

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S FIRST ONLINE SALE OF AMERICAN ART TO BE OFFERED ALONGSIDE FEBRUARY AUCTION

*JACOB LAWRENCE: WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE GWENDOLYN KNIGHT LAWRENCE TRUST*  
TO FEATURE PAINTINGS AND PRINTS BY ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST PROMINENT MODERNISTS

ONLINE SALE OPEN FOR BIDDING ON FEBRUARY 21  
LIVE AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 26



Jacob Lawrence, *New York in Transit I*, gouache and pencil on paper, Estimate: \$50,000-70,000

The first of two maquettes for a mural the artist completed for the Times Square subway complex in New York City.

Art by Jacob Lawrence © The Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

**New York** – Following one of its most successful years in the category of American Art, Christie's announces that two sales of American Art will be offered this February – the annual mid-season sale on February 26, along with the first online-only sale for the department, *Jacob Lawrence: Works From The Collection Of The Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Trust*. The live auction will offer 180 lots, spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, with such notable artists as Milton Avery, Jane Peterson, N.C. Wyeth, and Stephen Scott Young, among others. The online-only sale, open for bidding from February 21 through March 4, will feature 40 works by Jacob Lawrence from the Estate of the artist's wife of nearly 60 years, Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence (1913-2005), who was also an artist herself.

Over the past few years, Christie's has made a significant commitment to building its e-commerce platform to support internet exclusive sales and has successfully piloted numerous online-only sales for Wine, Fashion, Post-War and Contemporary Art, Asian Art, and Pop Culture with great feedback and enthusiasm from our clients. The expansion of online-only sales into the American Art category is a testament to clients' support of the internet-exclusive platform as a regular and integral component of Christie's business.

## JACOB LAWRENCE ONLINE SALE | OPEN FOR BIDDING FEBRUARY 21

Spanning decades through the artist's career, from the late 1940s-1990s, the online-only sale of *Jacob Lawrence: Works from the Collection of the Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Trust* offers a variety of media and themes of work by the important twentieth century African American artist Jacob Lawrence. Lawrence is renowned for his work's modernist aesthetic that is fused with depictions of everyday realities he observed in his community. The artist's brightly colored palette and distinctive style is evident in a selection of works available in the sale that balance the twin elements of Lawrence's art, content and form.

Lawrence explored both historical events and contemporary experiences. His first large series of work, painted in 1938, was on the life of General Toussaint L'Ouverture, who led Haiti to independence, and the *The Life of Toussaint L'Ouverture* series is represented by a selection of screenprints available in the sale, including *Toussaint at Ennery* (illustrated right; estimate: \$2,500-3,500), which was executed in 1989.



One of Lawrence's most iconic themes was that of the builders, a subject matter he explored throughout his career. Rather than showing builders toiling on laborious tasks in a negative light, the artist's builders works are optimistic and developed overtime to depict integrated groups of people working together in harmony. The online sale includes several vibrant works from the artist's last painted series of builders, such as *Builders—Men on Ladders* (illustrated left; estimate: \$40,000-60,000), as well as several drawings.

Men playing games like chess or cards was another frequently depicted theme in Lawrence's work, especially toward the end of his career, and several of these paintings are available in the sale. The final games series is imbued with the artist's fully developed style using fragmented planes and a bold palette, such as *Games—Throwing the Dice* (illustrated right; estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Jacob Lawrence  
*Windows*

gouache and pencil on paper

18 x 22 in., image; 18 1/2 x 22 1/2 in., overall, Executed in 1977

Estimate: \$60,000-80,000



Jacob Lawrence  
*Massachusetts Textile Mill Study III (Two Figures)*

crayon on paper

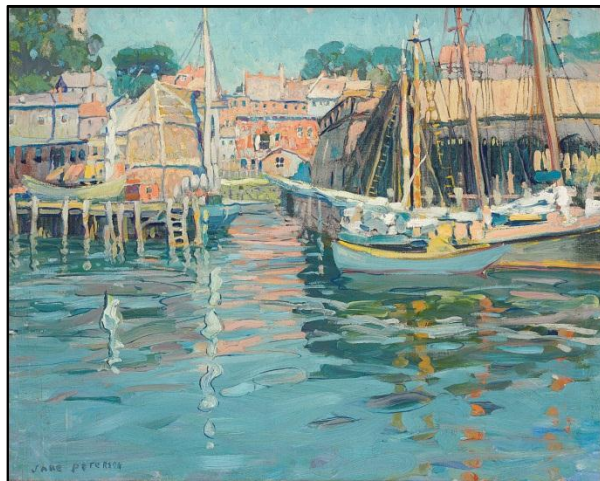
14 x 17 in., Executed circa 1966.

Estimate: \$7,000-10,000



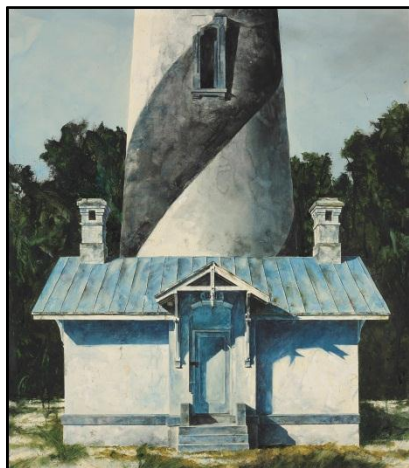
## LIVE AUCTION | FEBRUARY 26

Leading the sale is Jane Peterson's *Gloucester Harbor* (illustrated right; estimate: \$120,000-180,000), among the finest examples of the artist's work, depicting one of Peterson's most celebrated subjects with her signature brilliant palette and dynamic brushwork. *Gloucester Harbor* demonstrates Peterson at the height of her abilities, employing innovative stylistic elements, the fundamental characteristics of her style that garnered her critical acclaim. In a unique style, Peterson uses grand brushstrokes to create a mosaic effect of highly expressive tones of color offset by pure strokes of white, giving the finished painting the appearance similar of cloisonné.



*Vermont Landscape* by Milton Avery (illustrated left; estimate: \$60,000-80,000) is a lushly painted work, created circa 1942, which depicts the idyllic and tranquil environment where the artist and his family spent summer retreats from New York City. In *Vermont Landscape*, the green flora has given way to a blanket of pink in the foreground and new blossoms peek through the vegetation at lower right. Avery's soft brushwork and use of harmonious colors further enhances the sentiment of the unspoiled view.

### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Stephen Scott Young  
*On the Island*  
watercolor and gouache on board  
34 x 30 in.  
Estimate: \$40,000-60,000



Cyrus Edwin Dallin  
*'Appeal to the Great Spirit'*  
bronze with red-brown patina, 21¼ in. high  
Estimate: \$40,000-60,000



Newell Convers Wyeth  
*"At Daybreak, Mistress, in Execution of the Sentence Passed Upon Him Yesterday in the Governor's Court"*  
oil on canvas, 30¼ x 32 in., Painted in 1929.  
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

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[Please click here for the complete eCatalogue for the live auction of American Art on February 26.](#)

[Please click here for more information on the online sale of works by Jacob Lawrence.](#)

All artwork from the sale *Jacob Lawrence: Works from the Collection of the Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Trust* is subject to the following copyright:

**Art by Jacob Lawrence © The Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York**

#### 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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Frederick William MacMonnies, *'Bacchante and Infant Faun'*  
bronze with brown patina, 32½ in. high on a separate 42 in. carved wooden pedestal  
Estimate: \$12,000-18,000