

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK PRESENTS THE SPRING SEASON OF PHOTOGRAPHS

**Portrait of a Collector: The John M. Bransten Collection of Photographs**

April 6, 11 AM

**Photographs Including Property Sold to Benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation**

April 6, 1 PM

Public Exhibition Opens Saturday, April 1



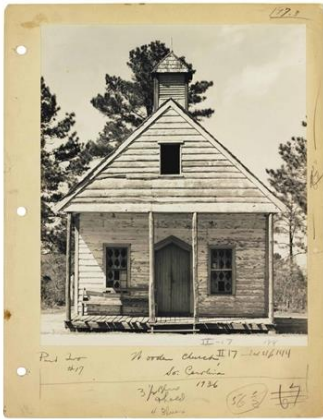
LEFT: August Sander (1876-1964), *Secretary at West German Radio, Cologne*, 1931 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), CENTER: Ansel Adams (1902-1984), *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, 1941 (estimate: \$400,000-600,000), RIGHT: Herb Ritts (1952-2002), *Backflip, Paradise Cove*, 1987 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000)

**New York** – On April 6, Christie's will present two photographs auctions in New York, including ***Portrait of a Collector: The John M. Bransten Collection of Photographs*** at 11am and ***Photographs Including Property Sold to Benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation*** at 1pm.

Christie's is honored to present John M. Bransten's visionary collection, on behalf of the Bransten family, to the general public. ***Portrait of a Collector: The John M. Bransten Collection of Photographs*** encompasses twenty-eight exquisite photographs. Each work was judiciously selected by Bransten, a voracious collector who had always been ahead of the general public. Bransten enjoyed learning all that he could about the medium and accordingly pursued seminal examples by their respective artists. His pioneering timing in the marketplace allowed him to secure blue-chip photographs well before the rest of the world caught up, and he was fortunate enough to begin acquiring works by major photographers during their lifetime.

Highlighting the collection are two prints by August Sanders that Bransten bought directly from Illeana Sonnabend in 1972. One of which, the sale's cover lot, pictured left, was once in the personal collection of the legendary dealer. *Secretary at West German Radio, Cologne, 1931* (\$80,000-120,000) likely printed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, is one of Sander's most iconic images and is representative of the vision and artistic enterprise that cemented his status as Germany's most influential photographer of the 20th Century.

Highlights | Portrait of a Collector: The John M. Bransten Collection of Photographs | April 6, 2017



Walker Evans (1903–1975)  
*Wooden Church, South Carolina, 1936*  
(estimate: \$50,000-70,000)



Edward Weston (1886–1958)  
*Nude, 1925* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000)



Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), *Portrait of Georgia No. 1, 1923*, (estimate: \$60,000-80,000)

**Photographs Including Property Sold to Benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation** will commence with a selection of 25 works sold to benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation. This sale holds great personal significance for the Oscar and Grammy Award-winning star. 'It's my 70th birthday, and the 50th anniversary of my songwriting partnership with Bernie Taupin,' Sir Elton stated. [Please see dedicated release here.](#)

The various-owner portion of the sale is representative of many of the medium's most prolific figures, ranging from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to present day. Prime works by artists such as Diane Arbus, Ansel Adams, Cindy Sherman and Richard Avedon are encompassed in the sale, with estimates from \$3,000 to \$600,000. Among the sale's top lots is a vintage mural print of Ansel Adams' *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941* (\$400,000-600,000) – pictured on page 1 center. Additional highlights include Thomas Struth's *Control Panel, Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, 2008* (\$100,000-150,000), Man Ray's *Marcel Duchamp and his 'Glider Containing a Water Mill in Neighboring Metals', c. 1923* (\$50,000-70,000) and Irving Penn's *1,000 Year Old Eggs (A), New York, 2003* (\$20,000-30,000) – all illustrated below.

Highlights | Photographs Including Property Sold to Benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation | April 6, 2017



Man Ray (1890–1976), *Marcel Duchamp and his 'Glider Containing a Water Mill in Neighboring Metals', c. 1923*.  
(estimate: \$50,000 - 70,000)



Thomas Struth (B. 1954), *Control Panel, Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, 2008*. (estimate: \$100,000 - 150,000)



Irving Penn (1917-2009), *1,000 Year Old Eggs (A), New York, 2003*, (estimate: \$20,000-30,000)

**Online content:** [‘You always find something different:’ Sir Elton John on his love for photography](#)

[10 things to know about Ansel Adams](#)

[Herb Ritts: ‘The camera was an extension of his body’](#)

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### **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 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*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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*Images available on request*

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