

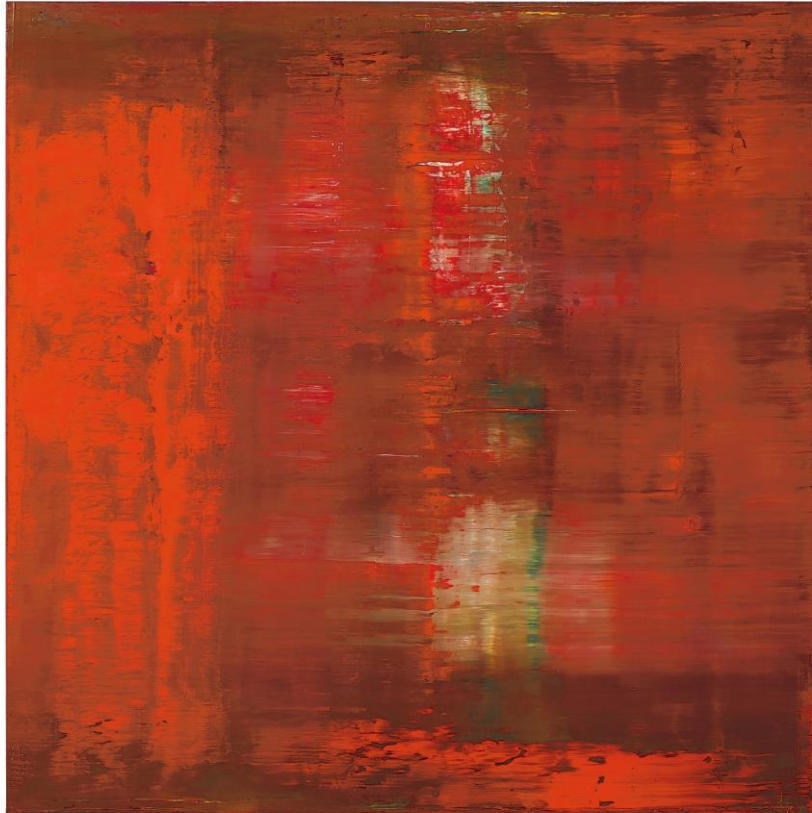
# CHRISTIE'S

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## GERHARD RICHTER, *ABSTRAKTES BILD 747-1*

### From the Inaugural Survey at Tate Britain 1991 to Christie's Asia 2021

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art Evening Sale | Hong Kong | 1 December



GERHARD RICHTER (B.1932)  
*ABSTRAKTES BILD 747-1*

200 x 200 cm  
Oil on canvas  
Painted in 1991

HK\$128,000,000 – 166,000,000 / US\$16,500,000 – 21,000,000

**Hong Kong** – Christie's 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art Department is proud to present a rare, museum-quality masterwork by the legendary Abstract Art titan **Gerhard Richter**: *Abstraktes Bild 747-1*, as a focal point of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art Evening Sale on 1 December. Executed in 1991, the iconic painting was chosen by Richter to open his first ever retrospective at Tate Gallery in London in the very same year, and embodies a crescendo in his career when the artist reached new heights in his technical investigation of his practice. Since then, *Abstraktes Bild* has been toured to international level museums and featured in Richter's solo exhibitions in London, Paris, Bonn, Stockholm, and Madrid.

In this majestic canvas, the artist reveals layer upon layer of shimmering beauty with a rare display of searing and luxurious tones together for dramatic effect, in his unique way of carefully and continuously manipulating the painted surface. The masterwork fully exhibits Richter's most

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accomplished use of colour and his ability to harness its emotive power, placing him alongside Titian, Rubens, Matisse, and Rothko.

**Cristian Albu, International Director and Co-Head of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art Department, Christie's Asia Pacific**, commented, "Ultimately engaging, breathtakingly beautiful, intensely dramatic, inspirational, and inexplicable, Gerhard Richter's *Abstraktes Bild* is as close a manifestation of sublime as has been achieved in the art of painting. Painted in 1991, *Abstraktes Bild* is the first of four pivotal paintings completed that year which testify to his ceaseless technical exploration in the field of abstractions. The only work from the series to be included in Richter's seminal retrospective at the Tate Gallery in London in 1991, it is among his most striking and powerful works.

The offering of *Abstraktes Bild* in our Hong Kong saleroom, where we have witnessed a surging demand among Asian collectors particularly for museum quality works of art by Western artists in recent years, demonstrates Christie's unparalleled expertise in sourcing the most sought-after works in our worldwide networks, and presenting them in Asia – a fundamental market that drives Christie's global business. We look forward to unveiling the work to our clients in London, New York, and Shanghai, ahead of the auction in Hong Kong."

## **Gerhard Richter's *Abstraktes Bild* 747-1:**

- **Created in 1991, one of the golden years in Richter's artistic career:** 9 out of the top 10 world records for the artist are works from 1986 - 1992. When first offered at auction in February 2007, this work achieved a world record for the artist. At a HK\$128 - 166 Million, *Abstraktes Bild* 747-1 will be Richter's most valuable artwork by estimate, to ever be offered at auction in Asia.
- **Prestigious provenance and rich museum exhibition history:** The work was selected to appear in Tate Britain Museum as part of Gerhard Richter's first ever retrospective 1991, from the beginning of its creation. It travelled to four other European capitals, attesting to its quality and importance. The painting was acquired from Galerie Liliane & Michel Durant-Dessert, cutting-edge gallery owners and pioneers in their field, who have exhibited some of the most radical 20<sup>th</sup> Century avant-garde art in their gallery in Paris. *Abstraktes Bild* 747-1 has been part of the most distinguished European, American, and Asian collections, testifying to its universal masterpiece quality.
- **Unique composition and catalyst to a rare series:** *Abstraktes Bild* 747-1 is the first of the four pivotal paintings executed in 1991 that are testaments to Richter's constant exploration in the field of abstraction. All four paintings were reunited for the Reina Sofia Museum exhibition in Madrid in 1993-1994; however, the present work is the only one which has been shown in all five European museum exhibitions: London, Paris, Bonn, Stockholm, and Madrid between 1991 and 1994. *Abstraktes Bild* underwent several iterations in which each new sweeping accretion of paint introduced new bands and spreads of colour.

## **Gerhard Richter with the Present Work**



Thomas Struth, Gerhard Richter in the Reina Sofia, Madrid 1995

Photo: © Thomas Struth

Artwork: © Gerhard Richter 2021 (28092021)

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## Notes to Editor:

### Public Preview (by appointment - [infoasia@christies.com](mailto:infoasia@christies.com)):

**London** | 7 – 14 October | 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT

**New York** | 30 – 31 October | 20 Rockefeller Plaza, NY 10020

**Shanghai** | 11 – 12 November | Apmc Building, No. 97 Yuanmingyuan Road

**Hong Kong** | 26 – 1 December | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

### Auction:

**Hong Kong** | 1 December | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

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*\*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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