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EDWARD HOPPER'S *TWO PURITANS* TO LEAD SPRING AMERICAN ART SALE



Edward Hopper (1882-1967), *Two Puritans*, oil on canvas, painted in 1945.
Estimate: \$20,000,000 – 30,000,000

New York – On May 21, as the star lot of its sale of *American Art*, Christie's will offer *Two Puritans* by Edward Hopper (1882-1967). Painted in 1945 at the height of Hopper's career, *Two Puritans*, one of only three canvases by the artist of that year and the only one in private hands, is estimated to bring in excess of \$20 million when it appears at auction for the first time this spring. The painting has been included in nearly every major exhibition and publication on the artist and, most recently was on view in Paris at the Grand Palais, where the Hopper exhibition broke attendance records, proving that the artist has arrived on an international stage.



Elizabeth Beaman, Head of American Art, states; "*Edward Hopper's masterwork Two Puritans can be considered at once an intimate and revealing portrait of the artist and his wife, as well as a testament to his dogged dedication to realism in the face of a changing visual world that increasingly championed abstraction. We are privileged to offer this seminal work, which has never appeared at auction before.*"

Hopper's *oeuvre* is defined by what is at first glance a seemingly mundane, American subject yet in each canvas, and perhaps most poignantly in *Two Puritans*, a complex psychological subtext lies just beneath the surface, betraying the simplicity of the scene. The frisson created in this disconnect between subject and meaning defines his best work and imbues his compositions with an almost haunting permanence, leaving an indelible mark on the mind's eye. This ability to distill time, to freeze a single moment in perpetuity, cemented his legacy and inspired future generations of artists.

Edward Hopper's choice and earnest representation of commonplace subject matter in works such as *Two Puritans* set the artist apart from his contemporaries and allowed him to create a new and uniquely American iconography. In *Two Puritans* and throughout his career, Hopper painted aspects of America that few other artists addressed. He portrayed unromantic visions of life in a broad and increasingly modern style. While Hopper's paintings have formal qualities in common with other Modernists, his art remained steadfastly realist.

EDWARD HOPPER | A MARKET LEADER

In recent seasons, prices for Hopper's paintings have soared at auction, driven by renewed demand for masterpiece-quality works. In October 2013, *East Wind Over Weehawken* sold for \$40,485,000 setting a new world auction record for the artist and in November of 2012, *October on Cape Cod* sold via Christie's LIVE™ for \$9.6 million, setting the world record for an item sold online at any international auction house.

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

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