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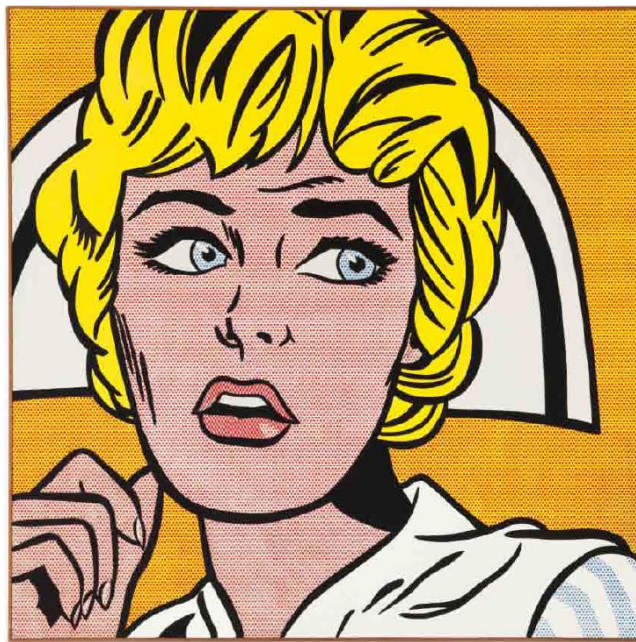
THE ART PEOPLE

NEW YORK | 15 OCTOBER 2015

ROY LICHTENSTEIN'S *NURSE* THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK BY THE ARTIST TO COME TO AUCTION

An icon of the artist's career, and of Pop Art

STARS IN NOVEMBER 9th CURATED EVENING SALE
THE ARTIST'S MUSE AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK



Property from an Important American Collection
Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997)

Nurse

oil and Magna on canvas

48 x 48 in. (121.9 x 121.9 cm.)

Painted in 1964.

Estimate on Request

**The Artist's Muse: A Curated Evening Sale of 20th Century Art,
Monday November 9th, 2015**

New York – Christie's is honored to announce the sale of an extraordinary, seminal, museum-quality work by Roy Lichtenstein unseen on the market for 20 years. *Nurse* will be included in the 20th century curated sale, *The Artist's Muse*, which presents a constellation of works and subjects that have inspired artists in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. This spectacular work is the most iconic of Lichtenstein's series of his legendary Pop portraits of women appropriated from romance comic books of the early 1960s and has been included

in Lichtenstein's first retrospective exhibitions at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin in 1968 and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York in 1969 which brought him international acclaim and established Lichtenstein as one of the most important figures of the Pop Art. *Nurse* comes with distinguished provenances, from the most historic and significant collections of Pop Art: Leon Kraushar, New York, then to the comprehensive and influential collection of Karl Stroher, Germany and finally the collection of Peter Brant, before being acquired in 1995 by the present owner. This painting is widely regarded not only as an icon of the artist's career, but also of Pop Art. Estimated in the region of \$80 million, this masterpiece is poised to break the world auction record for the artist of \$56 million, achieved at Christie's New York in May 2013 for *Woman with Flowered Hat*, 1963.

"*Nurse*, one of the most renowned works of the 1960's by Roy Lichtenstein is simply an extraordinary painting. Its magisterial scale and colors combined with Lichtenstein's complete command of its composition place *Nurse* as one of the most compelling, intriguing and powerful Pop Art masterpieces of the time," **declared Laura Paulson, Chairman and International Director for Post-War and Contemporary Art.**

THE ULTIMATE SYMBOL OF POP CULTURE

Roy Lichtenstein's *Nurse* is a dazzling celebration of the bold new imagery that uniquely defined Roy Lichtenstein. The subject of this painting stands alongside the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Jacqueline Kennedy as one of a distinguished group of female icons who came to define this radical new movement. The subject of *Nurse* is a quintessential Lichtenstein heroine. His signature Ben-Day dots, her strong features and flawless skin are stylized modes of graphic imagery that create visual perfection. Her imposing uniform—as defined by the striped fabric of her dress, the stiff white collar and her starched white hat—clearly indicate that she is a member of the nursing profession. Yet her piercing blue eyes, blond hair, and luscious red lips also lend the work a frisson of latent sexuality—less heavenly angel and more femme fatal. Roy Lichtenstein challenges the feminine stereotype by re-presenting these appropriated images, invites a reconsideration of women and their role's as defined in the early 1960's.

The protagonist in Lichtenstein's *Nurse* is a complex character. Her anxious appearance suggests she is not necessarily the traditional figure of the Good Samaritan, the chaste care giver who puts the welfare of her patients before her own. Lichtenstein has managed to create an image that addresses the popular domains of fantasy and reality and in doing so has made it appear all the more powerfully subversive than the innocence of its original context.

Nurse is distinguished by its illustrious provenance, having been owned by some of the most important and influential collectors in the history of Pop Art. It was first acquired by **Leon Kraushar**, the legendary Pop Art collector who, during an intense period in the early 1960s,

amassed one of the greatest collections of Pop Art ever assembled in America. Kraushar and his wife acquired many early works by the likes of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Among his early purchases were the now legendary *Red Jackie*, *Liz (Green)* and *Orange Marilyn*. Following Kraushar's death in 1967, his widow put the entire collection of more than sixty works up for sale with a price of \$600,000. Thus, *Nurse* was acquired by **Karl Ströher**, a German industrialist whose family owned the Wella hair-care brand. In 1966 he made his first trip to the United States and met with artists such as Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg and Roy Lichtenstein. After his death, Ströher left most of the Pop works in his collection to the city of Frankfurt where they became the core of the permanent collection of the Museum für Moderne Kunst. His enthusiasm for Pop Art, along with the American-style prosperity enjoyed by the western European nations after the Second World War, did much to enhance the movement's appeal in Europe and thus ensure its dominance around the world. Ultimately, Lichtenstein's *Nurse* was not one of the works from Ströher's collection that was destined for the museum in Frankfurt, but instead was acquired by another legendary Pop collector, the American collector **Peter Brant** in 1989, before being acquired by the present owner at auction in 1995.

NOTE TO EDITORS



Christie's holds the world auction record for a work by Lichtenstein, with *Woman with Flowered Hat*, 1963, sold in New York on May 2013 for \$56,123,752.

Viewing – Christie's New York
31 October - 12 November 2015

Evening Sale, The Artist's Muse
Viewing: October 31st - November 9th
Auction: November 9th, 2015
Christie's New York, 20 Rockefeller Plaza

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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 2015 that totalled £2.9 billion / \$4.5 billion. In 2014, Christie's had global auction and private sales 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.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 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, third-party financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

 Images available on request

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