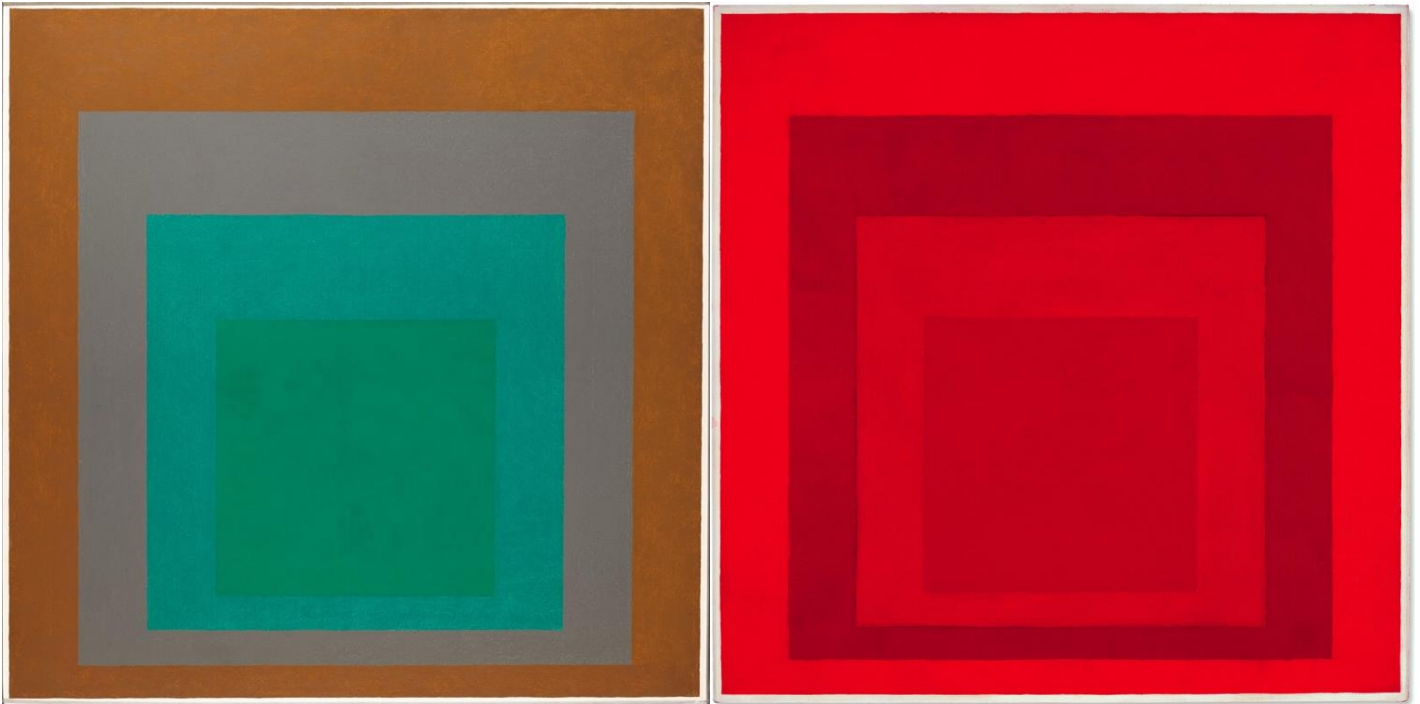


CHRISTIE'S

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SEMINAL PAINTINGS BY JOSEF ALBERS TO HIGHLIGHT LONDON AND PARIS

ONE: A GLOBAL SALE OF THE 20TH CENTURY
HONG KONG – PARIS – LONDON – NEW YORK
10 JULY 2020



Josef Albers, Homage to the Square: "Veiled" (1961, estimate: €800,000-1,200,000)
and *Josef Albers Homage to the Square: Between 2 Scarlets (1962, estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000)*

Worldwide – As part of *ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century* on 10 July 2020, Christie's will present two major paintings by Josef Albers in Paris and London, both of which are being offered at auction for the first time. Representing the depth of the artist's oeuvre and his vision as a constructive colourist *Homage to the Square: Between 2 Scarlets* (1962, estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) will highlight the London session while *Homage to the Square: "Veiled"* (1961, estimate: €800,000-1,200,000) will star in the Paris session, being seen in public for the first time since 1974.

Ana Maria Celis, Head of Sale, *ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century*: "Christie's is delighted to present two rare paintings by Josef Albers as part of *ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century*. Josef Albers' exploration of colour and form defined him as one of the great abstract painters of the last century and his appeal is universal. It's fitting that his work will highlight not only the Paris session of our relay-format auction, but as our audience

moves with us to London we witness another exceptional work by the artist. We look forward to a global response to the works as they are offered at auction for the first time.”

Painted in 1962, the year before Josef Albers published his now-legendary treatise *Interaction of Color*, *Homage to the Square: Between 2 Scarlets* is an outstanding large-scale work rendered in one of the artist’s most important hues. Widely exhibited, it belongs to the second largest size category employed throughout the series and is one of only seven red works completed on this scale. Occupying his practice for over a quarter of a century, Albers’ ‘Homages to the Square’ stand among the twentieth century’s most important investigations into the elusive properties of colour. His red paintings represent some of the finest expressions of his theories, with examples held in institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf. The colour’s mercurial qualities held particular fascination for the artist. “If one says ‘Red’ ... and there are 50 people listening,” he explained, “it can be expected that there will be 50 reds in their minds. And one can be sure that all these reds will be very different”.

Spanning four feet in height and width, *Homage to the Square: “Veiled”* (1961) is a rare work created in the largest format ever used by Josef Albers, and from his iconic series of ‘Homages to the Square’ paintings. Acquired in 1974 from the Parisian gallery Denise René, an important early champion of Op Art and Kinetic Art, it has been held in the same private collection for almost half a century. This will also mark the first time it has been seen in public since its purchase. The painting consists of four nested concentric squares. They are set gently towards the canvas’ lower edge, and phase from bright viridian at its centre to a border of burnt umber. The “Veiled” subtitle highlights an effect of transparency: the umber-green square adjoining the border creates the illusion of a sheer viridian film laid over the painting. The hues’ identities are made unstable, seeming to oscillate and glow in shifting tonal, focal and perspectival relation to one another. Such attention to the subtleties of chromatic interaction is the hallmark of Albers’ work, and the *raison-d’être* of the ‘Homages’. A smaller 1958 *Study for Homage to the Square: “Veiled”* is held in the North Carolina Museum of Art, close to Black Mountain College, where Albers taught artists including Robert Rauschenberg during the late 1940s.

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About Christie’s

Christie’s, the world’s leading art business, had auction sales in 2019 that totalled £4.5 billion / \$5.8 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. 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. Alongside regular sales online, 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.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**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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