

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S SPRING AUCTION SERIES IN NEW YORK ACHIEVES A COMBINED TOTAL OF **\$1.79 BILLION**

**20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY WEEK ACHIEVES A TOTAL OF  
\$961,006,000 (£710,569,438/ €809,728,502)**



20<sup>th</sup> Century Week's Three Top Lots Exhibited in Christie's New York Galleries

5 Works Sold Over \$50M / 18 Works Over \$20M / 33 Works Over \$10M

New Audiences Converged at Christie's this Season, With Over 85,000  
Visitors Attending Global Tours and Sold-Out Rockefeller Center  
Exhibition

Over 2,100 New Sale Registrants Over Two Weeks

**New York** – Christie's Spring auction series in New York achieved a grand total of \$1.79 billion across two weeks of sales, marking another crowning achievement in the company's more than 250-year history. New clients flocked to Christie's from 52 countries around the world to participate in 5 evening sales, 7 day sale sessions and 2 online-only sales, including a week of sales devoted to the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller. The record-breaking \$832 million result marked the most significant philanthropic event in

auction history. The following week of sales were devoted to the best of Impressionist, Modern, Post-War, and Contemporary Art and realized a combined total of \$961,006,000 (£710,569,438/ € 809,728,502), a 14% increase over May 2017.

The exceptional quality and provenance of this season's sales drew new audiences to Christie's gallery exhibitions in Hong Kong, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Beijing, Shanghai and New York. These platforms were complemented by a dynamic digital approach that nurtured an international community of tastemakers. Through an innovative mix of live and online auctions, the decorative arts were juxtaposed with Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary art, celebrating the diversity of today's collectors, at every price point.

Philanthropy was at the heart of this historic fortnight of auctions with all of the estate proceeds from the Rockefeller Collection sales directed to philanthropies Peggy and David Rockefeller supported during their lifetime. In addition, throughout 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Collections of Joan and Preston Robert Tisch and Masterpieces by Richard Diebenkorn from the Zucker Collection were both sold to benefit charitable foundations.

Christie's superior global reach was confirmed by the participation of collectors from 52 countries and 6 continents, including the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Across the two weeks, 33 lots sold for over \$10 million, counting 18 lots above \$20 million and 5 lots over \$50 million.

Over 20<sup>th</sup> Century Week, Christie's achieved new record prices for the major artists of the era, including Kazimir Malevich and Constantin Brancusi in the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale, and Joan Mitchell and Richard Diebenkorn in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale. Top prices were also achieved for Francis Bacon, whose *Study for Portrait* became the sale's top lot after a spirited bidding battle in the Post-War and Contemporary sale, and Vincent van Gogh, whose *Vue de l'asile et de la Chapelle Saint-Paul de Mausole (Saint-Rémy)* attracted international bidding before ultimately selling to a client in Asia.

The day sessions during 20<sup>th</sup> Century week achieved exceptionally strong results pointing to strength and demand for the core market.

**Marc Porter, Chairman of Christie's Americas, commented:** "The last two weeks at Christie's have seen historic results achieved for the Rockefeller Collection, followed by outstanding results for the Impressionist and Modern and Post-War and Contemporary Art sales. It has been an honor to share in the philanthropic mission of our major estate clients this season, including the Rockefeller, Tisch and Zucker families. Our success is a testament to strong partnerships and collaborations across our teams, and our colleagues worldwide have been invigorated by the power of both great collecting and great philanthropy. This has been an unforgettable season both for Christie's and for the buyers and sellers who converged in our salesrooms over the past two weeks, including so many who were new to Christie's and have now become part of our client community."

### **Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale**

The '20<sup>th</sup> Century' season was launched by the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale which totaled \$415,852,500 (£307,355,876/ €348,541,563) with standout sell-through rates of 89% by lot and 99% by value.

The auction was led by Kazimir Malevich's *Suprematist Composition*, \$85,812,500 (£63,423,873/ €71,922,672), and Constantin Brancusi's *La jeune fille sophistiquée (Portrait de Nancy Cunard)*, \$71,000,000 (£52,475,979 / €59,507,761), both setting new world records for the artists at auction.

For a replay of the sale, visit Christie's [Facebook Live feed](#). The top ten results can be found [here](#).

## **STATISTICS AT A GLANCE:**

### **Impressionist and Modern Art Day and Online Sale Totals**

- Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale: \$27,404,625 (£20,329,842/ €23,115,028) 86% by lot/ 87% by value
  - World auction record set by:
    - Dorothea Tanning
- Works on Paper: \$16,692,375 (£12,383,068/ €14,079,547) 85% by lot/ 94% by value
- Picasso Ceramics Online Only Sale: \$1,301,900 (£1,205,463/ €1,376,639) (100% sold)

### **Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale**

The Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale achieved a total of \$397,159,500 (£293,539,911/ €336,103,198) selling 91% by lot / 93% by value. Top prices were achieved for icons of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with work by Francis Bacon, Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko, Richard Diebenkorn, and Jeff Koons reflecting the breadth of artistic practice at this time.

Seven artist auction records were set in the Evening Sale for works by George Condo, Richard Diebenkorn, Robert Gober, Morris Louis, whose record was set and broken again only five lots later, Joan Mitchell, Nicolas de Staël and David Wojnarowicz. Two further medium records were set for a sculpture by Jean Dubuffet and a work on paper by Richard Diebenkorn.

To watch a playback of the auction, see Christie's [Facebook Live feed](#). The Top Ten results can be viewed [here](#).

### **Post War and Contemporary Art Day Sale Totals**

- Post-War and Contemporary Art Morning Session - \$60,746,250 (£44,997,222 / €51,386,828) 85% by lot / 91% by value
- Post-War and Contemporary Art Afternoon Session - \$41,523,375 (£30,758,056/ €35,125,700) 78% by lot / 90% by value
  - World auction records set for:
    - Josh Smith
    - Jonas Wood
    - Alex Da Corte
    - Edmund de Waal
    - Aaron Garber-Maikovska

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Week Collections:**

- Joan and Preston Robert Tisch Collection – Running Total: \$105,176,750
- Property from The Collection of Dr. and Mrs Jerome S. Coles: \$37,862,500
- The Collection of Brad Grey – Running Total: \$11,702,500
- Masterpieces by Richard Diebenkorn – Property Sold to Benefit The Donald and Barbara Zucker Family Foundation: \$46,068,750

### **The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller**

Over 1,500 objects represented the Rockefeller family's deep, life-long passion for Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Modern works of art, American paintings, English and European furniture, Asian works of art, European ceramics and Chinese export porcelain, silver, and American decorative arts and furniture, among other categories.

The series of sales were highlighted by Picasso's, *Fillette à la corbeille fleurie*, which realized \$115,000,000, Monet's *Nymphéas en fleur*, which totaled \$84,687,500, and Matisse's *Odalisque couchée aux magnolias*, which sold for \$80,750,000. Furniture, silver and porcelain of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries interpreted through modern eyes proved irresistible to the marketplace. The Art of the Americas saw particular interest in works commissioned by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller – one the first true pioneers and patrons of Modernism in the United States.

- The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller raised a total of \$832 million, establishing the highest auction total ever for a private collection at auction.
- Twenty-two notable records were set spanning Impressionist & Modern art, American painting, Latin American art, and contemporary sculpture – as well as European and American decorative art, Islamic painting, and Chinese Works of Art
- A money clip with the outline of the Rockefeller Center was offered in the Online sale, estimated at \$800-1,000, was sold against 13 bidders for \$75,000.
- Notable results in decorative arts include a Regency mahogany four-pedestal dining table, which sold for \$468,500, and an English wicker picnic hamper from Asprey & Company, which realized \$212,500 against an estimate of \$10,000.

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#### 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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