

CHRISTIE'S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPLETE SET OF JASPER JOHNS' *COLOR NUMERAL SERIES* LEADS SPRING PRINTS & MULTIPLES SALE



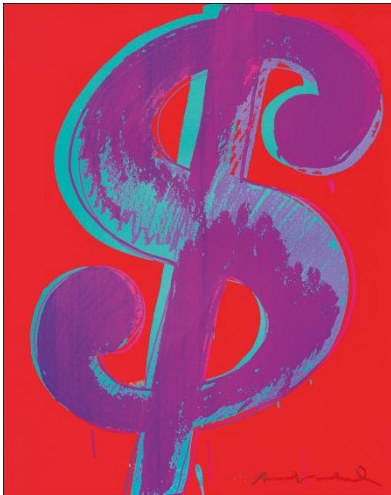
New York - Christie's is pleased to present the sale of **Prints & Multiples** taking place on April 23-24. The two-day sale features 233 lots, with a superb selection of Post-War and Contemporary editions, as well as a strong group of classic Modern and American prints. The sale is highlighted by Jasper Johns' iconic *Color Numerals* series (pictured above; estimate: \$400,000-600,000) and features other major works by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Lucian Freud and Richard Diebenkorn.

POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY

A selection of **Jasper Johns'** seminal prints from the 1960's and 1970's anchors the Post-War & Contemporary Art section. Led by the *Color Numeral Series*, considered his most visually arresting exploration of the numeral subject in printed form, this group also includes two of Johns' landmark early prints *Two Maps I* and *Two Maps II*, together with his classic screenprint *Target* (estimate \$250,000 – 350,000) from 1974. Familiar images to all students of 20th Century art history, these important prints illustrate Johns' status as one of the most celebrated contemporary artists - and printmakers - of our time. Christie's will also be commemorating this season another important landmark in the career of Jasper Johns. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of *Art in America*, with the oversight of Curatorial Consultant Sharon Hurowitz, and Bill Goldston at ULAE, Johns has created his first ever digital print, depicting several iconic motifs

from the artist's history: numbers 0 thru 9, a map of the United States and the ABC's in sign language. Each theme holds a prominent place in the history of John's work. The anniversary editions of the magazine will feature one of these digital prints from Johns and will give all readers the ability to collect a work by the artist. The first example of this edition will be unveiled at Christie's on April 22nd.

In addition to Johns, the Post-War session of the sale boasts superb prints by Andy Warhol including a portfolio of six \$ screenprints (estimate: \$250,000-350,000), highly sought after examples from his *Marilyn* series (pictured here, estimate \$150,000 – 250,000), and a striking black and white version of his *Superman* (pictured here, estimate \$150,000 – 250,000). Other milestone works by illustrious Post-War artists found in the sale include Lucian Freud's *Pluto* (estimate: \$100,000 – 150,000), a charming and incredibly detailed depiction of his beloved canine companion who is found in many of his canvases, and Richard Diebenkorn's important early print *Large Bright Blue*.



MODERN MASTERPIECES



The sale will also feature a selection of Modern prints by American and European masters on April 23rd. This afternoon session will include a variety of classic prints by **Pablo Picasso** from all periods in the artist's career ranging from his early Volland series to his late prints from the 1960s. His monumental linocut *Nature Morte au Verre sous la Lampe* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) is the top lot of the section and demonstrates Picasso's immense prowess in the medium with its fluid, dynamic strokes and broad areas of saturated color.

Marcel Duchamp's *L.H.O.O.Q.* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) is another rare and masterful print in the sale. When Duchamp prepared the numbered edition in 1964, he decided to re-produce the now-famous pun he had inscribed on a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* 45 years earlier to accompany a poetic essay on the artist by French writer Pierre de Massot. In a pencil, he drew a mustache and goatee



and added the five letters in a margin below the image to provide the phonetic pun “Elle a chaud au cul,” which translates as “She has a hot ass.” Duchamp wanted to make it clear that his *L.H.O.O.Q.* was an independent work of art in its own right by applying gouache over the name of the museum and the artist. Duchamp’s desecration of a revered Renaissance masterpiece is considered the most succinct expression of Dada negation, and as the ultimate gesture of iconoclasm.

AMERICAN ART



Also featured in the sale is an outstanding selection of etchings by American artist **James Abbott McNeill Whistler**. This important group of etchings by Whistler comprises the majority of the ‘Amsterdam series,’ and one of the greatest Venetian prints he ever made. Whistler had a lifelong love affair with the Dutch 17th Century tradition and focused on its themes of portraiture, landscape, and domestic interiors. Spanning the 1880s, these prints exemplify Whistler’s printmaking skills and reflect years of experimentation, refinement, and travel. *The Steps, Amsterdam* (pictured right; estimate: \$40,000-60,000), and *The Embroidered Curtain* (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) exemplify Whistler’s distinct printing style.

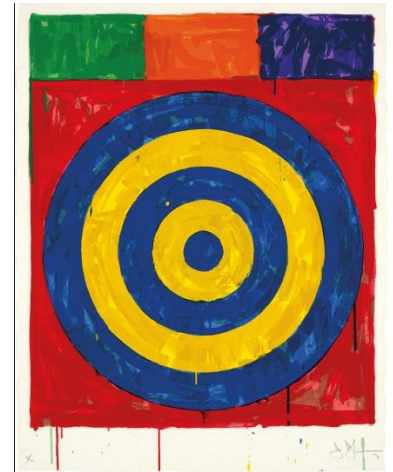
ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Richard Diebenkorn, *Large Bright Blue*
etching and aquatint in colors, 1980
Estimate: \$100,000 – 150,000



Edward Hopper, *Night in the Park*
etching, 1921
Estimate: \$40,000 – 60,000



Jasper Johns, *Target*
screenprint in colors, 1974
Estimate: \$250,000 – 350,000



Edward Ruscha, *Pepto-Caviar Hollywood*

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% 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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Images available on request

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