

**For Immediate Release**

March 28, 2012

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**MASTERWORKS FROM RENOWNED COLLECTIONS  
TO HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S SPRING PHOTOGRAPHS SALE  
IN NEW YORK**



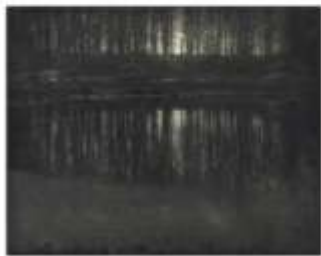
**New York** – Christie's is pleased to announce its spring Photographs sale, which will take place on Thursday, April 5 in New York. Encompassing 350 lots, the sale contains exceptional breadth, reaching from the most emblematic images of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries to those that have rarely been seen. The sale also offers an exceptional opportunity for beginning and seasoned collectors alike with estimates that range from \$1,000-300,000. The sale expects to realize in excess of \$4.2 million.

The sale's cover lot is Christian Schad's photogram, *Untitled, Schadographie Nr. 17, 1919* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Tristan Tzara, author of the 1918 Dada Manifesto and a previous owner of this Schadograph, was a key figure in placing Schad's photograms firmly in the history of Dada art and is credited with coining the term 'Schadograph' for these elusive, tiny objects. Only some 30 early Schadographs are known to exist, and very few remain in private hands.

## The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Christie's is privileged to offer a collection of 71 lots *Sold to Benefit Acquisitions for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*. Founded in 1900, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, began to exhibit photographs in the mid-1920s. Today, the MFAH's photography collection encompasses more than 28,000 images. The prints being offered have been deaccessioned after a lengthy survey of the museum's holdings and with the consideration of priorities for future accessions. The funds achieved from these sales will be committed to the purchase of other photographs for the museum.

Among the considerable range of photographs included in the collection is *Montage, New York City, 1946* (estimate: \$8,000-12,000) – pictured left, an extremely rare vintage print from pioneering street photographer Louis Faurer. Other highlights are Helmut Newton's *Self Portrait with Wife and Models, Paris, 1981* (estimate: \$20,000 - \$30,000) and Ansel Adams' *Winter Sunrise, Sierra Nevada, from Lone Pine, California, circa 1944* (Estimate: \$25,000 - \$35,000).



## Selection of works from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

The April 5 sale represents a particularly extensive group of exceptional works from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among the group is Eugène Atget's handmade album, '*Documents pour l'histoire du vieux Paris*,' circa 1910, containing 28 albumen prints (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). Atget created albums of his photographs to sell to businesses, individuals and, primarily, to institutions. The present lot was recently found in the consignor's family's estate.

Also being featured is '*Steichen*' (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) a very rare first edition volume of Edward Steichen's self-titled folio published by Alfred Stieglitz in 1906. The 29 photogravures include Steichen's greatest Pictorialist photographs, including *Road to the Valley – Moonrise*, and *The Pond – Moonrise* – pictured left.

A private collection of extraordinary orotones by Edward Curtis will be offered, and will include the oversized works, *Cañon de Chelley, 1904* (estimate: \$25,000-35,000) – pictured right, and *The Vanishing Race, 1904* (estimate: \$15,000-25,000). These impeccable works originally derive from the collection of J.F. Douglas, an affluent property owner in Seattle in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Douglas championed Curtis' work and provided the photographer with space in which to work - in a



building now known as the 'Curtis Building' on the corner of 4th and University. Lots 139-142 were given to Douglas by Curtis in lieu of rent, and have remained in the care of successive generations of the Douglas family.

### W. Eugene Smith

This sale will be highlighted with two very important private collections of photographs by W. Eugene Smith. The first group, *From the Collection of W. Eugene Smith's Family*, presents a diverse group of seven photographs hand-selected by Smith's son, Kevin Eugene Smith, to represent his father's best and most innovative work. The group is accentuated by works such as *Self Portrait, from 'The Loft From Inside In', 1958-1968* (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) – pictured on page 1, left, an oversized print of *Ernest Ceriani, from 'Country Doctor', 1948* (estimate: \$20,000-30,000) and *First Communion from 'Spanish Village', 1954* (estimate: \$12,000-18,000).



The second section of photographs by W. Eugene Smith offers five lots acquired directly from the artist's estate by *An Important Private Collection, New York*. This discerning collection comprises several of the artist's most desirable images, including the ever-evocative *Dance of the Flaming Coke (variant), Pittsburgh, 1955-1956* (estimate: \$8,000-12,000) and *Guardia Civil, Spanish Village, 1951* (\$10,000 - 15,000) – pictured right.

### The Collection of Mary Jane Russell

Mary Jane Russell began her career as a fashion model in New York in 1948 and became one of the most sought-after mannequins of her era. Over the course of her fourteen-year career Ms. Russell worked with many of the 'greats' of fashion photography, including Louise Dahl-Wolfe, Richard Avedon, Lillian Bassman, William Klein, Cecil Beaton and Irving Penn. The selection presented for sale



is comprised of prime examples of these collaborations, all of which were bequeathed to Ms. Russell by the artists. The diverse group includes work from some of her earliest assignments on location with Toni Frissell for *Fashion Studies, Jamaica, 1948* (estimate: \$5,000-7,000) and Lillian Bassman for *Fashion Studies on Deck, 1948* (estimate: \$4,000-6,000). Louise Dahl-Wolfe's elegant images, sometimes affectionately inscribed, speak of Ms. Russell's great personal charm and down-to-earth qualities, which can be seen in *Mary Jane Russell, Paris, 1951* (estimate: \$2,500-3,500) – pictured left.

### Additional Highlights

The sale will feature a robust selection of highly sought-after examples from both Irving Penn and Richard Avedon. Penn is represented by 25 works including the consummate *Black and White 'Vogue'*

*Cover, 1950* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Standout works from Avedon include a very large, mint-condition print of *Charlene van Tighem, physical therapist, Augusta, Montana, 6-26-83* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and *John Martin, dancer, New York City, 3-20-75* (\$8,000-12,000), from *The Collection of John Martin*, who was gifted with the photo by Avedon himself.

Also being featured is Alexey Brodovitch's *Ballet* (estimate: \$7,000-9,000), a volume containing reproductions of 104 photographs by Brodovitch with text by Edwin Denby and a handwritten inscription from Brodovitch to his mentor, André Kertész, which commemorates their long friendship and collaboration.



At the height of Yayoi Kusama's critically acclaimed retrospective at the Tate Modern, Christie's is very pleased to present *Selected images and ephemera of Kusama 'happenings', New York, 1967-68* (estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000). This superb

archive, which includes gelatin silver prints, a number of contemporary posters, including covers from *Screw* and *Orgy* magazines and a great deal of other ephemera, was originally assembled by James Golata, who was an acolyte of the artist in the 1960s and took part in many of Kusama's New York happenings. His collection of photographs and printed ephemera is extraordinarily rare and probably unique.



On the heels of the highly successful sale of Photographic Masterworks by William Eggleston, fifteen lots by the artist will be represented in the April 5<sup>th</sup> sale, including seven early dye-transfer prints from *A Southern Private Collection*. Eggleston gifted these photographs to the present owners in the 1970s, including the much lauded *Untitled, 1973* (\$70,000 - \$90,000) – pictured right.



The Contemporary portion of the sale will be highlighted by Marilyn Minter's *Blue Tears, 2004* (estimate: \$15,000 - 25,000) – pictured page 1, right, Massimo Vitali's *SDT Top Large, 2009* (estimate: \$25,000-35,000), Candida Höfer's *Museum of Modern Art, New York, XII, 2001* (estimate: \$30,000 - 50,000) and Edward Burtynsky's *Shipbreaking #49, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 2001* (estimate: \$15,000 - 25,000) – pictured left.



**HENRY WESSEL (B. 1942)**

*Untitled, 1977-1985,*  
a suite of 15 gelatin silver prints  
Estimate: \$70,000 - 90,000



**ED RUSCHA (B. 1937)**

*Selected works (from 'Twenty-six Gasoline Stations'), 1962*  
7 of 10 gelatin silver prints, printed 1989  
Estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000



**HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON (1908-2004)**

*Seville, 1933, gelatin silver print, printed 1957*  
Estimate: \$30,000 - 50,000



**ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE (1946-1989)**

*Calla Lily, 1984, gelatin silver print*  
Estimate: \$50,000 - 70,000



**WEEGEE (1899-1968)**

*The Critic, 1943, gelatin silver exhibition print*  
Estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000



**ROBERT FRANK (B. 1924)**

*Trolley - New Orleans, 1955, gelatin silver print, printed later*  
Estimate: \$100,000 - 150,000



**CINDY SHERMAN (B. 1954)**  
*Untitled, 1979-1989*, chromogenic print  
 Estimate: \$6,000 - 8,000



**MASSIMO VITALI (B. 1944)**  
*SDT Top Large, 2009*, chromogenic print, face-mounted on Plexiglas  
 Estimate: \$25,000 - 35,000



**ADAM FUSS (B. 1961)**  
*Invocation, 1992*, unique dye-bleach photogram  
 Estimate: \$25,000 - 35,000



**CANDIDA HÖFER (B. 1944)**  
*Museum of Modern Art, New York, XII, 2001*, chromogenic print  
 Estimate: \$30,000 - 50,000

**Auction:** Thursday, 5 April 2012 at 10:00a.m./2:00p.m.

**Viewing:** 30 March – 4 April

### 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, 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 £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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