CHRISTIE'S

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JAZZ

BY HENRI MATISSE
LEADS CHRISTIE'S SALE OF *MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY PRINTS*
LONDON, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

London - Christie's is pleased to announce the autumn sale of *Modern and Contemporary Prints* which will take place on Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at King Street. Showcasing works by some of the most famous modern artists, the auction comprises 125 lots and is expected to realise in excess of £2 million. Leading the sale is one of the greatest and most influential print series of the 20th century, *Jazz* by Henri Matisse (1869-1954), *selection illustrated above*. The complete set of twenty *pochoirs* has an estimate between £400,000 and £600,000. The Prints season continues at Christie's South Kensington with the sale of *Prints and Multiples, Including an Important Collection by Henry Moore* the following day, on Thursday, 20 September 2012.

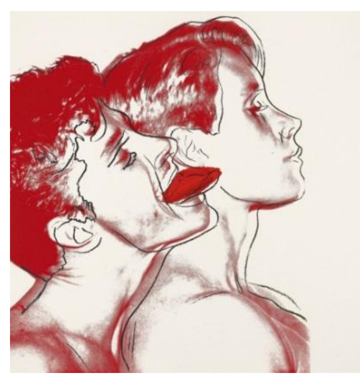
GREAT MODERN PAINTER-PRINTMAKERS

Jazz is one of Henri Matisse's great graphic masterpieces. Drawing it's inspiration from the circus, folk tales and exotic voyages, the twenty *pochoirs* or stencil prints mark a radical new departure in Matisse's oeuvre: the technique of cutting shapes from brightly coloured sheets of paper, known as the *papiers decoupés*. Matisse began to make these cut-outs towards the end of his life, when he was largely restricted to working from his bed due to ill-health, and the maquettes for Jazz are among his first essays in the medium. Despite his strained circumstances, *Jazz* is a glorious celebration of life, a riot of pure colours and playful forms which prompted Tériade, the publisher, to suggest its swinging musical title.

Alongside Matisse, this sale includes works by fellow modern masters, Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), Edvard Munch (1863-1945), Joan Miró (1893-1983), and Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), demonstrating the importance of printmaking in the oeuvre of the modern painter. A beautiful and rare impression of Picasso's *La Famille de Saltimbanques au Macaque*, of 1905, is estimated to realise between £50,000 and 70,000, *illustrated right*. Wonderfully evocative of the sweet melancholy with which Picasso portrayed these wandering acrobats of Paris, it characterises the artist's transition from his Blue to his Rose Period.

Further highlights of this section include a haunting print by Munch, *Separation II* (estimate: £50,000 – 70,000, *illustrated left*); a number of playful works by Miró, including a group of working proofs for *Lapidari* (estimate: £70,000-100,000) with extensive handcolouring in pastel; and the famous *Le Chapeau Épinglé* by Renoir (estimate: £30,000 – 50,000).

POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY PRINTS



This section is led by a great selection of celebrity portraits by Andy Warhol (1928-1987), ranging from pop stars to monarchs and dictators. Amongst the famous and infamous depicted are Marilyn Monroe, Mick Jagger, Mohammed Ali, Queen Elizabeth II, Lenin and Mao. Also featured are several rare works of less familiar subjects: *Querelle*, a screenprint depicting two young men in a provocative pose, based on a polaroid which Warhol took for a poster for Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film of the same name (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated right*), and *Martha Graham, Letter to the World*, a unique colour variant of the late, great avant-garde choreographer (estimate: £15,000 – 25,000, *illustrated below right*). In *Vesuvius* (estimate: £30,000 – 50,000, *illustrated left*) Warhol revisits one of art history's most popular landscape subjects while at the same time returning to one of his own obsessions: death and disaster - a theme he explored in the seminal series *Electric Chair*, several examples of which are also included in the sale.

Other notable contemporary prints include two great prints series by Damien Hirst (b. 1965), *Last Supper* (estimate: £50,000 - 70,000) and *In a Spin, The Action of the World on Things, Volume II* (estimate: £25,000-35,000), as well as a late ironic erotic masterpiece by Roy Lichtenstein: *Two Nudes, State I* (estimate: £100,000 - 150,000).

SOUTH KENSINGTON

The sale of *Prints & Multiples* at South Kensington on 20 September 2012 includes an exciting variety of over 300 prints from the Old Masters to Contemporary artists, with estimates ranging from £800 to £15,000. Highlights include an important collection of 75 Henry Moore prints spanning his full career. Moore's most iconic themes are showcased here including reclining figures as seen in *Reclining Figure Piranesi Background* (estimate: £1,200 – 1,800, *illustrated right*) and *Reclining Figure Pisello Baccello* (estimate: £4,000 – 6,000).

The Pop Art section of this sale includes works by Richard Hamilton (1922 – 2011), Peter Blake (b.1932) and Gerald Laing (1936- 2011). Hamilton's *Swingeing London 67* is estimated between £5,000 and £7,000.

Joan Miró, Eduardo Chillida and Antoni Tapies showcase the Continental section with works from the *Archives of Editorial Gustavo Gili* in Barcelona including *La Taca Vermella (*estimate: £2,500 – 3,500).

Contemporary printmakers, David Hockney, Damien Hirst, Banksy and the Japanese artists Takashi Murakami, Chiho Aoshima and Yoshitomo Nara, are well represented.

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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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