

CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 19 MAY 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

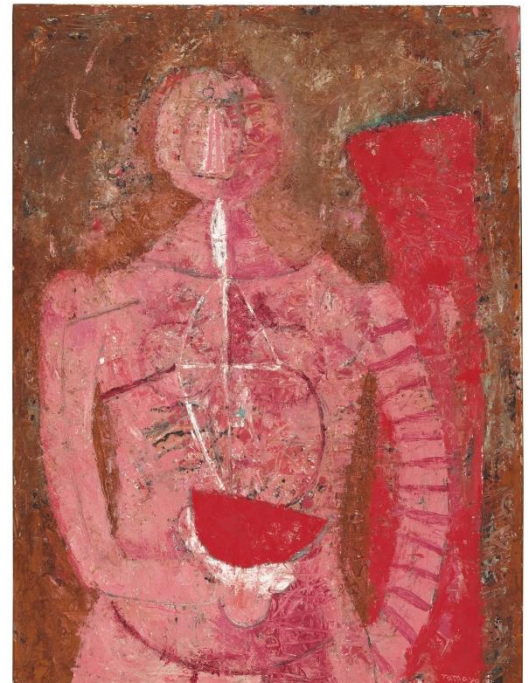
CHRISTIE'S LATIN AMERICAN SALE MAY 27-28 IN NEW YORK



DIEGO RIVERA (MEXICAN 1886-1957)
Lavanderas con zopilotes
oil on canvas
Painted in 1928.
Estimate: \$700,000 – \$900,000



FERNANDO BOTERO (COLOMBIAN B. 1932)
Dancing Couple
bronze
Executed in 2006; Edition two of six.
Estimate: \$600,000 – \$800,000



RUFINO TAMAYO (MEXICAN 1899-1991)
Mujer con sandía
oil on canvas
Painted in 1959.
Estimate: \$700,000 – \$900,000

NEW YORK – On May 27 and 28, Christie's Latin American Art sale will offer an exceptional selection of over 260 lots by some of the region's most sought after modern and contemporary artists. The two-day sale includes property from several prestigious private and public collections as well a superb offering of paintings and sculpture by such key Latin American artists as Fernando Botero, Claudio Bravo, Joaquín Torres-García, Matta, Hélio Oiticica, Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, Remedios Varo, and more. The sale is expected to achieve in excess of \$22 million.



Headlining the sale is an outstanding Surrealist work by **Remedios Varo**, *Vampiros vegetarianos* (illustrated left; estimate: \$1,500,000 – 2,000,000; *Vegetarian vampires*). Never before offered at auction, *Vampiros vegetarianos* was executed at the height of the artist's career in 1962, and featured prominently in her final exhibition at the groundbreaking Galería Juan Martín in Mexico City. A trailblazer and outlier within the context of modern art, the Spanish born, Mexican artist is best known for her dream-like paintings brimming with myriad sources, ranging from the supernatural to spirituality and scientific.

PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROY AND MARY CULLEN

Christie's is proud to offer works from the Collection of Roy and Mary Cullen, an extraordinary collection of works by key figures in the history of Latin American modern art. Highly regarded in the Houston community for their business,

philanthropic, and cultural contributions to the state of Texas and to their beloved city of Houston, the Cullen family has built an indelible legacy that spans over one-hundred and fifty years of civic and cultural engagement in their community.



Among the highlights are key works by leading surrealist women artists including Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo, Bridget Ticheno and Alice Rahon. Among the historically significant works by Carrington is **Map of Down Below** (illustrated left; estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000) is a deeply symbolic rendering of the mental institution that Carrington was forcibly incarcerated in between 1940-41 in Santander, Spain. This drawing stands as a landmark within surrealist art and literature and was first published in the periodical VVV in 1944, accompanied by the now legendary text *Down Below*, both by Leonora Carrington. **André Breton** was always a great admirer of Carrington's literary work and paintings, but after this

ordeal he respected her all the more. Carrington drew on her knowledge of alchemical, numerological, astrological and magical symbolism to fashion a harrowing tale of transformation and transcendence. Breton kept and treasured Carrington's *Map of Down Below* his entire life and it only became known to the public after his death and the auctioning off of his collection in Paris in 2003.



ALICE RAHON (FRENCH/MEXICAN 1904-1987)
The Sky Above the City
oil and sand on canvas
Painted in 1945.
Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000

MEXICAN MODERNISTS

At a time when Mexican Modernism had become synonymous with leftist politics, Rufino Tamayo blazed his own path dedicated to *arte puro*, his distinct style of formalist exploration. Line, color and form, Tamayo asserted, inspired him above all else. In *Mujer con sandía* (illustrated page one), an angular woman defined by a pulsating patchwork of strident pink brushstrokes faces forward, offering us a slice of the artist's signature leitmotif, the vibrant red watermelon. The female figure and the watermelon, two constants in Tamayo's oeuvre, appearing in his early Cubist-inspired work of the 1920s and continuing through to his increasingly abstract paintings of the late twentieth-century, serve here as a means for exploring the artist's true subject: color. A veritable palimpsest of pigments, *Mujer con sandía* flaunts Tamayo's consummate skill as a colorist and affirms his commitment to *arte puro*.



Tamayo's fascination with space travel reflected his remarkable interest in man's place within the vast universe. In the 1940s with a world war as backdrop, Tamayo's angst found expression in various works such as *Animales* (1941) among others that reveal his connection to the collective anger and despair experienced globally at the time. In *The Astronauts* (illustrated left: estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000), Tamayo's description of outer space is startlingly joyous. His blues are brilliant and jewel tone, and his spaceships are elegant vehicles that spring symmetrically from the center of the composition mimicking toy airplanes, rather than the rockets that had gone up into the stratosphere since the race for space began in the late 1950s. His spacecraft's burst onto an azure weightless space in exploration of the unknown. His Earth, by contrast, is a dark mound from which mankind now ventures bravely into worlds beyond. By the time this work was painted in 1971, men had already landed on the Moon two years earlier but the giddiness of journeys to the stars and galaxies, only imagined in popular science fiction novels before, further fueled mankind's enthrallment with space exploration. It was possible to reach the stars, after all.

Furthermore, Diego Rivera's *Lavanderas con zopilotes (illustrated page one)* is a work that pays homage to the dignity of work and especially the back-breaking labor of underclass women whose faces, as in this painting, are unseen. Rivera depicts two women with their backs bent, toiling by a stream or river. The figures are grounded, nearly rooted to the riverbank where they wash clothes. The work is in fact part of a long tradition in art that began in the nineteenth century with artists such as Jean-François Millet, Gustave Courbet and Camille Pissarro, who painted the working classes with great nobility.

FERNANDO BOTERO



A cornerstone of Christie's Latin American auctions are the excellent examples of sculpture, paintings, and drawings from Colombian master, Fernando Botero. This spring, Christie's will offer twelve works from the artist, led by the sculpture, *Dancing Couple (illustrated page one)*. Additionally, *Three Musicians (illustrated left; estimate \$400,000 – 600,000)* is a prime example of Botero's embrace of drawing's full potential. A life-size sanguine drawing on canvas, the work is complete in itself, not intended as the basis for a later painting. The blood-red chalk, a favorite medium of the artist, applied freehand, directly to the support, provides little room for error. Despite this challenge, Botero manages a skillful structuring of volumes and meticulous rendering of detail, demonstrating his ability as a consummate draftsman.

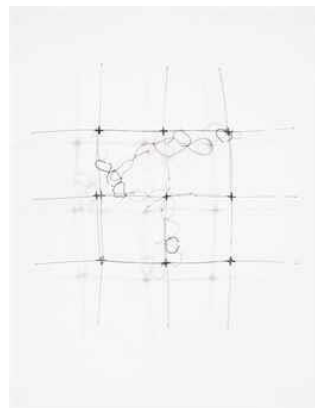
ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



ALFREDO VOLPI (BRAZILIAN 1896-1988)
Fachada (No. 1334)
 tempera on canvas
 Painted circa 1970.
 Estimate: \$400,000 – \$600,000



CLAUDIO BRAVO (CHILEAN 1936-2011)
Red Paper
 oil on canvas
 Painted in 2005.
 Estimate: \$500,000 – \$700,000



GEGO (GERMAN/VENEZUELAN 1912-1994)
Dibujo sin papel 85/13
 steel wire and metal joints
 Executed in 1985.
 Estimate: \$600,000 – \$800,000



TOMÁS SÁNCHEZ (CUBAN B. 1948)
Oír las aguas
 acrylic on canvas
 Painted in 1995.
 Estimate: \$400,000 – \$600,000

PRESS CONTACT: Gabriel Ford | +1 212 492 5704 | GFord@christies.com

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, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

