

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S TO AUCTION

THE ESTHER B. FERGUSON COLLECTION: A LEGACY OF ART AND PATRONAGE

MAY SALES INCLUDE IMPRESSIONIST, POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY AND AMERICAN ART



PHOTO: Brie Williams

New York – Christie's announces the collection of Esther B. Ferguson, comprised of paintings, sculpture and works on paper, will be offered in Impressionist & Modern, Post-War & Contemporary and American Art sales in May 2017. Featuring artists such as Pablo Picasso, Willem de Kooning, Auguste Rodin, Barbara Hepworth, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, James Rosenquist, and Milton Avery, among others, the collection is comprised of 17 works.

Esther Ferguson, an arts patron and philanthropist, built the collection together with her late husband, James L. Ferguson, former CEO of General Mills. Upon his retirement in 1989, the couple relocated from Manhattan to Charleston where she carefully renovated their magnificent 19th century James Island residence, Secessionville Manor. Mrs. Ferguson's first major acquisition, *Femme dans un fauteuil*, by Pablo Picasso, was followed by paintings, sculpture, and works on paper by artists. The collection reflects a boundless enthusiasm for the creative process, and a desire to live each day surrounded by works of history and importance.

SELECT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ESTHER B. FERGUSON COLLECTION



Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)
Green Head
 Irish green marble
 Height: 10 5/8 in. 27.1 cm.)
 Executed in 1970
 Estimate: \$500,000-800,000



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
Femme dans un fauteuil
 Oil on canvas
 39 1/2 x 31 1/2 in.
 Painted in Cannes, 19 April 1956
 Estimate: \$5,000,000-7,000,000



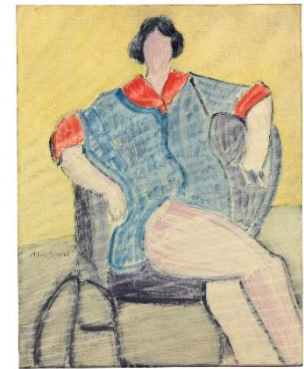
Willem de Kooning (1904-1997)
Untitled
 oil on newspaper
 11 1/2 x 15 in. (29.2 x 38.1 cm.)
 Executed circa 1976.
 Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



Joan Miró (1893-1983)
Chien I
 Watercolor, pastel and brush and black ink on paper
 18 1/4 x 29 3/8 in. (46.5 x 74.6 cm.)
 Executed on 10 November-22 December 1972
 Estimate: \$200,000-300,000



Jean (Hans) Arp (1886-1966)
Echo de torse
 Polished bronze
 Height: 13 in. (33.1 cm.)
 Conceived in 1961; this bronze version
 cast in 1964
 Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



Milton Avery (1885-1965)
Seated Woman
 Oil on canvas board
 28 x 21 7/8 in. (71.1)
 Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008)
Untitled
 acrylic on fabric-laminated paper mounted on canvas
 31 1/2 x 28 in. (80 x 71.1 cm.)
 Executed in 1985.
 \$150,000-250,000



Jasper Johns (B. 1930)
Untitled
 pigment stick over intaglio
 24 1/4 x 17 in. (61.5 x 43.1 cm.)
 Executed in 1987 and 2008.
 Estimate: \$300,000-500,000



Auguste Rodin (1840-1917)
Buste de Victor Hugo dit, a l'illustre maître
 Bronze with brown and green patina
 Height: 21 in. (53.4 cm.)
 Conceived in 1883; this bronze version cast in 1955
 Estimate: \$70,000-100,000

Note to editors:

- The first owner of Picasso's *Femme dans un fauteuil* was the legendary screen star Gary Cooper. As a young man Cooper studied art before turning to acting.
- Esther B. Ferguson is the founder of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, and has served on the boards of the Charleston Symphony, the South Carolina Arts Commission, the Young Concert Artists, and the Spoleto Festival USA. The College of Charleston is a particular focus: Mrs. Ferguson has provided financial support and leadership to the Avery Research Center for African-American History and Culture, as well as the renowned International Piano Series. In 1996, the Fergusons donated two of their historic homes in Trujillo, Spain, to create a dynamic new study abroad program for College of Charleston students and faculty. Mrs. Ferguson maintains her longtime commitment as a board member of Charleston's Gibbes Museum of Art and she established the Gibbes's Distinguished Lecture Series.

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Sale Dates

15 May 2017: Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale, New York
16 May 2017: Impressionist & Modern Works on Paper Sale, New York
16 May 2017: Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale, New York
18 May 2017: Post-War & Contemporary Art Morning Sale, New York
18 May 2017: Post-War & Contemporary Art Afternoon Sale, New York
23 May 2017: American Art Sale, New York
17-24 May 2017: American Art Online
27 May 2017: Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art, Hong Kong

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.*

Images available on request

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