

CHRISTIE'S

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FIRST OPEN: SUMMER EDITION POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART

FIRST OPEN ONLINE: SUMMER EDITION

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July 17-29th 2014

FEATURING WORKS FROM MAJOR COLLECTIONS

THE BERGMAN COLLECTION – THE COLLECTION OF FRANCES R. DITTMER – THE PHILLIP SCHRAGER
COLLECTION – PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF DENNIS HOPPER



ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG (1925-2008)
Continental Splash (Urban Bourbon Series)
three elements--acrylic on enameled aluminum and steel
120 x 144 in. (304.8 x 365.8 cm.)
Executed in 1989.
Estimate: \$350,000-550,000

PARKER ITO (b. 1986)
The Agony and the Ecstasy
vinyl over enamel on 3M Scotchlite
48 1/8 x 36 1/8 in. (122.2 x 91.8 cm.)
Executed in 2012.
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000

First Open Summer Edition of Post-War and Contemporary art
24 July 2014

New York – Christie's First Open Sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art in July will offer an exciting selection of approximately 300 works. The sale will feature the same stunning array of works seen in the recent May auctions, but with price points that are accessible to a wide range of collectors. The sale features many notable lots that come from prestigious single-owner collections: **Edwin A. & Lindy Bergman** from Chicago, **Frances R. Dittmer** from Aspen, **Phillip**

Schrager from Omaha, Nebraska, and the Estate of **Dennis Hopper** from California. Also featured are exciting contemporary works at affordable price points by most collectible new artists as well as blue chip artists: **Parker Ito**, **Yayoi Kusama**, **Keith Haring**, **Agnes Martin**, **Carl Andre**, **Sol Lewitt**, **Sigmar Polke** and **Robert Rauschenberg**. The sale will give both new and seasoned buyers an opportunity to diversify their collections and to follow in the footsteps of individuals whose extraordinary eye for quality anticipated many artists' rise to fame. Almost half of the works will be offered at a starting estimate of \$5,000 and under, and several works will be offered without reserve. The sale is the perfect opportunity to discover emerging artists and explore lesser-known works by established artists. All works will be exhibited before the auction at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries from July 19-23.

Within the July auction, there will be six highlights from **Forms in Color** – a standalone themed sale taking place a day after First Open (see separate press release). Works from this group include an important work on paper by **Yayoi Kusama** from the 1950s, as well as paintings by recent Whitney Biennial participants Dan Walsh and Jacqueline Humphries.



SIGMAR POLKE (1941-2010)
Untitled
 two elements--ink and paint on gelatin silver print
 each: 9 1/4 x 6 7/8 in. (23.5 x 17.5 cm.)
 Executed in 1973.
 Estimate: \$50,000-70,000



SOL LEWITT (1928-2007)
 Corner Piece #3
 acrylic on wood
 43 1/4 x 43 1/4 x 43.1/4 in. (110 x 110 x 110 cm.)
 Executed in 1976.
 Estimate: \$150,000-200,000

Coinciding with the first comprehensive retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art, Christie's is glad to offer a rare diptych by **Sigmar Polke**. The German artist constantly defied aesthetic boundaries in his work, extending the visual vocabularies of painting, photography, and printmaking through a mercurial working process. His investigations into the effects that can be achieved by embracing a vast range of materials, pictorial sources, and art practices have been highly influential to successive generations of artists. *Untitled* from 1973 (estimate: \$ 50,000-70,000), dates from a period of great social, political, and artistic unrest, as well as widespread experimentation with countercultural lifestyles and hallucinogenic drugs.

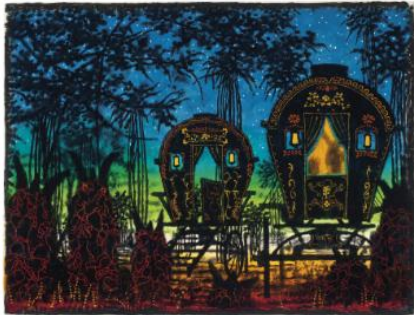
Parker Ito's *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, (estimate: \$ 20,000-30,000), references Irving Stone's biographical novel of the same name about the Renaissance master Michelangelo. Works from *The Agony and the Ecstasy* series created in 2012 explore the disparity between viewership mediated through a screen and that which occurs in the confines of a gallery. Parker Ito's paintings and sculptures resist traditional documentation, turning into indistinguishable flashes of light that obscure the subtle details of each painted surface, when photographed. The surface of the work, which is made of reflective 3M Scotchlite, shifts endlessly based on a viewer's vantage point (either within the gallery or searching the

internet for images of the work), making the experience of seeing *The Agony and the Ecstasy* from only one perspective both unique and incomplete.

Robert Rauschenberg began to silkscreen paintings in 1962. *Continental Splash (Urban Bourbon Series)* (estimate: \$350,000-550,000) created in 1989 serves as an excellent example of the evolution of this process, in which the artist focused on transferring images onto a variety of reflective metals, such as steel and aluminum.

The Bergman Collection

On the heels of the successful sale of a portion of the Bergman Collection last May, which totaled \$73.5 million and realized six world auction records for artists including Lucas Samara, Alexander Calder, Joseph Cornell, George Segal, Jim Nutt and Ed Paschke, First Open will offer fifty-nine works of art from this collection.



ED PASCHKE (1939-2004)
Gypsy Encampment #1
 oil, graphite and ink on paper
 19 x 25 in. (48.3 x 63.5 cm.)
 Executed 1972.
 Estimate: \$4,000-6,000

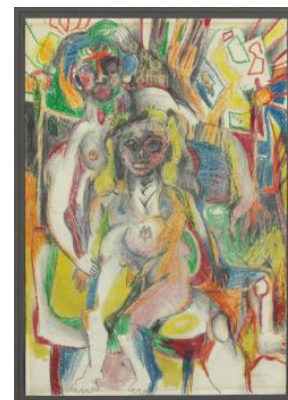


JIM NUTT (b. 1938)
Why? How is it Done?
 color pencil on paper
 8 x 12 1/8 in. (20.3 x 30.8 cm.)
 Executed in 1978.
 Estimate: \$6,000-8,000

Several works from **Jim Nutt**, **Gladys Nilsson** and **Ed Paschke**, will be offered in the First Open sale. All of these artists were Chicago Imagists, a term that describes a number of groups made up of artists that attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) from the late 1950s through the 60s and 70s. The style of the Chicago Imagists is broadly characterized by representational work influenced by Surrealism and Art Brut. Many Chicago Imagists also drew on references outside of fine art, such as comics, cartoons, and popular culture. Jim Nutt's *Why? How is it Done?* (estimate: \$6,000-8,000) is an excellent example of the vibrant visual vocabulary that epitomized the diverse artistic practices and styles of the Chicago Imagists. **Jim Nutt** was a member of Hairy Who, one of the most visible movements associated with the Chicago Imagists in the 1960s and 1970s. His graphic, vividly sexual, and psychological work was influenced by African and American Indian art, Surrealism, Expressionism, and the illustration of comic books. Nutt and his peers forged a unique style that was consciously separate from New York centered Pop and Minimalism that were the reigning art movements of the day.



MARISOL (b. 1930)
Untitled (White Box)
 box construction-wood, glass, plaster, graphite and paperboard
 31 x 16 x 4 3/8 in. (78.7 x 40.6 x 11.1 cm.)
 Executed in 1961.
 Estimate: \$8,000-12,000



MARISOL (b. 1930)
The Family
 crayon and graphite on paper
 14 x 9 1/2 in. (35.6 x 24.1 cm.)
 Executed in 1957.
 Estimate: \$4,000-6,000

The Bergmans were very close to **Marisol**, the French sculptor of Venezuelan descent. After studying painting at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1949) and then at the Art Students League (1950) and the Hans Hofmann School (1951–54) in New York, she developed an interest in Mexican, Pre-Columbian and American folk art and turned her attention to sculpture. In her early work she fashioned small, animated figurines out of bronze, terracotta and wood, often placing these pieces in compartmentalized, glass-fronted boxes, such as the famous Printer's Box from the Bergmans which was sold last May. In 1961 she began to incorporate drawing, painting, and objets trouvés into complex, life-size arrangements that would become her signature style. The First Open sale includes eight works by the artist, which display the variety of media that she worked in, including *Untitled (White Box)*, an assemblage box construction from 1961 (Estimate: \$8,000-12,000), a vibrant work on paper titled *The Family*, from 1957, (estimate: \$4,000-6,000), and a small bronze work *Untitled (People with Umbrellas)* from 1965 (estimate: \$3,000-\$5,000). The artist will be having a retrospective at El Museo del Barrio, New York this coming October.

Edwin and Lindy Bergman fostered close relationships with many artists, including **William Nelson Copley** and **Matta**, who introduced the collectors to many Surrealist artists. Works by both these artists and Surrealist **Wilfredo Lam** will be included in the sale.

Works by **Ron Arneson**, **William Wiley** and **Robert Hudson** will also be included in the sale. Considered **California Funk Artists**, these artists were based in California in the 1960s and evolved in parallel with the antiestablishment Beatnik lifestyle developing in San Francisco. Their work offers a unique fantastical imagery that compliments the surrealist focus of the collection.

Auction:

July 24, 2014 at 10am & 2pm

FIRST OPEN ONLINE: SUMMER EDITION

July 17th – 29th, 2014

The online-only **FIRST OPEN ONLINE: SUMMER EDITION** sale complements the selection of works being offered in our live auction. Highlights from this sale are included in the live auction catalogue and will be on view at Christie's Rockefeller Center galleries. This sale includes a selection of works from several important collections including the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, the Estate of Dr. Arthur C. Carr, The Estate of Ira Lowe and works from the collection of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Highlights include a grouping of works on paper by **David Hockney** ranging from \$3,000-15,000.

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FIRST OPEN ONLINE: SUMMER EDITION

Sale Dates: July 17th - July 29th

Sale starts at noon

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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.*

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Images available on request

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