

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2012

Contact: Rebecca Riegelhaupt

riegelhaupt@christies.com

tel +1 212 636 2680

GIFTS TO A MASTER PRINTER: *PHOTOGRAPHS BY HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON*



"To take a photograph is to align the head, the eye and the heart. It's a way of life." – Henri Cartier-Bresson

New York – Christie's is honored to present *Gifts to a Master Printer: Photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson* as a significant highlight of the October 4-5 Photographs Sale. This important and very personal collection of 32 photographs includes many of Henri Cartier-Bresson's most celebrated images, those that secured his position as one of the most influential photographers of the 20th century. This selection is particularly illuminating, as the prints were gifts from Cartier-Bresson to the preeminent printer Voja Mitrovic, as an expression of his immense gratitude for Mitrovic's contribution to his body of work. The collection is expected to realize in excess of \$400,000.

For over three decades, Mitrovic was an important figure at Picto, the celebrated photography laboratory in Paris. It was here that he became known as one of the greatest photographic printers in the history of photography, printing for Cartier-Bresson from 1967-1997, as well as other masters including Helmut Newton, Josef Koudelka, Sebastião Salgado, Marc Riboud, Robert Doisneau, Edouard Boubat, Man Ray, and Peter Lindbergh.

Peter Turnley worked with Mitrovic as a printer at Picto in the early 1980s. Later, as Turnley developed his own career as a renowned photojournalist, Mitrovic began printing for Turnley and their friendship continued to flourish.



Henri-Cartier Bresson and Josef Koudelka plead with Voja Mitrovic to not retire from printing, 1996.
Photograph © Paulo Nozalino

After the death of Henri Cartier-Bresson in 2004, Mitrovic decided to share his exceptional collection of works by the photographer with the world. Knowing that Turnley would appreciate the collection and its story, Mitrovic offered Turnley the opportunity to acquire his collection. Christie's is now honored to introduce this historic collection to the auction market.

The collection is graced by such iconic images as *Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare, France, 1932*, which is perhaps Cartier-Bresson's most iconic composition (pictured above left; estimate: \$30,000–50,000). Cartier-Bresson captured his subject hurdling a puddle behind the bustling train station - a perfect example of what came to be known as "the decisive moment." *Hyères, France, 1932* (pictured above center; estimate: \$12,000 – 18,000) and *Rue Mouffetard, 1954* (pictured above right; estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000) are among the highlights of the collection which include a number of images, rarely, if ever, seen at auction.

HIGHLIGHTS



On the Banks of the Marne, 1938
Gelatin silver print, printed 1967
Estimate: \$25,000 – 35,000



Games in a Refugee Camp, 1947
Gelatin silver print, printed 1967
Estimate: \$12,000 – 18,000



Henri Matisse, Venice, France, 1944
Gelatin silver print, printed circa 1970
Estimate: \$8,000 – 12,000



Allés du Prado, Marseilles, France, 1932
Gelatin silver print, printed 1970s
Estimate: \$10,000 – 15,000



Our Cat Ulysses and Martine's Shadow, 1988
Gelatin silver print
Estimate: \$12,000 – 18,000



Italy, 1971
Gelatin silver print
Estimate: \$15,000 – 25,000



Madrid, 1933

Gelatin silver print, printed 1996

Estimate: \$10,000 – 15,000



Brussels, 1932

Gelatin silver print, printed 1970s

Estimate: \$12,000 – 18,000



Seville, 1933

Gelatin silver print, printed 1967

Estimate: \$15,000 – 25,000

Auction: *Photographs*

4-5 October 2012

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

29 September - 3 October 2012

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.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**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.*

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

