

CHRISTIE'S

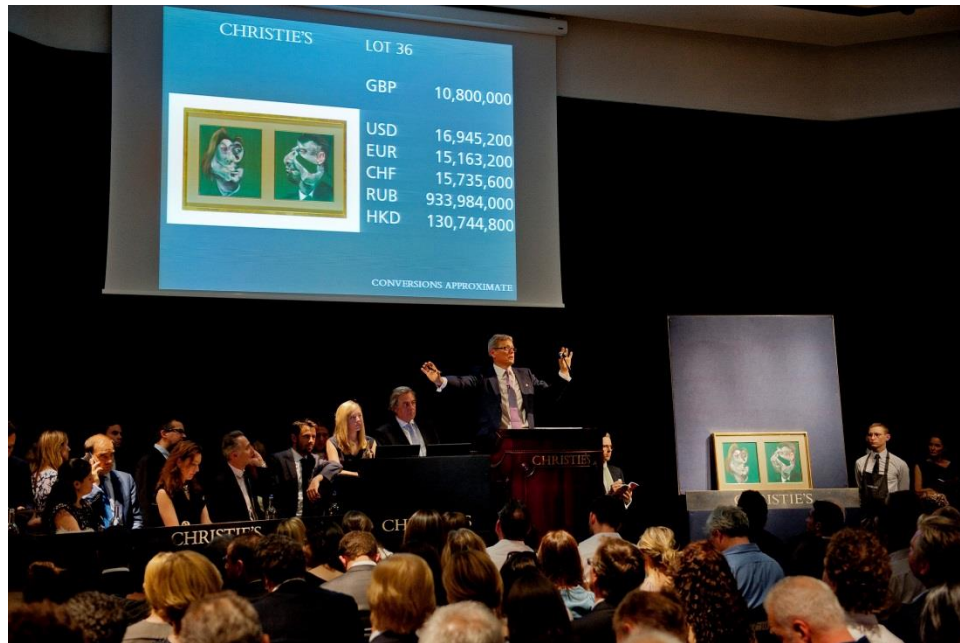
THE ART PEOPLE

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 30 JUNE 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHRISTIE'S POST WAR AND CONTEMPORARY EVENING AUCTION ACHIEVES
£95,646,500 / \$150,069,359 / €134,287,686**

ARTIST RECORD FOR CHRIS OFILI'S *HOLY VIRGIN MARY* AT £2,882,500

**FURTHER ARTIST RECORDS ESTABLISHED FOR JEFF ELROD, BRENT WADDEN,
MALCOLM MORLEY, CHAPMAN BROTHERS, R.H. QUAYTMAN**



London - Christie's *Post War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction* achieved £95,646,500 / \$ 150,069,359 / €134,287,686, with sell-through rates of 87% by lot and 88% by value. Bidders from 34 countries across three continents showed high energy for works by some of the most exciting contemporary artists alongside classics of the category. The evening established records including Chris Ofili's ground breaking *Holy Virgin Mary* (£2,882,500), alongside Malcolm Morley (£1,202,500), R.H Quaytman (£578,500), Jeff Elrod (£218,500), Brent Wadden (£122,500) and The Chapman Brothers (£422,500).

The highest price achieved on the evening was £12,178,500 for Francis Bacon's *Study for Head of Isabel Rawsthorne and George Dyer*. Bidding was particularly active for collection from Museum of Old and New Art, achieving £4,630,000 and The Jacobs Collection achieving £6,993,000, with demonstrable enthusiasm for artists including Jean Dubuffet, Richard Hamilton and Morris Louis. Overall the auction

showed further evidence of the momentum in market that has been witnessed over a record-breaking season of sales for Christie's across Europe and the US, with strong results not only in New York but also Amsterdam, Milan and Paris.

Edmond Francey, Head of Department for Post War and Contemporary Art, London, commented: *'Tonight we saw the culmination of a historic season for Christie's. The depth and breadth of activity was seen by the broad geography of not only bidders and material. This was an example of Christie's doing what it does best, with consistent results in comparison to last year. The 100 percent sell-through rates on the Jacobs and MONA collections demonstrated the desirability of fresh material.'*

The much-anticipated sale of Chris Ofili's *Holy Virgin Mary*, saw a record price of £ 2,882,500 for a generation-defining work. First exhibited at the generation-defining exhibition 'Sensation' in London and New York, the work became a focal point for the widespread attention the exhibition received throughout the international media landscape and dates from a moment that saw Ofili propelled to international fame.

The auction was led by the two works by Francis Bacon: *Two Men in a Field*, (1971), which sold for £10,722,500, and *Study for the Head of Isabel Rawsthorne and George Dyer* (1967) which realized £12,178,500. The first a rare landscape within the oeuvre of Bacon the work was painted for his career-defining retrospective at the Grand Palais in 1971, the second a snapshot of two of the most intimate relationships of his life, his lover Dyer and life-long confidant Rawsthorne. Bacon's first ever diptych, *Study for the Head of Isabel Rawsthorne and George Dyer* is a glimpse into the artist's inner circle via his most powerful means: the 14 x 12 inch portrait.

Katharine Arnold, Head of the Evening sale added: *'It was a great result for the best of contemporary and 100 percent sold Jacobs collection. The highlight of my evening was the Chris Ofili selling at a world record level and I couldn't be more pleased with the results.'*

Further noteworthy sales included:

Yves Klein's *Fire Painting Peinture de feu couleur sans titre*, (FC 27), (1962) realized a price of £5,906,500, foregrounding the creative potential of destruction the work is one of the largest of his explosive series of fire paintings that were executed the year of his untimely death.

Sigmar Polke's *Mondlandschaft mit Schilf (Moonlit landscape with reeds)* (1969) has not been seen in public since the mid 1970s. Realized in 1969, the year of the moon landings, this moonscape realized £3,890,500.

Morris Louis, *Number 35* (1962) from the Jacobs Collection saw huge competition in the room and on the phones to reach a figure of £1,538,500, more than three times the low estimate for the work.

Malcolm Morley's *SS Amsterdam in Front of Rotterdam* (1966) is one of the earliest example of the much-admired super-realism that would become the hallmark of his career. Previously part of the Saatchi Collection, the work made a record price of £1,202,500 .

PRESS CONTACTS

Belinda Bowring | +44 20 7389 2677 | bbowring@christies.com
John Diviney | +44 20 7936 1290 | christies2@brunswickgroup.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, third-party financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

