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CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S LONDON TO SELL THE HUBERTUS WALD COLLECTION

**A MAGNIFICENT PRIVATE GERMAN COLLECTION OF MODERN,
SURREALIST AND POST WAR ART**

**LED BY MAJOR WORKS BY ROBERT DELAUNAY, KEES VAN DONGEN,
MAX ERNST, FRANCIS PICABIA, JOAN MIRÓ, HANS ARP, WOLS, PIERO
MANZONI, LUCIO FONTANA, YVES KLEIN & CY TWOMBLY**

**SOLD TO BENEFIT THE HUBERTUS WALD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
IN HAMBURG**



"I was very lucky in my life and always felt the urge to give some of it back to society"

Hubertus Wald (1913-2005)

London/Hamburg - Christie's is honoured to have been entrusted by the Hubertus Wald Charitable Foundation with the sale of their founder's collection. Hubertus Wald, a philanthropic collector from Hamburg, Germany, put together one of the great collections of 20th century art in continental Europe. Comprising 87 lots, the Hubertus Wald collection includes outstanding examples of many avant-garde movements of 20th century art including, amongst others, Fauvism, Cubism, Orphism, Dadaism, Surrealism and Informel, together with a selection of Antiquities and Old Master paintings.



Outstanding works by Robert Delaunay, Kees van Dongen, Max Ernst, Francis Picabia, Hans Arp, Piero Manzoni, Yves Klein, Wols, Lucio Fontana and Cy Twombly set the tone of the quality and significance of the collection. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Hubertus Wald Charitable Foundation which was set up by the collector in 1993 in order to support medical research and treatment as well as cultural life in Hamburg. The works will be offered across seven London auctions in 2012: *Impressionist and Modern Art* and *The Art of the Surreal Evening and Day* sales (7 & 8 February); *Post War and Contemporary Art Evening and Day* sales (14 & 15 February); *Antiquities* (26 April) and *Old Master Paintings* (3 May). They are expected to realise a combined total in the region of £13-20 million/ \$21-32 million/ €15-23 million.

Olivier Camu, Deputy Chairman, Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's: *"Hubertus Wald had an outstanding eye and assembled, in the 1970s and 1980s, a formidable collection, that reflects the key 20th Century art movements of his lifetime - from Fauvism, Cubism, Orphism, Dada and Surrealism to Informel. With the guidance of renowned advisor Samy Tarica, who also advised Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé and other great collectors, he created one of the great continental collections of 20th century art. We are honoured to work with the Hubertus Wald Charitable Foundation to facilitate this sale. This collection provides an exciting opportunity for international collectors to acquire important and inspiring works of superb quality and impeccable provenance, with proceeds of the sale benefiting many worthwhile causes."*

Christiane Gräfin zu Rantzau, Chairman Christie's Germany: *"The importance of Hubertus Wald for Hamburg cannot be overestimated both in life and now by way of his incredible legacy. One of the great figures of Hamburg society, his wish was to establish a Foundation in his name to benefit Hamburg, and to sell his art collection to facilitate this intention. He was an inspiration for Hamburg's cultural life as one of its greatest patrons and moreover his is an admirable example of generosity and philanthropy."*

Dr. Günter Hess, CEO Hubertus Wald Charitable-Foundation: *"Hubertus Wald was one of the most generous philanthropists I have ever known. In his will he stipulated that his collection should be given to the Foundation and that the funds raised by the sale should exclusively benefit charities: namely research and treatment in Hamburg's hospitals and the continued enrichment of Hamburg's cultural life. We are delighted to have such a strong partner in Christie's to raise funds for the Hubertus Wald Charitable Foundation."*

THE COLLECTOR: HUBERTUS WALD (1913-2005)

Berlin born Hubertus Wald was not only a tremendously successful entrepreneur, but also a true philanthropist: *"I was very lucky in my life and always felt the urge to give some of it back to society"* he noted in his diary. Shortly after the end of World War II he opened "Kurbel" in Karlsruhe, one of the first cinemas in post-war Germany; it seated almost 750 and had five screenings a day. In the 1950s and early 1960s Wald opened 25 cinemas throughout Germany establishing the largest cinema group in the country at the time. By the late 1950s



he turned his attention and investments to property, such as one of the famous “Salzhäuser” in Frankfurt, where his film company “*Süddeutsche Filmbetriebe Hubertus Wald*” was based until the mid-1960s. In 1966 he moved to a house at Hamburg’s Bellevue, where, over the following decades, he hosted many guests - Andy Warhol, Omar Sharif, Romy Schneider, Telly Savallas, Gunther Sachs and German media mogul Axel Springer, amongst others.

Early in his life, Wald started to collect prints. In the early 1970s he was introduced to the famous Parisian art advisor Samy Tarica, who also advised Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé amongst many top European collectors. Shortly after his marriage to Renate Dederichs in 1975, he began his charitable donations and over the following decade his support to several charities in Europe grew year by year. In 1992 he donated half a million Deutsche Mark to Moscow’s largest children’s hospital, for which Michael and Raissa Gorbachev thanked him personally. In the following year he founded the Hubertus Wald Charitable Foundation in Hamburg, which finances medical research and treatment in Hamburg’s hospitals and supports several cultural institutions in the city. The entrepreneur financed the 1000 square metre extension of the Museum Kunsthalle Hamburg, which was opened in 2004 and has since held many exhibitions some of which have been supported by the Foundation.

IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART & THE ART OF THE SURREAL, 7 FEBRUARY 2012

Leading the *Evening sale of Impressionist and Modern Art & The Art of the Surreal*, is *Tour Eiffel*, 1926, by **Robert Delaunay** (1885-1941), which was acquired by Hubertus Wald in the late 1970s (estimate: £1,500,000-2,500,000), *illustrated paged 2*. The Eiffel Tower is one of the most celebrated of Delaunay’s motifs. In this monumental 1926 version (2 metres high) Delaunay returns to his beloved subject with a new assurance, while also revelling in the return to figurative subject matter after a decade of abstraction. Many of the



paintings of the Eiffel Tower from the 1920s are now in prominent museum collections around the world. One closely-related work of the same title and year is now in the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington DC, America, another of the same year is in the Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Further highlights from the Wald collection are *Tête de femme*, 1913, by **Kees van Dongen** (1877-1968) (estimate £700,000-1,000,000), *illustrated left*, as well as a sculpture and an extraordinary work on paper by **Henry Moore** (1898-1986): *Family Group*, conceived in 1945 (estimate: £200,000-300,000), and *Reclining Figures: Ideas for Stone Sculpture*, 1944 (estimate: £150,000-200,000). **Cubism** is represented by two early, rare and exquisite works by **Henri Laurens** (1885-1954): a 1916 collage *La bouteille* (estimate £120,000-180,000) and a 1918-19 painted terracotta relief *Tête de femme* (estimate £120,000-180,000).

Surrealism is prominently represented by a group of outstanding works, which are led by a mysterious and distinctly natural landscape, *Fleur coquille et tête d'animal sur fond rouge et noir* (1928) by **Max Ernst** (1891-1976), (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000), *illustrated right*. A colourful and highly painterly combination of flat abstract geometric forms and *grattage* scrapings of paint form a strangely organic structure reminiscent of shells, flowers and geological rock formations, whilst also suggesting the mysterious presence of an animal. Ernst, whose art was often dark and foreboding in visionary power, seemed as surprised as everyone by the new direction his work had suddenly taken in 1928, when he first experimented with the *grattage* technique. His biographical notes in 1928 observe: “*Flowers appear, shell flowers, feather flowers, crystal flowers, tube flowers, Medusa flowers. All of his friends were transformed into flowers. All flowers metamorphosed into birds, all birds into mountains, all mountains into stars. Every star became a house and every house a city.*” Hubertus Wald acquired the painting in 1972 from Galerie Tarica in Paris.



Catax (1929) by **Francis Picabia** (1879-1953) is a particularly arresting example from the artist's first series of *Transparences*, diaphane imageries layered on top of each other (estimate: £400,000-700,000), *illustrated left*. Faces, limbs, fishes, insects and other natural phenomena are superimposed, one upon the other, and surrounded by flowers and arabesques to create an ethereal and dream-like landscape. Wald gave this work to his wife, Renate, who in turn gifted it to the Foundation. *Hermaphrodite*, 1919, by **Man Ray** (1886-1966) (estimate: £150,000-200,000) is one of a very small number of important *aerographs* the artist produced between 1917 and 1919, with an early airbrush-technique. Other key works in this genre include an important and large relief by **Hans Arp** (1886-1966) *Balcon I*, 1925 (estimate: £500,000-800,000) which is one of only two of this form in his oeuvre and *Personnages et oiseaux*, 1963, by **Joan Miró** (1893-1983) (estimate: £500,000-800,000).

In the *Impressionist and Modern Art Day sale* on 8 February 2012 Christie's will offer a further 23 works from the collection - by **Emil Nolde** (1867-1956), **Kurt Schwitters** (1887-1948), **Laszlo Moholy-Nagy** (1895-1946), **Marcel Duchamp** (1887-1968) and **Fernand Léger** (1881-1955) and others.

POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING SALE, 14 FEBRUARY 2012

Works from the Hubertus Wald Collection in the *Post War and Contemporary Art Evening sale* are led by a majestic, large-scale example of **Piero Manzoni's** celebrated series from the most fertile moment of his short career: *Achrome*, circa 1959, which brings together a delicate assembly of twenty squares of canvas soaked in kaolin (estimate: £1,800,000-2,500,000), *illustrated right*. Each individual surface bears soft undulating ripples, the result of a random and autonomous drying process engendered by the artist. Germano Celant noted that in this series



Manzoni sought to abolish the symbolic, psychological and expressive intent of art, through a process of simplification and purification.

An extremely rare work is *Le feu*, 1949, by Berlin born artist Alfred Otto Wolfgang Schulze, called **Wols** (1913-1951), (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000), *illustrated below*. This painting is one of Wols's acknowledged masterpieces, created at the height of his tragically short career. Exhibited to great acclaim in the XXIX Venice Biennale in 1958 and internationally in different exhibitions in Eindhoven, Paris, Zurich, Paris from 1966 to 1993; this is one of only 80 paintings executed during the artist's lifetime. Radiating from the centre and blazing through a sea of indigo blue is a heart of sanguine red pigment. Applied with an impassioned fervour and nervous filigree gestures, the image is captivating like the roaring fire of the work's title. It is a dynamic, physical work operating at the highest emotional pitch, drawing parallels with the frenzied action painting of Jackson Pollock. For Jean-Paul Sartre, who Wols had met in Paris, where he had emigrated in 1932 on the advice of László Moholy-Nagy, the artist was the very embodiment of the 'existentialist artist.'



Further highlights of the Hubertus Wald collection offered in the *Post War and Contemporary Art Evening sale* are **Georg Baselitz's** (b. 1938) lyrically beautiful *Fingermalerei - Birken*, 1972 (estimate £400,000-600,000), **Lucio Fontana's** (1899-1968) elegant anthracite grey *Concetto spaziale, Attese*, 1962 (estimate £600,000-900,000), **Yves Klein's** (1928-1962) *IKB 176*, 1960 (estimate £500,000-800,000) as well as **Cy Twombly's** (1928-2011) *Untitled*, 1970 (estimate £350,000-550,000).

In the *Post War and Contemporary Art Day sale*, 15 February 2012, 11 lots from the Wald collection will be offered, including works by **Alexander Calder** (1898-1976), **Jean Fautrier** (1898-1964) and **Joaquin Torres-Garcia** (1874-1949).

ANTIQUITIES, 26 April 2012 & OLD MASTER PAINTINGS, 3 May 2012

The *Antiquities* sale on 26 April at Christie's South Kensington will offer 16 works from the Wald collection – led by a Roman marble relief panel with the Dioscuri (estimate: £60,000-80,000).

Amongst the 4 works from the Wald collection, which will be offered in the *Old Master Paintings Auction* on 3 May, a highlight is *The Madonna and Child with Saints John the Baptist, Lucy, Catherine of Alexandria and Paul, and two angels, with The Crucifixion* by **Pietro di Giovanni d'Ambrogio** (Siena, 1410-1449), which is estimated to realise between £200,000 and 300,000.

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Images available on request

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Auctions:

Impressionist and Modern Evening Sale & The Art of the Surreal Sale	7 February 2012
Impressionist and Modern Day Sale	8 February 2012
Post-War and Contemporary Evening Sale	14 February 2012
Post-War and Contemporary Day Sale	15 February 2012
Old Master Paintings Sale	3 May 2012
Antiquities (South Kensington)	26 April 2012

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totaled £2.0 billion/\$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales 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 has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Zurich, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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.