

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 APRIL 2017

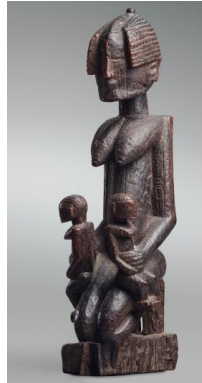
CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS

TIMELESS: MASTERWORKS OF AFRICAN ART

MAY 19, NEW YORK



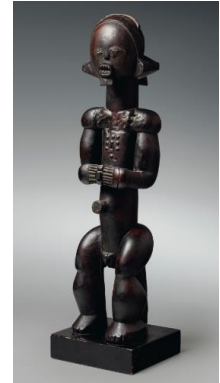
THE BÉDIAT-HUSTON BAULE MASK
Ivory Coast
wood and copper alloy
Height: 12 ½ in. (31.7 cm.)
Estimate: \$500,000-800,000



A DOGON, N'DULERI, PRIMORDIAL
MATERNITY GROUP
Circa 1652-1822 A.D.
Mali
wood Height: 15 ½ in. (39.4 cm.)
Estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000



A GREBO MASK
Maryland County, Area of Nyaake,
Liberia
wood with pigment, human teeth and
hair Height: 20 in. (50.8 cm.)
Estimate: \$250,000-350,000



A FANG NGUMBA FIGURE FOR A
RELIQUARY
Southern Cameroon base by Kichizo
Inagaki (1876-1951)
wood, metal and glass
Height: 30 in. (76.2 cm.)
Estimate: \$500,000-800,000

New York – Christie's announces the sale **Timeless: Masterworks of African Art** will take place on May 19 in New York. This exceptional sale features twelve masterworks of African Art and the exhibition and auction will coincide with Christie's 20th Century Week sales. Celebrating the diversity of form and innovation of African artistry, from the West coast, to Central and to South Africa, these rare works are fresh to the market and maintain distinguished provenance, which is further enhanced by their exhibition histories and published literature.

Susan Kloman, International Specialist, Head of Department, comments, "*Timeless is a selection of twelve important works of traditional African art. Each work of art represented in this sale is powerfully resonant with subjects, which unite us as human - visions of prosperity, love, power, fear and order. From incarnations of gods, supreme beings and oracles to works of virtuosity and idealized beauty, this presentation is highly rich and was brought together not only to present top classical examples, in addition to the Dogon maternity, such as the Bédiat-Huston Baule mask and Matisse Fang Figure, but foremost works of innovation rarely seen on the market – such as the Grebo mask, the Pindi dancing figure, the Mfumte figure and the Tsonga female figure from South Africa.*"

The top lot of the sale is an iconic **Dogon N'Duleri, Primordial Maternity Group**, circa 1652-1822, which is the work of a master carver and produced at the apex of Dogon culture (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000). This sculpture of a primordial mother presenting her twins is innovative in its telling of the origins of the Dogon cosmos and beautifully demonstrates the virtuosity of the African master sculptor. This extremely rare work has been a crown jewel in the collection of Joanne and Arnold Syrop for nearly half a century. The Dogon Maternity has been previously exhibited on loan at various points over the past 30 years at the Johnson Museum at Cornell University, the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, and The Kimbell Art Museum.

Other sale highlights include the important and stunningly beautiful Baule mask, collected in the 1930s by Roger Bédiaat and once in the collection of the famous film director, John Huston (estimate: \$500,000-800,000), as well as a Grebo polychrome mask from Liberia, the best example of its kind, which could have been seen by Basquiat when it was on view in Soho in the late 1970s (estimate: \$250,000-350,000).

PRESS CONTACT: Sara Fox | +1 212 636 2680 | sfox@christies.com

Public Exhibition:
May 6-18, 2017

Auction:
Timeless: Masterworks Of African Art
May 19, 2017
10am

[View catalogue](#)
[Browse sale](#)

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

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

