

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | 15 MAY 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21ST CENTURY EVENING SALE TOTALS \$98,802,500

**BASQUIAT MASTERPIECE LEADS THE SALE ACHIEVING
\$67,110,000**

9 NEW RECORDS SET

ROBIN F. WILLIAMS | VOJTĚCH KOVAŘÍK | SIMONE LEIGH

DANIELLE MCKINNEY | EL ANATSUI | PETER SAUL | REBECCA ACKROYD

DIANE ARBUS | WILLIAM EGGLESTON

MARQUEE WEEK RUNNING TOTAL: \$725,013,196



Auctioneer Georgina Hilton sells the top lot of the 21st Century Evening Sale, Jean-Michel Basquiat's *El Gran Espectaculo*

New York – Christie's continued its 20th and 21st Century Spring Marquee Week auctions with the [21st Century Evening Sale](#). The 26-lot sale saw spirited bidding globally, with 44% of bidders from America, 28% from APAC and 28% from EMEA. The evening's total was \$98,802,500 selling 96% by lot, and 123% hammer against low estimate. Combined with the successful sale of the S.I. Newhouse Collection and the 20th Century Evening Sale on May 11 and the series of Day Sales May 12 – 13, this auction brought Christie's running total for the week to \$725,013,196.

The top lot of the evening was Jean-Michel Basquiat's *El Gran Espectaculo (The Nile)*, selling for \$67,110,000 after almost five minutes of competitive bidding. Excitingly, more than one third of the lots in the sale set artist records; five were set for female artists – Robin F. Williams, Simone Leigh, Danielle McKinney, Rebecca Ackroyd, and Diane Arbus – as well as records for Vojtěch Kovařík, El Anatsui, Peter Saul, and William Eggleston (for a single work).

Isabella Lauria, Head of the 21st Century Evening Sale, said, “Christie’s is thrilled to have achieved a fantastic result in the first-ever evening sale that was majority female. That’s no accident. It’s our goal to present the full richness and diversity of Contemporary Art, from our outstanding result for Jean-Michel Basquiat’s history painting, *El Gran Espectaculo*, to *El Anatsui’s* installation, *Prophet*, to women artists at all stages of their careers. This evening we saw records fall for younger artists like Danielle McKinney, mid-career artists like Simone Leigh, and legends like Diane Arbus.”

Spring Marquee Week Sales continue Wednesday, May 17 with [A Century of Art: The Gerald Fineberg Collection Part I](#) beginning live at 7PM.

PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)

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About Christie’s

Founded in 1766, Christie’s is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie’s offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie’s has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie’s [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie’s has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie’s also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci’s *Salvator Mundi*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol’s *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons’ *Rabbit*](#), 2019). Christie’s [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie’s specialists at a client’s individual pace.

Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple’s *Everydays*](#)), Christie’s recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie’s also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie’s is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability by reducing our carbon emissions by 50% and pledging to be net zero by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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* 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.*

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