



CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | Milan
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 April 2018

DURING ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN ITALY

CHRISTIE'S SETS A NEW RECORD PRICE FOR A WORK OF POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART AT AUCTION IN ITALY



PIERO MANZONI (1933 – 1963)
Achrome
Executed circa 1958
Estimate: €1,800,000-2,500,000
Price realised: €2,970,000

Milan - On 11 April, *Achrome* by Piero Manzoni fetched € 2.9 million, becoming the most expensive work of Post-War Art ever sold at auction in Italy.

Christie's [Milan Modern and Contemporary](#) sale offers top quality works of 20th century Italian art and the outstanding results achieved for the Manzoni confirm Christie's Italy as an international stage for buying the best possible Post-War Italian art. The exceptional provenance and important exhibition history of this work gave it a rarity that made it appeal to international bidders. Works of art of this calibre are in high demand and Christie's has been pleased to have had the opportunity to offer it to a global audience in Milan, especially as this success coincides with the 60th anniversary of Christie's in Italy.

Mariolina Bassetti, Chairman Christie's Italy and International Director, Post-War & Contemporary Art: *"It is exciting to celebrate such a triumph during Christie's 60th anniversary year in Italy. We are truly pleased with the result of *Achrome* by Piero Manzoni, as it demonstrates that our sale continues to guide discerning collectors in buying the best possible Post-War Italian Art. Manzoni's work exemplifies the quality of Italian art offered during the annual Milan Modern and Contemporary sale, and the price it achieved is a gratifying result for Italy from a cultural and economic standpoint. Once again, Milan maintains its status as an international hub for collecting art and Christie's Italy continues to quench the thirst of collectors within the Modern and Post-War Art market."*

Key Points

- Never offered before on the art market, *Achrome* by Piero Manzoni was in the same collection since 1976 and had been exhibited in the 2014 retrospective of the artist in Milan, as well as documented in all catalogues raisonnés of the artist's oeuvre. As such, this work appealed to an international audience, and fetched the highest price ever achieved at auction in Italy for a work of modern art.
 - Christie's is committed to promoting Italian art on an international stage and works closely with Cultural Institutions to promote Italian Art. With the successful results of *Achrome* by Piero Manzoni, the interest around Italian Art continues to rise and be stimulated.
 - In order to meet the ever-growing appetite for Italian art as well as educate our global collectors, the sale featured a carefully curated selection of works of art by post-war and figurative artists.
 - 6 new world artist record prices were set for works by Osvaldo Licini (lot 8), Leoncillo (lot 18), Antonio Donghi (lot 29), Piero Dorazio (lot 32), Fausto Pirandello (lot 43), and Claudio Parmiggiani (lot 56).
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PRESS CONTACTS: Alex Deyzac | +44 207 389 2265 | adeyzac@christies.com

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2017 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$6.6 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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Images available on request

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