcorn Tits* (estimate: £400,000 to £600,000). These featured in the landmark *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1997, which included Charles Saatchi's radical and controversial collection of works by young British artists. At the time, *Sensation* attracted crowds of over 300,000 to the RA, with queues stretching out of Burlington House. It generated more column inches and indignation than any other cultural event of the year, irrevocably changing the public attitude and the market for contemporary art. The works presented at Christie's today remain as provocative and engaging as when they were first shown at the RA in 1997.



CLASSIC POST-WAR PAINTING



In addition to these icons of British art, the auction will also feature works by Nicolas de Staël, whose *Selinunte* was featured in his debut exhibition with Paul Rosenberg in New York in 1954 (estimate: £1 million to £1.5 million). Another leading highlight is Pierre Soulages's *Peinture 195 x 155 cm., 7 février 1957*, (estimate: £2 million to £3 million, *illustrated left*) which was created the year in which the artist received first prize at the International Exhibition in Tokyo jointly with Sam Francis and made his first trip to New York for a solo exhibition at the acclaimed Kootz Gallery. Only months before his tragically early death at the age of 37, Domenico Gnoli's *Black Hair* was created at the pinnacle of his career (estimate: £1.2 million to £1.8 million, *illustrated*

right) and was formerly in the collection of the celebrated art collector and patron Harry Torczyner. In 1969, Gnoli created twenty-one paintings and many of these, including *Black Hair*, rank among his greatest and most-recognised works, with a number of them now in international museum collections. In *Black Hair*, Gnoli enlarges a representational image - the back of his wife's head to the point of abstraction. Gnoli met his wife, the sculptor Yannick Vu, in 1962 and they married a few years later.





The **Post-War & Contemporary Day Auction** on 14 February includes works by Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol and Lucio Fontana. In addition, Christie's is honoured to offer important Minimalist and Conceptualist artworks from the prestigious collection of Erik Mosel, the influential co-founder of the Kunstraum Munich, a contemporary art exhibition space, and of the international publishing house Schirmer/Mosel. As an inspirational mentor to the leading artists of his generation, Mosel has assembled an unparalleled selection of art, including Günther Förg's monumental *Bleibbild* of 1987, and prominent early works by Robert Ryman, Roni Horn and Fred Sandback. The collection is joined by a diverse range of twentieth- and twenty-first century art, led by Martin Kippenberger's *Untitled*, a work of exceptional provenance that stems from the artist's acclaimed late series of *Eierbilder* (*Egg Paintings*) (*illustrated left*, estimate: £200,000 to £300,000).

Christie's is also proud to present a selection of contemporary art sold to benefit the **Michael Clark Company**. As one of the foremost dancers and choreographers of his generation, Michael Clark has created groundbreaking collaborations with artists, designers and composers. In support of this practice, artists such as Ugo Rondinone, Raqib Shaw, Gabriel Kuri and Eddie Peake have donated works to be auctioned by Christie's, all of which reflect the visionary scope of Clark's dance.

Building on the incredible success of its debut in 2013, the online-only auction, **90s to Now**, returns from the 6 to 20 February and will be on view at Christie's South Kensington from 6 to 12 February. **90s to Now** reveals fresh young talent and revisits the early careers of now established artists. The new online-only format for this pioneering auction offers cutting-edge art at accessible prices. With estimates starting at £500, the auction will include works by John Baldessari, Linder, Matthew Brannon, Mathias Poledna, Rainer Ganahl, Carsten Nicolai, Haris Epaminonda, David Maljkovic, Norbert Schwontkowski, Lara Favaretto, Mircea Cantor, Dan Holdsworth, Darren Almond, Gabriel Kuri, Richard Hawkins and Scott King, which is *illustrated above*, estimate: £4,000-6,000. The auction will go live at www.christies.com/90stonow on the 6 February at 3pm GMT through 20 February.

**PRESS CONTACT: Alexandra Deyzac | +44 207 389 2265 | adeyzac@christies.com
Matthew Paton | +44(0)207 389 2965 | mpaton@christies.com**

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.