

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIES CURATES **XHIBITION: ANTONI TÀPIES** TO COINCIDE WITH ARCO ART FAIR IN MADRID AND TO TOUR INTERNATIONALLY

MADRID: 25 Feb – 16 March

LONDON: 27 June – 19 July



Antoni Tàpies (1923-2012)
Gran creu negra
oil and acrylic on wood
200 x 200cm., Executed in 1990
Collection: Private Collection, Barcelona.



Antoni Tàpies (1923-2012)
Gran ics gratada sobre gris (Large X Scraped into Grey)
mixed media on canvas
167.6 x 195.5cm. Executed in 1965
Collection: Fondo Cultural Villar Mir, Madrid.

Madrid – On 25 February, Christie's will present *Xhibition: Antoni Tàpies*, a major exhibition showcasing an important corpus of work by the Post-War painter. In association with Galería Javier López & Fer Francés, *Xhibition* explores the relevance and versatility of the sign 'X' - or cross, showcasing some of the most striking and significant examples of Tapies' Post-War oeuvre, some of which are important museum loans. Coinciding with ARCO art fair in Madrid and touring to London in June, this pioneering initiative is the first travelling private selling exhibition organized by Christie's. This is an opportunity not to miss for Post-War collectors and art enthusiasts who are travelling to Madrid during one of the busiest calendar moments in the art world.

Guillermo Cid, Specialist, Head of Post-War & Contemporary Art, Madrid, "Christie's strongly believes that Tàpies' works are among the most beautiful examples of Post-War art, and we hope to generate greater awareness

of the artist with this show on an international scale. Tàpies' style encompasses a series of techniques and approaches that singles him out as a unique voice within the European abstraction of his period. He responded to the visual appearance of Post-War abstraction, combining materialistic concerns with a symbolic cosmos inherited from the surreal art of Paul Klee and Joan Miró. The result was a radical and solemn language unlike everything else that was being done at the time. Whilst the matter is the flesh of his paintings, the crosses and the X symbols – in all their guises – are their bones and skeletons. Christie's is thrilled to collaborate with Galería Javier López & Fer Francés in this landmark show."



Antoni Tàpies (1923-2012)
 Jo parlo amb la mà (I speak with the hand)
 sand and oil on panel
 130 x 160cm.
 Executed in 1999
 Collection: Private Collection, New York



Antoni Tàpies (1923-2012)
 Autoretrato
 ink on paper, 48 x 34cm.
 Executed in 1947
 Collection: Neues Museum
 Nuremberg, loan from a Private
 Collection

Tobias Sirtl, Specialist, Post War & Contemporary Art, Munich,

comments: "Tàpies received the Rubens Prize of Siegen, West Germany, in 1972. That prize only came to confirm what had been obvious since the beginning of the '60s: that the well-informed European art scene of the time saw in Tàpies one of the champions of Post-War abstraction. Many of the Spanish-Catalan painter's masterpieces are housed in major museums of central Europe and hang on the walls of the most renowned collections. We are grateful to those who have loaned us a selection of works to make this a landmark show within the artists' wider exhibition history. Tàpies' unique pictorial idiom enriched the language of Informalism, incorporating innovative features common to contemporary movements such as Zero or Spatialism. His oeuvre is marked by a sober colour palette, the use of raw materials and the conception of his paintings as objects, rather than depictions of a reality outside the canvas. This show celebrates the pioneering language that brought Tàpies early critical acclaim in Europe and beyond."

Notes to Editors: Xhibition: Antoni Tàpies is possible thanks to the sponsorship of **Vbospagna** and **Masaveu Wineries**. Vbospagna, a company dedicated to the manufacture of design luminaires and the realization of lighting projects, has been responsible for giving light to the exhibition, generating a dark environment in which the art is given relevance through specialized technical lighting. Masaveu Wineries, through their branches Fillaboa Wineries and Murua Wineries, collaborate with Christie's by providing the wine during the official opening of the show.

Venues and dates in Madrid:

Plaza de Sánchez Bustillo 7, 28012, Madrid, February 25th-March 16th
 Galería Javier López & Fer Francés, Calle Guecho 12B, 28023, Madrid, February 25th-March 15th

Venue and dates in London:

Christie's, 8 King Street, St James SW1Y 6QT, London, June 27th-July 19th

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 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.