

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | AMSTERDAM

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## ZERO, CoBrA & Co at De Westergasfabriek

Christie's December Sales of Post-War and Contemporary Art  
in Amsterdam



Günther Förg, *Untitled* (1999, €200.000-300.000); Sigmar Polke, *Untitled* (2005, €320.000-400.000); Dan van Golden, *Heerenlux*, (2003, €120.000 - 160.000); Karel Appel, *Femme, Enfant et Animal* (1953, €200,000-300,000)

**Amsterdam** – On 12 & 13 December 2017 Christie's will hold its biannual sales of Post-War and Contemporary Art at the famous Westergasfabriek, the former gasworks in the magnificent Zuiveringshal West. Christie's staged the auction preview of the collection sale of the Princes of Liechtenstein here in 2008, which was one of Christie's most successful sales in its 45 years of auctions in the Netherlands. De Westergasfabriek will be the new venue for Christie's sales with a new Christie's office to be opened at Vondelstraat in the new year.

The upcoming sales feature works from American and European masters such as German-born American artist Josef Albers and German Post-War masters Sigmar Polke, Gerhard Richter, Günther Förg and Imi Knoebel as well as Dutch and German Zero artists Jan Schoonhoven, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker. Further highlights include works by the recently deceased Dutch artist Daan van Golden and works by the co-founder of the CoBrA group Karel Appel. The works will go on public view at De Westergasfabriek from 8–11 December 2017, open daily from 10am – 5pm.

Leading the evening sale on 12 December 2017 are two large scale works: Günther Förg's (1952–2013) monumental 300 x 200 cm painting *Untitled* (1999, estimate €200,000–300,000, *illustrated above*) from the artist's most distinctive series of paintings on lead. The painting was commissioned directly from the artist by the present owner and is offered on the market for the first time. Sigmar Polke's work *Untitled* (2005, estimate: €320,000 - 400,000, *illustrated above*) measures 200 x 150cm and beautifully showcases the artist's experimentation with unusual pigments. The work is

covered in shimmering pigment, which changes with light and includes both a pattern of raster dots, and scattered hand-painted spots – a motif which has defined Sigmar Polke's work.

Further highlights include a rare painting from the Dutch artist Daan van Golden, who passed away earlier this year aged 81. Van Golden, who represented the Netherlands at the at the 1999 Venice Biennale and had his first solo shows in the USA (Greene Naftali) and the UK (Camden Arts Center) in 2009, aged over 70, was notorious for producing only 3 to 4 pieces a year. The 2003 painting *Heerenlux* (estimate: €120,000 – 160,000, *illustrated on the previous page*) is from Van Golden's most distinctive series, which features a pattern Van Golden painted from a found piece of fabric, deliberately omitting light and shade.

Minimal Art is very well represented in this sale by German, Dutch and American artists, including Imi Knoebel, Josef Albers and Jan Schoonhoven. Otto Piene's painting *Rasterbild* (1959-1960, estimate: €150,000 - 200,000) a great example of German ZERO art, from the period when the Zero group was most active, with Piene participating in exhibitions alongside Günther Uecker and Heinz Mack. *Rasterbild*, which was acquired directly from the artist by the present owner's family and is for the first time offered at auction, showcases the famous Rasterbild technique - a series of raised dots which seem to actively vibrate, animating the surface of the work.

From Karel Appel, the co-founder of the CoBrA group, which called for a fresh start freed of convention and espousing the spontaneity of naive art, Christie's will offer outstanding works in the evening and day sales, including *Deux Têtes* (Two heads) (1959, estimate: €180,000–250,000). This gestural and expressive work originates from the period Karel Appel was travelling to the United States and was inspired by Abstract Expressionism. While adapting the free and spontaneous technique of Abstract Expressionism, Appel never quite fully gave in to abstraction and figurative motifs such as in *Deux Têtes* remained the key drivers behind Appel's work.

Christie's Amsterdam Post-War and Contemporary sales have been a success since the inauguration in 2009, with average sell-through rates of 90% season after season. This proven success is a result of a sale concept that differs from the Post-War sales at other sale locations; Christie's Amsterdam Post-War sales have been the place of innovation, introducing artists such as Günther Förg, Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Günther Uecker or Imi Knoebel to an international audience for the first time. The success of this model is proven by the most recent sale with 64% of lots selling at their high estimate or above. Today the Christie's Amsterdam Post-War & Contemporary sales continue to be the go-to destination for works by internationally acclaimed Dutch as well as German and Belgian artists.

## Christie's Amsterdam new offices at Vondelstraat



From January Christie's Amsterdam will operate from new offices at Vondelstraat 73, built by and formerly the home of the architect of the Rijksmuseum and Amsterdam Central station P.J.H. Cuypers (1827-1921). Headed by Christie's veterans Arno Verkade, Managing Director, Auctioneer & Specialist for Post-War and Con-temporary Art, and Jetske Homan van der Heide, Chairman & Senior Specialist Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's Amsterdam team will be best place to meet the needs of collectors across the region. Christie's Amsterdam's team of specialists of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Impressionist & Modern Art, Old Masters and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art,

Jewellery, Watches as well as Wine will assist clients across the Netherlands with buying and selling at Christie's international auctions and online only sales as well as providing appraisals of artworks or precious objects. Twice a year, in Spring and Autumn, Christie's Amsterdam will hold its exceptionally successful sales of Post-War and Contemporary Art at De Westergasfabriek.

The catalogue of the 12 & 13 December sales of Post-War and Contemporary Art can be viewed online: [http://www.christies.com/salelanding/index.aspx?lid=1&intsaleid=27148&dt=21112017084010&saletitle=&cid=em\\_eml54101005284083-hero-cta\\_4&cid=dm141409&bid=114002384](http://www.christies.com/salelanding/index.aspx?lid=1&intsaleid=27148&dt=21112017084010&saletitle=&cid=em_eml54101005284083-hero-cta_4&cid=dm141409&bid=114002384)

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#### AUCTIONS & VIEWING AT DE WESTERGASFABRIEK

Post-War and Contemporary Art, Amsterdam  
Evening Sale: 12 December 2017, 7 pm  
Day sale: 13 December 2017, 10.30 am and 2 pm  
Viewing: 8–11 December 2017, 10 am – 5 pm

De Westergasfabriek  
Zuiveringshal West  
Pazzanistraat 37, 1014 DB  
Amsterdam

#### CHRISTIE'S AMSTERDAM - NEW OFFICE LOCATION:

Christie's Amsterdam  
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Phone: +31 (0)20 5755255  
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#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 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.

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.

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*Images available on request*

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