

# CHRISTIE'S

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## POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING AUCTION ACHIEVES

**£96,384,000 / \$117,781,248 / €111,034,368**

**EXCEPTIONAL SELL-THROUGH RATES OF  
95% BY LOT AND 98% BY VALUE**

RUNNING TOTAL FOR  
20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AT CHRISTIE'S  
£258,313,636 / \$318,704,602 / €300,478,142

SEVEN ARTIST AUCTION RECORDS ACHIEVED: CECILY BROWN,  
NJIDEKA AKUNYILI CROSBY, ALBERT OEHLER, GÜNTHER UECKER,  
CAROL RAMA, HENRY TAYLOR AND WOLFGANG TILLMANS



**London** – The *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction* continued the confidence that launched the season, totalling £96,384,000 / \$117,781,248 / €111,034,368, a 65% increase on last February's equivalent total, with strong sell-through rates of 95% by lot and 98% by value. The top price of the evening was for Peter Doig's spellbinding snow scene *Cobourg 3 + 1 More*, which saw determined bidding in the saleroom and on the phone

and sold for £12,709,000 / \$15,530,398 / €14,640,768. Another highlight Mark Rothko's *No. 1 (1949)*, realised a price of £10,693,000 / \$13,066,846 / €12,318,336 demonstrating that American artists were a particular draw for collectors. This was echoed with Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Self Portrait*, from the collection of U2's Adam Clayton, selling for £2,225,000 / \$2,718,950 / €2,563,200, and Basquiat's *Alpha Particles* (£3,973,000 / \$4,855,006 / €4,576,896, both emphasising international demand for the artist ahead of his first UK retrospective at the Barbican later this year. The appeal of contemporary European masters was demonstrated by Jean Dubuffet's painting *Être et paraître (To Be and to Seem)*, achieving £10,021,000 / \$12,245,662 / €11,544,192, while his work on paper *Deux Arabes gesticulant (Two gesticulating Arabs)* set a world record at auction for the medium of £1,109,000 / \$1,353,198 / €1,277,568. The total to date for 20<sup>th</sup> Century at Christie's is £258,313,636 / \$318,704,602 / €300,478,142.

"The exceptional sell-through rates of 95% by lot and 98% by value demonstrate that Christie's is able to anticipate and meet the demands of the market today. The prices achieved for American artists demonstrate that they are a significant force and London is an international platform, with top prices achieved for Carl Andre, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Alexander Calder, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark Rothko and Andy Warhol. Jean Dubuffet was another major highlight selling above estimate. The evening opened with record prices at auction for Wolfgang Tillmans, currently the subject of a celebrated retrospective at Tate Modern, quickly followed by records for Cecily Brown, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Henry Taylor, Albert Oehlen, Carol Rama and Günther Uecker."

**Edmond Francey, Head of Department, Post-War and Contemporary Art, London**

World auction records were set for seven artists including Njideka Akunyili Crosby, whose painting *The Beautiful Ones* achieved £2,517,000 / \$3,075,774 / €2,899,584, over four times its high estimate of £600,000 / \$750,000 / €700,000, Albert Oehlen's *Selbstporträt mit Palette (Self-portrait with Palette)* which sold for £2,965,000 / \$3,623,230 / €3,415,680, Cecily Brown's triptych *The Sick Leaves* (£1,805,000 / \$2,205,710 / €2,079,360), Günther Uecker's *Spirale I* and *Spirale II* (£2,629,000 / \$3,212,638 / €3,028,608), Carol Rama's *Bricolage* (£185,000 / \$226,070 / €213,120), Henry Taylor's *Terri Philips* (£149,000 / \$182,078 / €171,648).

The evening opened with a fast pace that set the tone for the rest of the auction, Wolfgang Tillman's groundbreaking *Freischwimmer 186*, which sold for more than double its estimate to realise £269,000 / \$328,718 / €309,888, a world record price at auction for the artist. Another highlight was the joint record for Joan Miró and Josep Llorens Artigas's *Vase*, which achieved over five times its low estimate at £785,000 / \$959,270 / €904,320. Additional highlights from the evening included Thomas Schütte's *Stahlfrau No. 6 (Steel Woman, No. 6)* sold for £2,629,000 / \$3,212,638 / €3,028,608 and Neo Rauch's record for a work on paper (£353,000 / \$431,366 / €406,656).

#### **Further information**

20<sup>th</sup> Century at Christie's continues with the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Auction on 8 March and Handpicked: 100 Artists Selected by the Saatchi Gallery.

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**Images available on request**

**POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING AUCTION: ARTIST RECORD FULL DETAILS**

**Lot 1**

**Wolfgang Tillmans (B. 1968)**

Freischwimmer 186  
signed and numbered 'Wolfgang Tillmans 1/1+1' (on a label affixed to the reverse)  
c-print in artist's frame  
image: 66 7/8 x 84 1/8in. (170.6 x 213.6cm.)  
overall: 71 3/8 x 88 1/8in.(181 x 223.8cm.)  
Executed in 2011, this work is number from an edition of one plus one artist's proof  
Estimate GBP 80,000 - GBP 120,000  
Sold for £269,000 / \$328,718 / €309,888

Previous Record

Wolfgang Tillmans  
Freischwimmer 120  
Medium chromogenic print, in artist's frame  
Year of Work 2006  
Size Height 72 in.; Width 96 in. / Height 182.9 cm.; Width 243.8 cm.  
Edition 1/1  
Misc. Signed  
Sale of Phillips New York: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 [Lot 00113]  
20th Century & Contemporary Art Day Sale  
Estimate 80,000 - 120,000 USD  
Sold For 233,000 USD Premium

**Lot 3**

**Njideka Akunyili Crosby (b. 1983)**

The Beautiful Ones  
signed and dated 'Akunyili 2012' (lower left)  
acrylic, pastel, colour pencil and Xerox transfer on paper  
95 5/8 x 66 7/8in. (243 x 170cm.)  
Executed in 2012  
Estimate GBP 400,000 - GBP 600,000  
Sold for £2,517,000 / \$3,075,774 / €2,899,584  
WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION

Previous Record

1  
Njideka Akunyili  
DROWN  
Medium acrylic, colored pencil and solvent transfer on paper  
Year of Work 2012  
Size Height 60 in.; Width 72 in. / Height 152.4 cm.; Width 182.9 cm.  
Misc. Signed  
Sale of Sotheby's New York: Thursday, November 17, 2016 [Lot 00026]  
Contemporary Art Evening Auction  
Estimate 200,000 - 300,000 USD  
Sold For 1,092,500 USD Premium

**Lot 5**

**Albert Oehlen (b. 1954)**

Selbstporträt mit Palette (Self-portrait with Palette)  
signed, titled and dated 'A. Oehlen, Selbstportrait mit Palette, 02/05' (on the reverse)  
oil on board  
65 3/8 x 42 1/8in. (166.5 x 107cm.)  
Painted in 2005  
Estimate GBP 2,500,000 - GBP 3,500,000  
Sold for £2,965,000 / \$3,623,230 / €3,415,680  
WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION

Previous Record

Albert Oehlen  
Frühstück now (Self-Portrait)

Medium oil and lacquer on canvas  
Year of Work 1984  
Size Height 63 in.; Width 51.3 in. / Height 160 cm.; Width 130.2 cm.  
Misc. Signed  
Sale of Christie's London: Tuesday, July 1, 2014 [Lot 00044]  
Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction  
Estimate 300,000 - 400,000 GBP (514,315 - 685,753 USD)  
Sold For 1,082,500 GBP Premium (1,855,820 USD)

#### **Lot 9**

##### **Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985)**

Deux Arabes gesticulant (Two gesticulating Arabs)  
signed 'J. Dubuffet' (upper centre)  
distemper on paper  
12 5/8 x 15 3/4 in. (32.1 x 40cm.)  
Executed in January-April 1948  
Estimate GBP 600,000 - GBP 800,000  
Sold for £1,109,000 / \$1,355,198 / €1,277,568  
WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A WORK ON PAPER BY THE ARTIST

##### Previous Record for a Work on Paper

Jean Dubuffet  
Le Bon Marché I  
Medium gouache  
Year of Work 1961  
Size Height 19.5 in.; Width 26.1 in. / Height 49.6 cm.; Width 66.4 cm.  
Sale of Sotheby's London: Wednesday, February 7, 2007 [Lot 00035]  
Contemporary Art, Evening Sale  
Estimate 180,000 - 250,000 GBP (352,802 - 490,003 USD)  
Sold For 916,000 GBP Premium (1,795,374 USD)

##### Current Artist Record

Jean Dubuffet  
Paris Polka  
Medium oil on canvas  
Year of Work 1961  
Size Height 74.8 in.; Width 86.6 in. / Height 190 cm.; Width 220 cm.  
Misc. Signed  
Sale of Christie's New York: Monday, May 11, 2015 [Lot 0022A]  
Looking Forward to the Past  
Estimate No Estimate Received  
Sold For 24,805,000 USD Premium

#### **Lot 34**

##### **Cecily Brown (b. 1969)**

The Sick Leaves  
(i) signed numbered and dated 'Cecily Brown 2009-11 1 of 3' (on the reverse)  
(ii) signed numbered and dated 'Cecily Brown 2009-11 2 of 3' (on the reverse)  
(iii) signed numbered and dated 'Cecily Brown 2009-11 3 of 3' (on the reverse)  
oil on linen, in three parts  
overall: 103 x 249 1/4 in. (261.6 x 633cm.)  
each: 103 x 83 1/8 in. (261.6 x 211cm.)  
Painted in 2009-2011  
Estimate GBP 900,000 - GBP 1,200,000  
Sold for £1,805,000 / \$2,205,710 / € 2,079,360  
**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**

##### Previous Record

Cecily Brown  
The pyjama game (1997-1998)  
oil on canvas  
Height 72 in.; Width 98 in. / Height 183 cm.; Width 249 cm.  
Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 [Lot 00002]  
Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale  
Estimate 400,000 - 600,000 USD  
Sold For 1,608,000 USD Premium

**Lot 38****Henry Taylor (b. 1958)**

Terri Philips

signed, titled and dated 'Henry Taylor May 3, 2011 Terri Philips' (on the reverse)

acrylic and collage on canvas

93¾ x 76½in. (238 x 194.2cm.)

Executed in 2011

Estimate GBP 40,000 - GBP 60,000

Sold for £149,000 / \$182,078 / € 171,648

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**Previous Record

Henry Taylor (b. 1958)

Walking with Vito

acrylic on canvas

66 1/8 x 96in. (168 x 244.5cm.)

Painted in 2008

Sale of Christie's London: Thursday, October 6, 2016 [Lot 00002]

Post-War &amp; Contemporary Art Evening Auction

Estimate 40,000 - 60,000 GBP (50,600 - 75,901 USD)

**Sold For 137,000 GBP Premium (173,308 USD)****Lot 47****Carol Rama (b. 1918)**

Bricolage

signed and dated 'Carol rama 1967' (lower left)

mixed media on masonite

22¾ x 29 3/8in. (58 x 74.4cm.)

Executed in 1967

Estimate GBP 60,000 - GBP 80,000

Sold for £185,000 / \$226,070 / €213,120

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**Previous Record

Carol Rama (1918-2015)

Presagi di Birnam (Birnam's Premonition) (1994)

tyre and iron on canvas and iron

53 1/8 x 23 5/8in. (135 x 60cm.)

Christie's London: Thursday, October 6, 2016 [Lot 00117] The Italian Sale

Estimate 18,000 - 24,000 GBP (22,770 - 30,360 USD)

Sold For 179,000 GBP Premium (226,438 USD)

**Lot 51****Gunther Uecker (b. 1930)***Spirale I, Spirale II (Doppelspirale)*

(i) signed, titled and dated 'SPIRALE I Uecker '97' (on the reverse)

(ii) signed, titled and dated 'SPIRALE II Uecker '97' (on the reverse)

(iii) signed, titled and dated 'Doppelspirale 1997 Uecker' (lower centre)

nails and latex paint on canvas laid down on wood, in two parts, accompanied by an artist's architectural drawing

(i) (ii), each: 78¾ x 78¾in. (200 x 200cm.)

(iii) 31½ x 78¾in. (80 x 200cm.)

Executed in 1997

Estimate: £1,000,000 - 1,500,000

Sold for £2,629,000 / \$3,212,638 / €3,028,608

**WORLD RECORD PRICE FOR THE ARTIST AT AUCTION**Previous Record

Günther Uecker

Hommage à Paul Scheerbart ("Scheerbartwesen")

Nails and white paint on burlap, on wood.

Signed lower right. Verso signed, titled and dedicated "Uecker für Wolleh".

175 x 176 cm (68.8 x 69.2in)

Year of Work 1960

Sale of Ketterer Kunst GmbH & Co KG: Saturday, June 13, 2015 [Lot 00816]  
Estimate 300,000-400,000 EUR (337,913-450,551 USD)  
Sold For 1,875,000 EUR Premium (2,111,962 USD)

#### Lot 48

##### Neo Rauch (b. 1960)

Nerv

signed, titled and dated 'NERV RAUCH 01' (lower right)

oil on paper

97 5/8 x 78in. (248 x 198cm.)

Executed in 2001

Estimate GBP 250,000 - GBP 350,000

Sold for £353,000 / \$431,366 / €406,656

##### **WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A WORK ON PAPER BY THE ARTIST**

*Previous Record for a Work on Paper*

Neo Rauch

Plan

signed and dated 00

oil on paper

Medium oil on paper

Year of Work 2000

Size Height 42.9 in.; Width 59.8 in. / Height 109 cm.; Width 152 cm.

Sale of Sotheby's New York: Thursday, November 10, 2011 [Lot 00432]

Contemporary Art Day Sale

Estimate 200,000 - 300,000 USD

Sold For 242,500 USD Premium

##### *Current Artist Record*

Neo Rauch

Platz (Square) (2000)

titled 'Platz' (upper right) and signed and dated 'Rauch 00' (lower right)

oil on canvas

78.3/4 x 98.3/8in. (200 x 250cm.)

Painted in 2000

Christie's London: Thursday, February 13, 2014 [Lot 00032]

Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Auction

Estimate 450,000 - 650,000 GBP (748,752 - 1,081,530 USD)

Sold For 1,058,500 GBP Premium (1,761,231 USD)

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2016 that totalled £4 billion / \$5.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 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 in 46 countries, with 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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