

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S PRIVATE SALES TO PRESENT

FRAMING THE FIGURE

*An exhibition that examines the significance of the human figure
open online and in person from February 5 - March 9*

NEW YORK – From February 5 through March 9, Christie's Private Sales will present ***Framing The Figure***, an exhibition of over 40 works, both on loan and available via private sale, which may be experienced online and in person at Christie's New York. Focusing on the artistic exploration of the human form, *Framing the Figure* presents an exciting selection of works from artists spanning the 20th and 21st centuries. Ranging from the flurried figures of Willem de Kooning to the quiet considerations of Alex Katz, and from the piercing narratives of Diane Arbus to the private, atmospheric world of Salman Toor, these works demonstrate the richness and continued importance of painting the human figure in defining and celebrating contemporary society.

The *Framing the Figure* digital exhibition is now open for [browsing](#). To visit the exhibition in person at Rockefeller Center please book an appointment [here](#).



Tropes of femininity inspire Julie Curtiss' subversive and wildly imaginative paintings. The scene depicted in *Etalage* takes place at Rockaway Beach, depicting a group of women lounging topless, their tan lines and exposed nipples playfully juxtaposed against the ocean horizon, where pointy sailboats glide across the water. The title, *Etalage*, is the French word for "display," which is typically used when referring to merchandise or the shops in which it is sold. With this aptly titled canvas, Curtiss is commenting on the fetishization of female anatomy. This work was included in Curtiss' debut solo exhibition at Anton Kern Gallery Wildlife, April-June 2019.

Highlighting the works being exhibited on loan is Salman Toor's *Rooftop Party with Ghosts 2*, 2015. The present work portrays a location that art historians often refer to as the third space, a place created by non-Western artists whose work represents a fusion of periods, methods and ideologies. The artist's self-described role as "an apprentice from the East" is reflected by the Persian text in the background of the composition, which quotes the 17th century Sufi poet, Bulleh Shah, whose works are highly revered for their perennial relevance. Paraphrased by Toor as "Come let us go to a place where all are blind. Where no one is



ahead and no one is behind.” By lending an air of grandeur to his images, Toor intends to “stretch” the viewers’ imaginations to embrace his composite characters made up of an amalgamation of cultural references, conceived as agents of change. Christie’s recently set the world auction record for Salman Toor with the sale of *Rooftop Party with Ghosts I*, 2015, which sold for \$822,000 in the December 2020 Day Sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art in New York.

Jacob Lawrence is represented in the exhibition by *Moving Day*, year which has also been known as the title *Dispossessed*. This work explores the forced movement and substandard living conditions commonly endured by black families, a topic that would become the focus of Lawrence’s seminal *title* series and dominate much of the latter part of Lawrence’s career. The success of his work from the late 1930’s foreshadows the international recognition that Lawrence would receive for his famous Migration series of the early 1940s and thereafter.

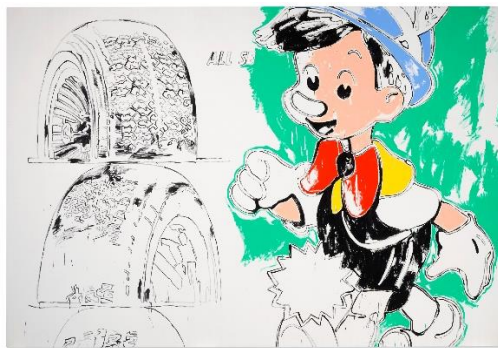
Private Sales are an integral and complimentary part of Christie’s global business, contributing \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion) in 2020, a record year for the platform at Christie’s and an increase of 84% YoY. Private Sales offer collectors Christie’s expertise alongside a bespoke service not restricted to the sales calendar, including a regular cadence of curated exhibitions, such as *Framing the Figure*.



Additional Highlights to Include:



TOM WESSELMANN
Bedroom Painting #42
oil on canvas
Painted in 1978.



ANDY WARHOL
Pinocchio with Tires
acrylic on canvas
Painted circa 1985-1986.



DIANE ARBUS
Family on their lawn one Sunday in Westchester, N.Y., 1968
gelatin silver print, flush-mounted on board

About Christie’s

Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. 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 clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie’s global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie’s accessible to all.

Private Sales are an integral and complementary part of Christie’s global business and in 2020 contributed \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion), a record year for the platform at Christie’s and an increase of 84% YoY. A seamless service for buying and selling art outside of the auction calendar. From fine and decorative arts to jewellery and watches, our specialists will use Christie’s global network to help shape your collection, connect you with the right people and broker a sale discreetly — at a pace that suits you. We invite you to contact a [Private Sales specialist](#) to learn more about current buying and selling opportunities.

**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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