

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For immediate release

Contact: Capucine Milliot cmilliot@christies.com tel +1 212 641 5078

First Open

Post-War and Contemporary Art

Including 5 works of art sold to benefit **The Trevor Project**



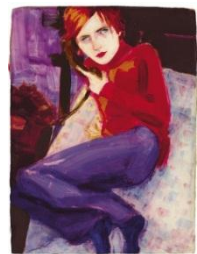
Damien Hirst (B.1965)
Rubidium Chloride, 2006
Estimate: \$600,000-800,000

March 7, 2012

New York – Christie's *First Open* sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art on March 7 will offer a stimulating selection of 200 works of art including 45 lots from the Peter Norton Collection (see separate press release) and 5 lots donated by artists to benefit The Trevor Project, a life-saving organization. *First Open* is the perfect opportunity for new and established collectors who are eager to discover emerging artists and ready to explore lesser-known works by famous artists. The sale will feature works by **Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Tom Wesselman, Yutaka Sone, Beatriz Milhazes, Milton Resnick** and **John Baldessari**, among others and will be preceded by a public exhibition at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries from March 3 to 7.

Leading the sale is *Rubidium Chloride*, a spot painting by **Damien Hirst** (B. 1965), dated 2006 (estimate: \$600,000-800,000). 'I was always a colourist, I've always had a phenomenal love of colour...' Damien Hirst declared at the occasion of the "The Complete Spot Paintings 1986-2011", an exhibition occurring simultaneously at each of Gagosian Gallery's international locations through March 2012. He wrote in 1997, "I once said that the spot paintings could be what art looks like viewed through an imaginary microscope. I love the fact that in the paintings the angst is removed...If you look closely at any one of these paintings a strange thing happens: because of the lack of repeated colours, there is no harmony. We are used to picking out chords of the same colour and balancing them with different chords of other colours to create meaning. This can't happen. So in every painting there is a subliminal sense of unease; yet the colours project so much joy it's hard to feel it, but it's there."

Among the contemporary works being offered is *Mark Webber*, featuring an elongated, androgynous figure, by **Elizabeth Peyton** (B. 1965) (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). With these series of stylized and idealized portraits of her close friends, boyfriends, and pop celebrities, either sleeping, reclining or sitting, Peyton has turned to the genre of the still life to explore its contemporary relevance.



The sale will also offer a rare work by **Ed Ruscha** (B. 1937) entitled *Blue Scream* from 1964 (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). Well known for his text paintings, Ruscha has constantly experimented with visual idioms and linguistic symbols throughout his career. For *Blue Scream*, he used lettering as visual poetry, typography and conceptual art.

In *Prologue Series #1* (text from Ralph Ellison), **Glen Ligon** (B. 1960) ponders what it means to be a painter, questioning the possibilities of his medium and the act of painting (estimate: \$ 50,000-70,000). To address these questions, Ligon deals with the surface of the canvas. His process involves pressing tar or oilstick against a taut surface through a plastic alphabet stencil until the pigment in the letter space is fully registered. While the text is clear and visible at the beginning of the process, the slowly drying medium eventually binds to the stencil itself, obscuring the spaces between the letters. As the expression of the text against the surface becomes muddier, the image becomes more pictorial, more abstract and more painterly.





One of the very moving works of art included in the sale, is *December 27, 1986, (from B.C. Series)* by **Hannah Wilke** (1940-1993), an abstract watercolor painting of her face that was later exhibited as B.C. meaning Before Consciousness (of her cancer). The artist, who worked primarily as a sculptor, also produced many drawings, photographs, and videos that deal with social, political, and gender issues, was diagnosed with lymphoma a year after she completed this work and died in 1993 (estimate: \$6,000-8,000).

The sale also features a *Body Print* by **David Hammons** (B. 1942) (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Executed in 1991, the piece comes from the collection of Exit Art co-founders Jeanette Ingberman and Papo Colo, who curated a seminal exhibition of David Hammons' work at their gallery in 1989.



Property sold to benefit The Trevor Project



Roni Horn (B.1955)
Ends of Rainbow
Estimate: \$4,000-6,000



Marilyn Minter (B.1948)
Nail Biter
Estimate: \$6,000-8,000



Jim Hodges (B.1957)
Saying Goodbye
Estimate: \$30,000-40,000



Jack Pierson (B.1960)
Self Portrait #16
Estimate: \$15,000-20,000



Dahn Vo (B.1975)
Mamy Poko Pants Diapers
Estimate: \$ 5,000-7,000

Christie's is honored to offer five lots donated by artists **Jim Hodges, Roni Horn, Jack Pierson, Marilyn Minter** and **Dahn Vo**, to benefit The Trevor Project, a life-saving organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people. The works are estimated between \$4,000 and \$20,000.

"Christie's is proud to support the life-saving work of The Trevor Project through First Open on March 7. It is an opportunity to enhance culture through art in order to make a difference in the world" **commented Sara Friedlander, Head of First Open.**

Auction	March 7	10am - 2pm
Viewing	March 3	10am - 5pm
	March 4	1pm - 5pm
	March 5	10am - 5pm
	March 6	10am - 5pm
	March 7	10am - 5pm

Christie's New York, 20 Rockefeller Plaza

About The Trevor Project

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people under 24. Every day, The Trevor Project saves young lives through its free and confidential lifeline, in-school workshops, educational materials, online resources and advocacy. Honored by the White House as a "Champion of Change," The Trevor Project is a leader and innovator in suicide prevention. Learn more at www.thetrevorproject.org

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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, jewelry, 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 Jewelry. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% 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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