

CHRISTIE'S

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PROPERTY TO BE SOLD TO BENEFIT THE BILLY & AUDREY L. WILDER FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS CHRISTIE'S DECEMBER 11-12 INTERIORS SALE



New York – Christie's is pleased to include *Property to be Sold to Benefit the Billy & Audrey L. Wilder Foundation* in its December 11-12 *Interiors* sale. As one of Hollywood's most fabled directors, producers and writers, with credits such as *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), *Some like it Hot* (1959), and *The Apartment* (1960) to his name, it is unsurprising that Billy Wilder and his wife, Audrey, amassed a collection of furniture and fine and decorative art that rivaled his professional achievements. The selection includes 151 lots that spans the couple's collecting interests, including lithographs from Ellsworth Kelly, American silver,

Chanel handbags, modern furniture and books, photographs and other assorted ephemera related to Mr. Wilder's illustrious career. The collection is expected to realize in excess of \$244,300, with lot estimates beginning at just \$300.

The prolific Wilder has six Academy Awards and over fifty film credits to his name. Growing up in Vienna, Billy Wilder counted the Wiener Werkstätte, the 20th-century design movement, as a strong influence. While living in Berlin Wilder gained an increased exposure to artists such as Braque, Miró, and Dali, but his financial situation did not allow him to begin to seriously collect art until he arrived in the US, buying his first Picasso, a drawing, for \$900 in 1940. When asked in an interview in the *Paris Review* for advice about collecting Wilder replied, "Sure, don't collect. Buy what you like, hold onto it, enjoy it." The Los Angeles home that the Wilders shared reflected this sentiment completely.

PRESS CONTACT: Rebecca Riegelhaupt | +1 212 636 2680 | rriegelhaupt@christies.com

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the

centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 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 and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/\$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

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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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