

# CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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## CHRISTIE'S WEEK OF IMPRESSIONIST, MODERN, POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART SALES IN NEW YORK TOTALS **US\$1.726 BILLION** **THE HIGHEST SINGLE WEEK TOTAL IN AUCTION HISTORY**

### NEW BENCHMARKS SET THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

New World Auction Record Any Work of Art  
New World Auction Record for Any Sculpture

### NEW ARTIST RECORDS INCLUDE:

New World Auction Record for Pablo Picasso  
New World Auction Record for Alberto Giacometti  
New World Auction record for Lucian Freud  
New World Auction for Piet Mondrian

**POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART SOLD: \$984,480,750**

**IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART SOLD: \$741,538,625\***

*\*Christie's online only sale of Picasso Ceramics continues to May 19*

147 Lots sold for over \$1 Million  
31 Lots sold for \$10 Million  
18 Lots sold for \$20 Million  
7 Lots sold for \$50 Million  
2 Lots sold for \$100 Million

**NEW YORK** – Christie's reached a new and unprecedented benchmark in auction history this week, generating a grand total of **US\$1,726,019,375** in a single week of fine art sales in New York. This marked the first time Christie's New York had combined its traditionally separated categories of Impressionist & Modern and Post-War & Contemporary art into a single sale week of auctions and online-only sales. The week was led by *Looking Forward to the Past*, a curated sale that presented top-quality works from both categories in a new context. The stellar results demonstrate that accelerated demand for great art from collectors around the world continues to drive strong prices at all levels.

*"This has been an extraordinary week for the art market and for Christie's. Our much heralded total of \$1.726 billion is only a part of the story. It was striking that there were 40 bids above \$100 million for the Picasso on Monday night and over 45 bids for the Rothko which made \$82 million on Wednesday. This is a rich, deep market in which masterpieces elicit the greatest competition and which now attracts high level buyers from all over the world,"* said **Jussi Pylkkanen**, Christie's Global President.

*"By creating a single focused sale week led by an exciting cross-category approach, we encouraged both new collectors and established buyers to look at our offerings in a new context. This strategy paid huge dividends and gives confidence to owners of major works to consign them with Christie's. We would like to thank all the great collectors who were inspired by our innovative approach to this single New York sale week and particularly to the owners of both the Picasso and the Giacometti masterpieces that have made this spring auction season so particularly memorable."*

## Global Activity

Bidders from 48 different countries registered to participate in Christie's New York sale week, creating an electric atmosphere of competition that grew and gained momentum over the course of the sale week. The week's third Evening Sale, devoted to Impressionist and Modern Art, experienced one of the strongest sell-through rates of the week, with 93% sold by lot and 99% sold by value. The sales were a truly global event, with clients from the Americas, EMERI, and Asia regions all participating across the Evening and Day sales.

## Cross-over Buying and Great Collections

Throughout the sale week, Christie's witnessed strong performance across both categories, underpinned by buyers looking to expand their collecting areas. By week's end, Christie's has sold over **\$984.5 million** of Post-War and Contemporary Art through a combination of auction and online-only sales. A total of **\$741.5 million** of Impressionist and Modern Art was sold at auction, with a dedicated online-only sale of Picasso Ceramics continuing through May 19. For both categories, the totals mark the highest total ever achieved in a single week of sales. Both categories were buoyed by the success of important private collections: the collection of Ileana Sonnabend and her daughter Nina Sundell fetched a total of \$81,957,500, and property from the Estate of late Goldman Sachs chairman John C. Whitehead realized a total of \$72,587,250, both far exceeding their high estimates.



**CHRISTIE'S**  
**A Historic Week in Numbers**

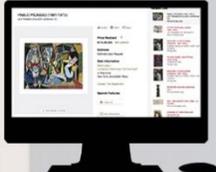
- **\$1.72 BILLION IN SALES**
- **804 WORKS SOLD THUS FAR**
- **77 LOTS STILL OPEN FOR BIDDING**  
(our Picasso Ceramics Sale goes on until 19 May)
- **26 NEW AUCTION RECORDS**



- **25,000** liquid ounces of coffee served
- **450 GALLONS** of paint used  
(enough to cover Rock Center's ice skating surface twice!)
- **OVER 15,000 GUESTS** visited our galleries
- **4,290 OF LINEAR FEET** were used to display the artwork  
(approximately ¾ of a mile - the distance from 20 Rock to Central Park!)



- Nearly **3,000 UNIQUE VIEWERS** streamed the sales on Monday and Wednesday (combined)
- **172% INCREASE** in use of Christie's app during the week
- **25,000 USERS** viewed website info on Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger (Version 'O')*



## New Auction Records Achieved

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| \$179,365,000 | Pablo Picasso, <i>Les femmes d'Alger (Version 'O')</i>   RECORD FOR ANY WORK OF ART SOLD AT AUCTION |
| \$141,285,000 | Alberto Giacometti, <i>L'homme au doigt</i>   RECORD FOR ANY SCULPTURE SOLD AT AUCTION              |
| \$56,165,000  | Lucian Freud, <i>Benefits Supervisor Resting</i>  |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| \$28,165,000 | Chaim Soutine, <i>Le Boeuf</i>  |
| \$50,565,000 | Piet Mondrian, <i>Composition No. III, with Red, Blue, Yellow, and Black</i>    |
| \$25,925,000 | Peter Doig, <i>Swamped</i>  |
| \$24,805,000 | Jean Dubuffet, <i>Paris Polka</i>   |
| \$20,605,000 | Robert Ryman, <i>Bridge</i>   |
| \$18,645,000 | Robert Rauschenberg, <i>Johanson's Painting</i>                                 |
| \$9,797,000  | Cady Noland, <i>Bluewald</i>  |
| \$6,437,000  | Giovanni Anselmo, <i>Torsione</i>   |
| \$6,325,000  | Hans Hofmann, <i>Auxerre</i>  |
| \$5,093,000  | Sturtevant, <i>Warhol Diptych</i>   |
| \$4,757,000  | Rudolf Stingel, <i>Untitled</i>   |
| \$785,000    | Diane Arbus, <i>Child With A Toy Hand Grenade In Central Park, N.Y.C., 1962</i> |
| \$509,000    | Carroll Dunham, <i>Fourth Birch</i>   |
| \$317,000    | Cheyney Thompson, <i>Chronochrome II</i>  |
| \$185,000    | Carolee Schneemann, <i>Eye Body: 36 Transformative Actions</i>                  |

#### Records for the Medium by the Artist

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| \$13,605,000 | Jean-Michel Basquiat, <i>Untitled</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                          |
| \$7,500,000  | Jeff Koons, <i>Triple Elvis</i>   record for a painting by the artist at auction                                     |
| \$5,429,000  | Rene Magritte, <i>L'empire Des Lumières</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                    |
| \$4,421,000  | Roy Lichtenstein, <i>Collage for Interior: Perfect Pitcher</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction |
| \$5,317,000  | Andy Warhol, <i>Dollar Bill</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                                |
| \$3,525,000  | Jackson Pollock, <i>Untitled</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                               |
| \$2,405,000  | Robert Delaunay, <i>La Tour simultanée</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                     |
| \$2,405,000  | Christopher Wool, <i>Untitled</i>   record for a work on paper by the artist at auction                              |
| \$1,205,000  | Jean Dubuffet, <i>Pleurnichon</i>   record for a sculpture by the artist at auction                                  |

#### Looking Forward

Christie's New York spring fine art sales continue this month with Russian Works of Art and Silver, American Paintings and Latin American Art. See <http://www.christies.com/calendar> for further details.

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#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 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 totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

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, New Delhi, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, third party financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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