



CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S CELEBRATES 250 YEARS WITH ANNIVERSARY SALE -- *DEFINING BRITISH ART* SALE TOTALS £99.5 MILLION ATTRACTING GLOBAL ATTENTION



EIGHT WORLD AUCTION RECORDS: FRANK AUERBACH -- LYNN CHADWICK -- FREDERIC, LORD LEIGHTON -- HENRY MOORE -- SAMUEL JOHN PEPLOE -- BRIDGET RILEY -- DAVID ROBERTS -- THOMAS DANIELL

London - Christie's *Defining British Art: Evening Sale*, curated as part of the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the company, was led by an iconic sculpture by Henry Moore in a sale that realised **£99,479,500 / \$133,203,051 / €119,872,798**. Registered bidders from **32** countries from across **4** continents demonstrated continuing global demand. The sale was 87% sold by lot and 83% sold by value. The diverse works of art represented provided a journey through British art over four centuries. Many of the works sold in tonight's sale had previously been sold through Christie's and ever since James Christie first opened his doors in 1766 the company has championed art and artists with both Reynolds and Gainsborough were regular visitors to the rooms in the early years.

"We saw global participation tonight with strong bidding from the Americas and are very pleased with establishing so many artist world records in this sale that celebrated British art and our long relationship with artists and collectors," said **Jussi Pylkkänen, Global President** and lead auctioneer. "We thank all our clients, vendors and buyers, past, present or future, for entrusting us now and over the centuries with the safe passage of precious and historic objects – from one country to another, and from one generation to its successor."

HIGHLIGHTS

- The sale was led by **Henry Moore's** ground-breaking 1951 modernist sculpture ***Reclining Figure: Festival***, which sold after a bidding battle for £24,722,500/\$33,103,428/€29,790,613, the highest price ever achieved for a work by the artist. It is one of the most important sculptures of Moore's entire *oeuvre*. Other sculpture attracting attention tonight was ***Return to Venice*** by **Lynn Chadwick, R.A.** which sold for £1,650,500/\$2,210,020/€1,988,853 a new world auction record, and **Dame Barbara Hepworth's** large-scale bronze sculpture ***Sea Form (Atlantic)***, 1964, that achieved £3,554,500/\$4,759,476/€4,283,173.
- The full-scale six-foot 'sketch' ***View on the Stour near Dedham*** by **John Constable R.A.**, circa 1821-22, sold for £14,082,500/\$18,856,468/€16,969,413. This work, the last great sketch in private hands and in astonishingly fresh condition and clearly illustrates why Constable was considered the father of British Modernism. It made the second highest price for a work by the artist at auction.
- An extraordinary early work by **Bridget Riley, *Untitled (Diagonal Curve)*** painted in 1966 realised £4,338,500/\$5,809,252/€5,227,893), a new auction world record. Riley two years later became the first woman and first Briton to win the Venice International Painting Prize.
- At auction for the first time in 100 years, ***Golden Hours, 1864***, by **Frederic, Lord Leighton** achieved a new world auction record for the artist selling for £3,274,500/\$4,384,556/€3,945,773, exemplifying a pivotal masterpiece of British Aestheticism.
- ***Version No. 2 of Lying Figure with Hypodermic Syringe***, by **Francis Bacon**, 1968, realized £20,242,500/\$27,104,708/€24,392,213, one of the great works from arguably the artist's finest period.
- Never previously offered for sale and one of the finest works by the artist to come to the market in a generation, **Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A. *Portrait of Lucy Long, Mrs George Hardinge***, sold for £3,778,500/\$5,059,412/€4,553,093.
- **Sir Alfred James Munnings' *H.M. the Queen and Aureole in the Paddock at Epsom before the Coronation Cup***, electrified the room selling for five times its estimate for £2,098,500/\$2,809,892/€2,526,693.
- **Lucian Freud's *A Girl (Pauline Tennant)***, circa 1945 sold for £2,322,500/\$3,109,828/€2,798,613, the second highest price for a work on paper by the artist.

CHRISTIE'S PUBLIC EXHIBITION CONTINUES UNTIL 15 JULY -- Christie's public exhibition, *Defining British Art: Loan Exhibition*, continues until 15 July 2016. Since the opening of the new gallery space, Christie's has welcomed over **17,000 visitors** to its headquarters at King Street – 1,000 people every day.

CHRISTIE'S CONTINUED LEADERSHIP -- By curating sales across genres and periods, Christie's leads the market in presenting and sharing works of art across the world. The total for 20th Century at Christie's including *Defining British Art: Evening Sale* at Christie's stands at **£212,545,850 / \$291,370,503 / €258,869,958**. Post-War and Contemporary art sales concluded today with continued demand at all price levels, and strong sell through rates (Day sale: 90% lots sold) to give a combined total across the week of £83,148,525. Sales of Modern Art (Impressionist & Modern including Modern British) continue to perform well with Christie's extending its position with works totaling £95,858,325 over the two weeks.

SUMMER SEASON CONTINUES -- UP NEXT CLASSIC WEEK -- Following the success of Christie's inaugural Classic Week in New York during April, Christie's London will also host **Classic Week (5 - 13 July)**. These cross-category auctions span the Decorative Arts, Antiquities, Old Master & British Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Books and Manuscripts and *The Exceptional Sale*. The week will be led by **Rubens's masterpiece *Lot and his Daughters*** (circa 1613-14), one of the most important paintings by the artist to have remained in private hands, which will be sold on 7 July. Classic Week works will be on view and open to the public from 3 July at Christie's King Street and South Kensington.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2015 that totalled £4.8 billion / \$7.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary. 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 350 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, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

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