

CHRISTIE'S

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LATIN AMERICAN ART AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON NOVEMBER 24-25



Evening and Day Sessions

Highlighted by:

- Mexican Modernists
- Cuban Masterpieces
- Leading Brazilian Artists

NEW YORK – Christie's announces highlights of its upcoming Evening and Day sales of **Latin American Art** at Rockefeller Center on November 24-25. The Evening Sale on November 24, will be led by Alfredo Ramos Martínez's visual tour de force *Mujeres con flores*, circa 1938 (illustrated below, left; estimate: \$2,000,000 – 3,000,000) and Fernando Botero's monumental *Adam and Eve*, (illustrated page two; estimate \$1,800,000 – \$2,500,000). Also included in the evening sale is Lygia Clark's *Bicho pq. (Versão 1)* (illustrated above; estimate: \$700,000 – 900,000), an exceptionally rare and early example from the artist's breakthrough series of *Bichos* (Animals or Creatures), hinged abstract sculptures that are meant to be manipulated by the viewer. Christie's sale of Latin American Art will continue on November 25 with superb examples of paintings, sculpture, and drawings by artists such as Wifredo Lam, Rufino Tamayo, Enoc Perez, Carlos Enríquez, Doris Salcedo and Beatriz Milhazes.

MEXICAN MODERNISTS



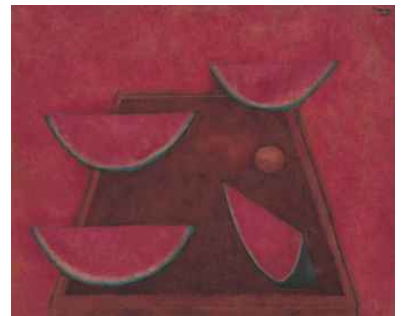
Alfredo Ramos Martínez's *Mujeres con flores* is an important example from the artist's most celebrated period, his California years (1930-1946). During these years, Ramos Martínez developed his mature style characterized by his imagery of noble, eternally youthful Indian women presenting offerings of local fruit, flowers and *artesanía*. Ramos Martínez's home garden in California with its many varieties of blooming flowers provided endless inspiration for the artist.

Rufino Tamayo's *Sandías* depicts the artist's most iconic and much loved subject: minimally rendered red watermelons.

- *Sandías* (illustrated right; estimate: \$600,000 – 800,000), painted in 1955, simplifies form and skews perspective, suggesting the still-lives of Paul Cézanne, translated into a 20th

century modernist language.

- With its full spectrum of luminescent reds, *Sandías* eloquently illustrates Tamayo's unsurpassed ability to extract a rich panoply of hues from a single color.
- Watermelons also held a personal resonance for the artist who often recalled days from his youth spent selling the fruit alongside his aunt in Mexico City, with whom he lived after his parents passed away.



FERNANDO BOTERO



A cornerstone of Christie's Latin American sale are the superb examples of sculpture, paintings, and drawings from Colombian master, Fernando Botero. The fall auction will offer 18 works from the artist, led by the monumental sculpture, *Adam and Eve* (illustrated far left; estimate: \$1,800,000 – 2,500,000).

- Executed in 1990, the artist regards the creation of sculpture as, “an object from your spirit, it's a sensual experience even in execution. It brings a special joy to touch the material with your hands.”

Homenaje a Bonnard (illustrated above, right; estimate: \$800,000 – 1,200,000), painted in 1971, pays tribute to the French Nabis painter Pierre Bonnard, best known for his depictions of female bathers. Yet, in striking contrast to Bonnard's ethereal bathers, Botero's solid monumental woman fills almost the entirety of the decidedly twentieth-century private interior, a testament to the artist's ability to transform the past into a distinctly modern vision.

IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTIONS



Among the highlights of the sale are works from two exceptional private collections with significant holdings of Cuban *vanguardia* paintings. Fresh to the market, the works from both collections are exceptional for their rarity and august provenance.

- Of particular note, from the **Collection of Silvio E. and Jean W. Hernández**, is the iconic work by Carlos Enríquez, *El Hurón Azul* (illustrated left; estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000), painted in 1953.
- Considered one of Enríquez's most significant paintings, *El Húron Azul* depicts the artist's home in the outskirts of Havana, where he would hold festive *salons* or *tertulias* for the island's artists, philosophers and intelligentsia.
- *El Hurón Azul* has remained in the *Collection of Silvio E. and Jean W. Hernández* since it was acquired by the Hernández family from the artist's daughter in the early 1960s.
- Additionally, the Washington, D.C. based **Collection of Barbara Walker Gordon** boasts significant offerings from artists such as Fernando Botero, Wifredo Lam, Alejandro Obregón, Matta, Amelia Peláez, and Joaquín Torres-García.

WIFREDO LAM

Wifredo Lam's 1944 painting *Le nid fasciné* combines many of the artist's iconic motifs: birds, human hands, breast-like forms and the head of an *Eleguá*, the double horned *Santería* deity. These indefinable figures – not quite animal, human, or spirit – suggest the Surrealist practice of juxtaposing incongruous subjects to create works of distinct originality. *Le nid fasciné* carries a pre-sale estimate of \$250,000 – 350,000.

- Painted in 1944 while Lam was living in Cuba, the work is a beautiful example from the most celebrated period in the artist's oeuvre.
- The work's Surrealist title was actually suggested by Pierre Matisse.
- When *Le nid fasciné* made its public debut at Pierre Matisse's gallery in New York in 1944, it was shown alongside what would become the artist's magnum opus—*The Jungle*.



BRAZILIAN ART



Lygia Clark's *Bicho pq. (Versão 1)*, from the artist's breakthrough 1960-63 series of *Bichos* (Animals or Creatures), are significant not only for their rejection of the traditional canvas but for their pioneering engagement with the viewer whose interaction with these objects is integral to their experience.

- *Bicho pq. (Versão 1)* is one of the first *Bichos* ever made and eloquently reflects the spirit of experimentation and possibility that embodies this series.
- Christie's offering of *Bicho pq. (Versão 1)* comes on the heels of the recent critically acclaimed Lygia Clark retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City which illuminated the artist's pioneering role in the Brazilian Neo-Concretist movement alongside her contemporaries Hélio Oiticica and Lygia Pape.

CONTEMPORARY ART HIGHLIGHTS



ENOC PEREZ (PUERTO RICAN B. 1967)
UNTITLED (AUDIENCE)
OIL ON CANVAS
PAINTED IN 1991
ESTIMATE: \$40,000 – 60,000



BEATRIZ MILHAZES (BRAZILIAN B. 1960)
MATRYOSHKAS
OIL ON CANVAS
PAINTED IN 1994
ESTIMATE: \$300,000 – 500,000



GABRIEL OROZCO (MEXICAN B. 1962)
CONCHA CON CONCHAS
IRON CHAIR AND SEASHELLS
EXECUTED IN 1999
ESTIMATE: \$60,000 – 80,000



DORIS SALCEDO (COLOMBIAN B. 1958)
ATRABILIARIOS
FOUR INCHES: WOOD, SHEETROCK, SHOES, ANIMAL FIBER
AND SURGICAL THREAD
EXECUTED IN 1993
ESTIMATE: \$50,000 – 70,000



VIK MUNIZ (BRAZILIAN B. 1961)
GUERNICA AFTER PABLO PICASSO (GORDIAN PUZZLES)
CHROMOGENIC PRINT
EXECUTED IN 2009
ESTIMATE: \$60,000 – 80,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totalled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year 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 in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

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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Images available on request

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