

# CHRISTIE'S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHRISTIE'S EVENING AUCTION OF POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART TOTALS £124,192,000/ \$206,158,720/ €151,017,472

Francis Bacon portrait of George Dyer sells for £42.2 million (\$70 million / €51.3 million)  
A RECORD PRICE AT AUCTION FOR A SINGLE PANEL BY THE ARTIST

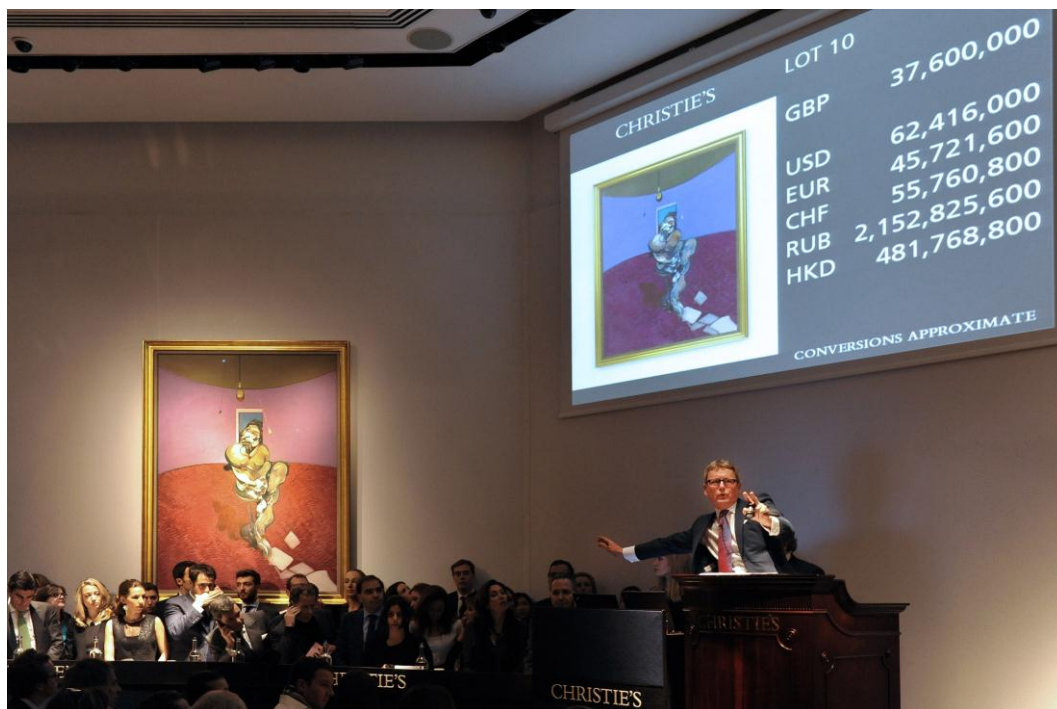
Most expensive work of Post-War & Contemporary art sold at auction in Europe

Combined with Tuesday Evening's auction, *Eyes Wide Open: An Italian Vision*

This week's auctions total £162.6 million / \$269.2 million / €197.1 million

A record total for a week of Post-War & Contemporary Auctions in Europe

Record Prices achieved for 6 artists including Bridget Riley, Domenico Gnoli and *Sensation* generation artists Jenny Saville and Gary Hume



Jussi Pylkkänen, President of Christie's EMERI, selling the top lot of the sale:

**Francis Bacon, *Portrait of George Dyer Talking*,**

Executed in 1966 it sold for **£42,194,500 / \$70,042,870**

**London** - On 13 February, Christie's London evening auction of *Post-War & Contemporary Art* realised a **total of £124,192,000/ \$206,158,720/ €151,017,472** selling 83% by lot and 95% by value and achieving the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever total for a European Auction of Post-War & Contemporary Art\*. The top price of the evening was paid for **Francis Bacon's *Portrait of George Dyer Talking***, which sold for **£42,194,500/ \$70,042,870/ €51,308,512**, a record price at auction for a single panel by the artist (*illustrated above*). This result follows the record-breaking sale of Francis Bacon's triptych of Lucian Freud which sold for \$142 million at Christie's New York in November 2013. 5 further record prices were set during tonight's auction including for several generations of British artists such as yBas from the *Sensation* show Jenny Saville, Gary Hume and 1960's works by Bridget Riley and Gerald Laing.

Combined with Tuesday evening's auction of *Eyes Wide Open; an Italian Collection*, which realised £38,427,400/ \$63,020,936/ €46,074,453 and set 14 artist records, this week's auctions of Post-War and Contemporary Art at Christie's have realised **£162,619,400/ \$269,179,656 / €197,091,925** - a record total for a week of Post-War & Contemporary auctions in Europe (The *Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Auction* takes place tomorrow, 14 February, at 1pm; *90s' to Now*, the online-only auction, is open until 20 February).

**Francis Outred, International Director and Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Christie's Europe:** *"The astonishing energy and depth of bidding at this evening's auction follows on from the record auction of Post-War and Contemporary Art in New York last November, and it is fitting that this sale, like that one, was led by a Francis Bacon masterpiece. The strong results were underpinned by the quality of the works and driven by global demand, with both new and established bidders from Europe, America and Asia competing at the sale. This evening we presented an exceptional group of works representing pinnacle moments from every decade of the last 60 years, and as a result we saw significant achievements for many areas of the market for Post-War art, with 6 artists breaking records and rising to new market levels. From the 1960s we saw record prices for Gerald Laing, whose work was included at the *When Britain Went Pop* exhibition at Christie's Mayfair last year; Bridget Riley and Domenico Gnoli, whose success follows Tuesday evening's groundbreaking auction for Post-War Italian Art which set 14 artist records. More recently, the YBA group of artists shown in the RA's *Sensation* exhibition was re-established in the international market, with record prices for Gary Hume and Jenny Saville showing that their work continues to resonate. We are also thrilled to have been able to work with Damien Hirst in selling Mickey for such a high price and, most importantly, for such a great cause as Kids Company".*

**Camila Batmanghelidjh, Kids Company Founder and Chief Executive:** *"Some childlike magic happened tonight at Christie's. Over £900,000 was generated through the sale of Damien Hirst's painting and, in reality, Mickey came to the rescue of some of the most vulnerable children. This money will change lives; from the bottom of my heart thank you, Damien and thank you Christie's."*

**Damien Hirst:** *"Brilliant and amazing! Sad to see Mickey go but that is a great result, I'm so pleased to be able to help Kids Company".*

## **TOP LOT:**

**Francis Bacon's *Portrait of George Dyer Talking***, sold for **£42,194,500/ \$70,042,870/ €51,308,512** (estimate upon request) setting a record price for a single canvas by Francis Bacon at auction and the most expensive work of post-war & contemporary art sold at auction in Europe. Executed in 1966, this is the most significant large-scale portrait of George Dyer to be offered in over a decade. Widely celebrated since it was first shown in Paris in the year of its creation, this painting was also exhibited at the artist's legendary first museum retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris in 1971. It was last seen at auction at Christie's New York in 2000 when it sold for \$6.6 million – a record price for the artist at the time.

## **FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SALE:**

**Gerhard Richter's *Abstraktes Bild* (1989)** sold for **£19,570,500/ \$32,487,030/ € 23,797,728** (estimate on request). Arguably the greatest Richter abstract ever to come to auction, this work hails from the finest period in Richter's abstraction and is a key example of this abstract style that would become synonymous with the artist and that he would return to time and again throughout his career. These works dating from 1988 through 1992 are the product of a long investigation into the possibilities of painting spanning more than five decades and are the purest articulation of the artist's improvised technique.

**Jeff Koons's *Cracked Egg (Magenta)* (1994-2007)** sold for **£14,082,500/ \$23,376,950/ € 17,124,320** (estimate: £10 million to £15 million). A central sculpture from Jeff Koons' highly acclaimed *Celebration* series, this is the most significant work by the artist to be offered in London since 2008, where it realised 12.9 million. The most recent record was set at Christie's New York in 2013 which saw *Balloon Dog (Orange)* selling for \$58.4 million, setting a new world auction record for a living artist. One of five unique two-part *Cracked Egg* sculptures made from precision engineered, mirror-polished stainless steel and finished with an exterior translucent coating of magenta (the others are red, violet, blue and yellow), *Cracked Egg* represents a feat of technical virtuosity resulting in the impossibly thin, delicate appearance of the shell.

**Damien Hirst's *Mickey*** sold for **£902,500/ \$1,498,150/ € 1,097,440** (estimate: £300,000-500,000). 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.

**Domenico Gnoli's *Black Hair*** (1969) sold for **£7,026,500 / \$11,663,990 / €8,544,224** (estimate: £1.2 million – 1.8 million). 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.

**Bridget Riley's *Chant 2*** sold for **£2,882,500/ \$4,784,950/ €3,505,120** (estimate: £2.5 million-3.5 million) setting a record price for the artist at auction. Debuted at the 34th Venice Biennale of 1968, *Chant 2* is one of only three paintings which announced Bridget Riley's celebrated foray into colour, for which she was awarded the prestigious International Painting prize, making her the first woman and first Briton to win this important accolade. Situated alongside to other ground-breaking colour work *Late Morning*, now housed in the permanent collection of Tate, London, and *Cataract 3*, in the British Council Collection, *Chant 2* is among the first works that mark the artist's departure from the binary confines of monochromatic black and white.

**Jenny Saville's *Plan*** (1993) sold for **£2,098,500/ \$3,483,510/ €2,551,776** (estimate: £800,000 – 1,200,000) setting a record price for the artist at auction. Jenny Saville's monumental self-portrait masterpiece *Plan*, maps the topography of the artist's own corpulent flesh blueprinted by the plastic surgeon's pen. Included in the seminal *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy, London in 1997, *Plan* became part of a defining moment in the history of the young British artists (yBa).

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**The Post-War & Contemporary Day Auction will take place on 14 February, at 1pm.  
90s to Now, the online-only auction is currently live until through 20 February.**

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#### **ARTIST RECORDS:**

#### **Previous record**

<b>**Lot 10, Francis Bacon</b> , £42,194,500/ \$70,042,870/ €51,308,512	\$52,680,000, May 2007
<b>Lot 13, Bridget Riley</b> , £2,882,500/ \$4,784,950/ €3,505,120	£2,561,250, July 2008
<b>Lot 5, Jenny Saville</b> , £2,098,500/ \$3,483.510/ €2,551,776	£1,497,250, February 2011
<b>Lot 6, Gary Hume</b> , £410,500/ \$681,430/ €499,168	£241,250, February 2011
<b>Lot 19, Domenico Gnoli</b> , £7,026,500/ \$11,663,990/ €8,544,224	£2,337,250, October 2011
<b>Lot 22, Gerald Laing</b> , £902,500/ \$1,498,150/ €1,097,440	£385,250, May 2012
<b>Lot 32, Neo Rauch</b> , £1,058,500/ \$1,757,110/ €1,287,136	£892.450. October 2009

\*The highest total for an auction of Post-War and Contemporary Art in Europe was established in June 2012 at Christie's London (£132.8 million / \$207.3 million).

\*\* Record price for a single canvas by Francis Bacon at auction and the most expensive work of post-war & contemporary art sold at auction in Europe.

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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.

