

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING SALE ACHIEVES \$852,887,000 (£535,986,570/ €682,309,600) HIGHEST TOTAL IN AUCTION HISTORY



*Christie's auctioneer Jussi Pylkkanen, hammers down Warhol's Triple Elvis (Ferus Type) which achieved \$81.9 million*

### WARHOL'S TRIPLE ELVIS AND FOUR MARLONS LEAD THE SALE AT \$81.9 AND \$69.6 MILLION

- Strong Sell-Through Rates of 94% By Lot and 97% By Value
- Global Participation With Auction Registrants From 43 Countries
- 11 New World Auction Records Set Including for Cy Twombly, and Ed Ruscha
- 4 Auction Records Set for Artist by Medium
- 3 Works Sold Above \$50 Million, 23 Above \$10 Million, and 69 Above \$1 Million

**New York** – Christie’s set Art market history with its Post-War and Contemporary Art evening sale, which totalled \$852,887,000 (£535,986,570/ €682,309,600), with strong sell-through rates of 97% by value and 94% by lot. Bidders from around the world competed for an exceptional array of Abstract Expressionist, Pop and Contemporary works from some of the century’s most inspiring and influential artists, including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Willem de Kooning, Martin Kippenberger, Cy Twombly, and Jeff Koons.

*“This was a sale of extraordinary quality and range, with every major artist represented by at least one masterwork,” said Brett Gorvy, Chairman and International Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art. “The landmark sale result achieved tonight is a reflection of both growing global enthusiasm and demand in this category and a virtuous cycle of confidence in the art market that brings a fresh supply of exciting, high-quality works into the market with each new season.”*

**Steven Murphy, Christie’s Chief Executive Officer stated:** *“This is truly a moment in art history. Tonight’s result is a testimony to the depth of interest in art across the globe, and to the talent of the Christie’s team. This sale may have produced an eye catching number, but record museum attendance and record art sales at Christie’s on every continent in all areas and price levels proves that enjoying works of art has become a universal pursuit in our time.”*

The sale featured a range of superlative works from distinguished private collections and institutions, such as the Cy Twombly Foundation, the Linda Pace Foundation, The Bergman Collection, and the Lisa de Kooning Trust. The majority of the works offered have been featured in one or several museum exhibitions and almost half of them were completely new to the market. The sale established 11 new world auction records, selling 3 works for over \$50 million, 23 for over \$10 million and 69 for over \$1 million. 38% of lots sold above the high estimate, and 43% of lots sold within the pre-sale estimate range. Two additional sales, the Day Sale, and an online-only auction will complete this week’s sales series.

Following exhibitions in Asia, Europe and the Americas, the team presented the works in a way, which created a dialogue between each other, offering a better understanding for both seasoned and new collectors. Since its opening, the exhibition in Rockefeller Plaza attracted more than 8000 visitors and saw 500 registrants to the evening sale from 34 countries. Through Christie’s dedicated website, we have succeeded in developing a much larger audience of visitors, with more than 35,000 unique visitors online coming from 112 countries, 57% of them totally new to Christies, and half a million followers on our social media platforms.

## **POP ART**

At the zenith of the art market is **Andy Warhol** with several major works presented in the sale, including the highly anticipated *Triple Elvis [Ferus Type]*, 1963 and *Four Marlons*, 1966. Sold by the German Westdeutsche Spielbanken GMBH & CO. KG. *Triple Elvis [Ferus Type]* and *Four Marlons*, achieved respectively a spectacular \$81,925,000 (£51,612,750/ €65,540,000) and \$69,605,000 (£43,851,150/ €55,684,000) after fierce bidding between eight telephone bidders and several persistent clients in the saleroom.

Achieving a world auction record for the artist at \$30,405,000 (£19,155,150/ €24,324,000) after a 4-minute bidding battle between 4 collectors, **Ed Ruscha’s** *Smash* was an early example from the 1960s of one of the artist’s revolutionary word paintings, a body of work which established him as one of the most innovative and influential painters of his generation.

## ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

In the artist's personal collection since its inception, **Willem de Kooning's** *Clamdigger* was sold for \$29,285,000 (£18,449,550/ €23,428,000) a world auction record price for a sculpture by the artist. This milestone in modern sculpture was sold by the artist's three grand-daughters. Masterfully executed, **Cy Twombly's** *Untitled* was presented on the market for the first time, having resided in the same private collection for the past 40 years. This work, from the famous series of *Blackboard* paintings made between 1966 and 1971, achieved \$69,605,000 (£43,851,150/ €55,684,000), setting a new world auction record for the artist.

## CONTEMPORARY

The contemporary selection of the sale saw exceptionally strong international demand for *Untitled* by **Martin Kippenberger**, which exceeded the artist's record when it sold for \$22,565,000 (£14,215,950/ €18,052,000). Staggeringly beautiful, **Jeff Koons's** monumental sculpture *Balloon Monkey (Orange)* fetched \$25,925,000 (£16,332,750 / €20,740,000). We saw strong international bidding on **Gerhard Richter's** vibrant *Abstraktes Bild (648-3)* which sold for \$31,525,000 (£19,860,750/ €25,220,000) while *Abstraktes Bild (774-4)* sold by the Linda Pace Foundation achieved \$16,965,000 (£10,687,950/ €13,572,000). Proceeds from the sale of this work will be used to realize an arts campus in San Antonio, Texas, the home of the Foundation.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Widely regarded as one of the most influential and original bodies of work to emerge from the Contemporary art scene, **Cindy Sherman's** *Untitled Film Stills* transcend the boundaries of both conceptual art and photography. Carefully selected and acquired by the renowned curator and collector Ydessa Hendeles, the 21 works sold for \$6,773,000 (£4,266,990/ € 5,418,400) the highest price for the artist at auction.

## COLLECTIONS AND PRESTIGIOUS PROVENANCE

Christie's was also honored to present a few works from the **Cy Twombly Foundation**, acquired by Twombly in the 1960s. This extraordinary group of works by **Lichtenstein, Nauman, and Warhol**, represented one of the most creative and rich periods in Post-War American art, which emerged in the 1960s. The haunting and powerful *Electric Chair* achieved \$6,045,000 (£3,808,350/ €4,836,000), while the beautiful black and white **Roy Lichtenstein** *Hot Dog* and *10¢* flew above their estimates at \$4,421,000 (£2,785,230/ €3,536,800) and \$2,741,000 (£1,726,830/ € 2,192,800), respectively.

Five works by **Joseph Cornell** from the **Bergman Collection** were offered at auction, led by *Cockatoo and Watches Aviary*, sold for \$4,757,000 (£2,996,910/ €3,805,600), which was made circa 1948 – 50, and was the cover of the catalogue published on the occasion of the artist's retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1981.

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### 11 WORLD AUCTION RECORDS FOR ARTISTS

**\$69,605,000**

**Cy Twombly (1928-2011), *Untitled*, oil based house paint and wax crayon on canvas, Executed in 1970**

**\$30,405,000**

**Ed Ruscha (b. 1937), *Smash*, oil on canvas, Painted in 1963**

**\$22,565,000**

**Martin Kippenberger (1953-1997), *Untitled*, oil on canvas Painted in 1988**

**\$18,085,000**

**Peter Doig (b. 1959), Pine House (Rooms for Rent), oil on canvas, Painted in 1994**

**\$8,901,000**

**Arshile Gorky (1904-1948), Child's Companions, oil and graphite on canvas, painted in 1945**

**\$7,445,000**

**Georg Baselitz (b. 1938), Der Brückechor (The Brücke Chorus), oil on canvas, Painted in 1983**

**\$7,109,000**

**Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929), White No. 28, oil on canvas, Painted in 1960**

**\$6,773,000**

**Cindy Sherman (B. 1954), Untitled Film Stills, 21 gelatin silver prints, 1977/1978/1979/1980**

**\$5,765,000**

**Mark Tansey (b. 1949), Land Fall, oil on canvas, Painted in 2007**

**\$3,413,000**

**Sturtevant (1926-2014), Lichtenstein, Frighten Girl, oil and graphite on canvas, painted in 1966**

**\$785,000**

**Seth Price (b. 1973), Vintage Bomber, vacuum formed high-impact polystyrene, Executed in 2006**

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#### **4 RECORDS FOR THE MEDIUM**

**\$29,285,000**

**Willem de Kooning (1904-1997), Clamdigger, bronze, Executed in 1972.**

**WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR THE ARTIST IN THE MEDIUM**

**\$6,885,000**

**Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997), Girl in Mirror, porcelain enamel on steel, executed in 1964**

**WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A MULTIPLE BY THE ARTIST**

**\$4,421,000**

**Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997), Hot Dog, graphite, brush and India ink, pochoir and lithographic rubbing crayon on Japanese paper, Executed in 1964.**

**WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A WORK ON PAPER BY THE ARTIST**

**\$665,000**

**Bruce Nauman (b. 1941), William T. Wiley or Ray Johnson Trap, gelatin silver print, Executed in 1967**

**WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A PHOTOGRAPH BY THE ARTIST**

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**The Post-War and Contemporary Art sales continue tomorrow with the day sales.**

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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 totaled £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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