

CHRISTIE'S

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EDWARD HOPPER *OCTOBER ON CAPE COD*

ON VIEW IN HONG KONG & PARIS – OCTOBER 2012



Edward Hopper (1882-1967)

October on Cape Cod

oil on canvas

26 1/4 x 42 1/4 in. (66.7 x 107.3 cm)

Painted in 1946.

Estimate: \$8,000,000–12,000,000

American Art - 28 November 2012

New York – The American Art department is proud to present Edward Hopper's *October on Cape Cod*, a melancholic autumnal landscape, as one of the highlights of its highly anticipated November sale. Estimated to fetch \$8 to \$12 million, this work masterfully captures not only the atmosphere of solitude and tranquility that populates a vacation spot out of season, but also the greater human condition of psychological isolation and existentialism in modern society. The painting will be on view in Hong Kong and Paris before its sale in New York on November 28.

According to Elizabeth Sterling, Head of American Art at Christie's in New York: *"We are extremely proud to be able to show this important work by Edward Hopper in Hong Kong and Paris this October, coinciding with the first major retrospective of the artist's work in the city taking place at the National Galleries of the Grand Palais (October 2012 to January 2013). Painted in the artist's signature style, October on Cape Cod is a large-scale work from 1946, and is one of the last paintings by the artist to remain in private hands. Estimated to realize \$8 to \$12 million, it presents a suspended narrative, which simultaneously entices and rebuffs the viewer, creating the tension and anticipation that are characteristic of Hopper's best works."*

Hopper first visited Cape Cod with his wife, Jo, in 1930, renting a house in South Truro for three summers before building a home and studio there in 1934. The couple began to spend six months there almost every year and Hopper found an abundance of subject matter in the unassuming homes and buildings that populated the peninsula as well as the sandy dunes and crystalline light that give it its distinct character. He drove around the Cape in search of subject matter, often drawing and painting from his car, a practice that he undertook in various locations throughout his career as far away as the Oregon coast. This imbues his works with a sense of distance, often making the viewer feel like a voyeur, rather than a participant in the scene.

October on Cape Cod presents a view of a house and small barn from across a deserted road, as one would observe the scene from the window of a passing car. The work is permeated by profound silence and stillness. Gone is the clear blue, summer sky, replaced by the subtle, gray-tinged autumn light.

The description of *October on Cape Cod* in Hopper's wife, Jo's, record book discusses both its physical and emotional attributes, speaking to the profound silence that her husband conveys in the painting. *"Beyond slately grey road strip of very pale (yellowish) sand across length of canvas. Low herbage (bayberry) digging in green. Tall grass beyond slightly pinkish with low clumps of green. House fresh painted white, barn left dull. Rooves of both slately grey. Glimpse of red foundation, chimney dull red. Edge of locust grove L. [left] dull green. Woods in background with green underfoot at front edge. Sky wan, whiteish with long strips of grey, some pale blue at top. Peace, quiet, `no birds sing. Some day you will be quiet too."*

Large-scale works such as *October on Cape Cod* were the result of an arduous creative process, during which every pictorial aspect was well-considered before Hopper picked up his brush. This process was so emotionally and time intensive that Hopper usually only completed one to two canvases a year. In *October on Cape Cod* and throughout his career, Hopper painted aspects of America that few other artists addressed. He portrayed unromantic visions of life in a broad and increasingly modern style. While Hopper's paintings have formal qualities in common with other Modernists, his art remained steadfastly realist.

Viewing :	Hong Kong	5-6 October 2012
	Paris	17-19 October 2012
	New York	24-27 November 2012
Auction :	New York	28 November 2012 - 10am

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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