

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER THE CLARKE COLLECTION

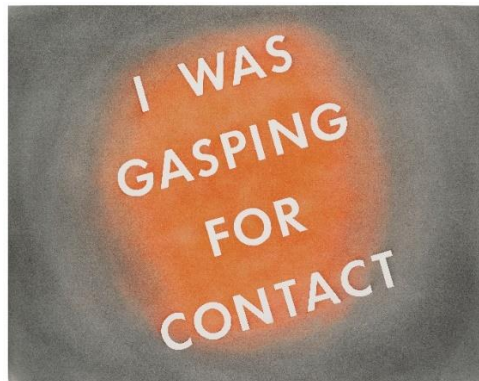
*FEATURING THIRTYFIVE WORKS BY ED RUSCHA*

**ADDITIONAL ARTWORKS AND DESIGN OBJECTS TO BE OFFERED ACROSS FOUR SALES FROM  
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2019**

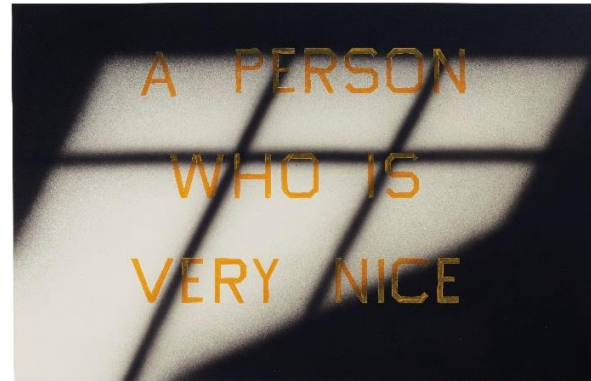
**FROM THE COLLECTION OF LAURA WEIR CLARKE AND ARCHITECT FRED CLARKE — OF  
PELLI CLARKE PELLI — THE CONNECTICUT FIRM BEHIND SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC  
MODERN BUILDINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW YORK, AND KUALA LUMPUR**



**ED RUSCHA**  
*Wavy Robot*  
gunpowder on paper  
Executed in 1975  
Estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000



**ED RUSCHA**  
*I Was Gaspng For Contact*  
pastel on paper  
Executed in 1976  
Estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000



**ED RUSCHA**  
*A Person Who is Very Nice*  
pastel, gouache and acrylic on paper  
Executed in 1988  
Estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000

### PREVIEW EXHIBITIONS OF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Los Angeles: 10 – 14 September ; 15 – 17 October
  - Hong Kong: 3 – 6 October
  - Chicago: 16 – 19 October
- San Francisco: 22 – 25 October

**New York** – Christie's is honored to be entrusted with **The Clarke Collection**, an exceptional selection of Post-War & Contemporary Art featuring 35 pristine works by Edward Ruscha. The collection of works on paper, prints, sculpture, and design will be offered across several New York sales throughout the fall beginning with a single artist sale, *Thirtyfive Works by Ed Ruscha from The Clarke Collection*, preceding the *Post-War to Present* sale on 27 September. This will be followed by the *Prints & Multiples* sale in October, *Post-War & Contemporary Art Day* sale in November, and the *Design* sale in December. Highlights by **Ed Ruscha** to be offered in September include *A Person Who is Very Nice*, executed in 1988 (estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000), *3 Forks*, executed in 1967 (estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000), and *Wavy Robot*, executed in 1975 (estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000).

Additional highlights of The Clarke Collection to be offered throughout the fall include **Vija Celmins' *Untitled (Long Ocean #5)***, executed 1973 (estimate: \$1.5 – 2 million), **Andreas Gursky's *PCF, Paris***, executed in 2003 (estimate: \$300,000 – 500,000), **Ken Price's *Slate Cup II***, executed in 1972 (estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000), **Gerrit Thomas Rietveld's *'Hogestoel' Chair, 1960*** (estimate: \$30,000 – 50,000), and **Donald Judd's *Frame Chair, no. 72*** (estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000).

Clarke's globally-renowned firm Pelli Clarke Pelli, which he established with the late Argentine-American architect César Pelli, designed the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur (once the tallest building in the world), Canary Wharf in London, the World Financial Center in New York, the Salesforce Tower in San Francisco, and The International Finance Centre in Hong Kong.

### **Laura Weir Clarke and Fred Clarke**

The Clarke Collection represents Laura and Fred Clarke's lifelong passion for self-discovery through art. After moving from their native Texas to Los Angeles in the mid-Sixties, the Clarkes quickly immersed themselves in California's dynamic cultural scene. So curious to enrich their knowledge, they would occasionally knock on studio doors of artists whose work they admired in order to get a closer look at their creative process. The young couple eventually found themselves surrounded by progressive minds who would influence and inspire them from artists Chris Burden and Larry Bell to gallerist Margo Leavin and architect Frank Gehry.

The Clarkes' interest in **Ed Ruscha's** work began during that time with the discovery at Pickwick Bookshop in Hollywood of a book called "Some Los Angeles Apartments" for only \$4 "years before we could afford to start buying," explained Fred Clarke. "We could buy an extraordinary work of art for just a few dollars. I was a collector before I was a buyer. To be a buyer you have to have money, but to be a collector all you really need is to look and to do the work. It's not about cost, it's about value."

From the beginning, the Clarkes had a deeply emotional connection to Ruscha's iconic Pop Art imagery and saw the images, attitudes, ideas, and atmosphere of the artist's work connected to their own journey. Driving between Texas and Los Angeles the pair encountered many instances of long, flat roads and endless horizons, which are often reflected in Ruscha's work.

Similarly, the artist was influenced by his own trips along Route 66 from California to visit family in Oklahoma where he, too, was captured by the seemingly endless stretches of bleak pavement punctuated by angular gas stations, which ultimately served as inspiration for his *Standard Station* series. This parallel experience inspired the Clarkes' love affair with Ruscha's art and launched a collection that eventually grew to include great works by other contemporary artists including **Tony Smith, Thomas Demand, Andreas Gursky, Ken Price, and Donald Judd.**

But at the heart of the couple's collecting has always been a deep respect for and admiration of the artists' craft. At their home in New Haven, Conn., the couple constructed a custom-designed set of racks to carefully house their prized collection where they preferred to visit it at whim rather than have it all on continual display. "What I realized a long time ago was that if I see something every day, I actually stop looking at it," noted Fred Clarke. "There's a difference between seeing and looking."

A portion of proceeds from the sale of The Clarke Collection will be used by the family's charitable trust to support several educational institutions that have had an impact on the couple and their sons.

[Click here](#) to view Christie's conversation with Laura and Fred Clarke.



**VIJA CELMINS**  
*Untitled (Long Ocean #5)*  
graphite on paper with acrylic ground  
Executed 1972  
Estimate: \$1,500,000 – 2,000,000



**ED RUSCHA**  
*Standard Station (Engberg 5)*  
screenprint in colors  
Executed 1966  
Estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000



**DONALD JUDD**  
*Frame Chair, no. 72*  
Executed 1993  
Estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000

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#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 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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*Images available on request*

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