

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S AMERICAN ART SALE FEATURES A SPECTRUM OF 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS

- MODERNIST WORKS BY BLUEMNER, O'KEEFFE, HOPPER, AVERY
- ILLUSTRATION WORKS BY PARRISH, ROCKWELL, NC WYETH

NEW YORK – Christie's announces the sale of ***American Art*** on November 19th, which offers a strong selection of fresh-to-the-market 19th and 20th century paintings, works on paper and sculptures. The auction features the most important artists of their day, representing the genres of Modernism, American Impressionism, Illustration and Western Art. Among the sale's highlights are **Maxfield Parrish's** *Land of Make-Believe*, **Oscar Bluemner's** *Jersey Silk Mills* and **Georgia O'Keeffe's** *Calla Lilies*. Comprised of 157 lots, the sale is expected to realize in excess of \$46 million.



Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966), *Land of Make-Believe*, oil on canvas, Painted in 1905.

Estimate: \$3,000,000 – 5,000,000

ILLUSTRATION

The top lot of the auction is Maxfield Parrish's *Land of Make-Believe*. This work exemplifies Parrish's power to create a portal into an imaginary world, infuse his subjects with mystery and delight, and create compositions of tremendous visual impact and power. Parrish's ability to blend classic art schools such as the Pre-Raphaelite sentiment and Old Master technique is nowhere more evident than in *Land of Make-Believe*.



Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)
Stolen Goods (Boy Stealing Girl's Kilt)
 oil on canvas
 Painted in 1918.
 Estimate: \$800,000 – 1,200,000

Painted in 1918, *Stolen Goods* is exemplary of the signature wit and charm found in Rockwell's best work. *Stolen Goods* was featured on the cover of the February 9th, 1918, issue of *Judge Magazine*, a satirical publication launched by artists in 1881.

ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATION HIGHLIGHTS



Newell Convers Wyeth (1882-1945)
The Homecoming
 oil on board, Painted in 1945.
 Estimate: \$600,000-800,000

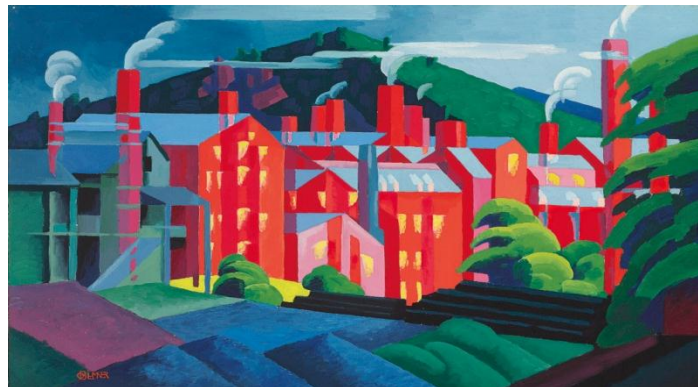


Willie Gillis: Hometown News illustration ©SEPS. Used with permission from Curtis Licensing

Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)
Willie Gillis: Hometown News
 oil on canvas, Painted in 1942.
 Estimate: \$2,000,000 – \$3,000,000

MODERNISM

In addition to strong examples of American Illustration, the sale also features a selective grouping of American Modernist works including Oscar Bluemner's *Jersey Silk Mills* (illustrated below). Marking a crucial transitional point in the artist's career, *Jersey Silk Mills* represents the culmination of Bluemner's earliest series of paintings, embodying the compositional and color principles he developed and perfected during his first years as an artist. Starting his career as an architect, Bluemner brings a meticulous attention to detail to his work.



Oscar Bluemner, *Jersey Silk Mills*, oil on canvas, Estimate: \$2,500,000 – 3,500,000



Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

Calla Lilies

oil on canvas

Painted in 1924

Estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000

Georgia O'Keeffe's *Calla Lilies* is one of eight sophisticated, architectural blooms in O'Keeffe's *Calla Lily* series. *Calla Lilies* reflects the pictorial strategies that O'Keeffe developed as an avant-garde American Modernist and her interest in a type of heightened realism that pushes an image to the edge of abstraction. As with all of O'Keeffe's work, *Calla Lilies* seamlessly combines sensuous beauty with underlying formalist concerns to create a psychologically compelling work that feels as contemporary today as when it was first painted.

Edward Hopper (1882-1967)

Railroad Embankment

gouache and watercolor on paper

Painted in 1932

Estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000



Railroad Embankment is a superb example of Hopper's Cape Cod work and demonstrates the artist's mastery of the watercolor medium and his celebrated ability to create hauntingly beautiful and poignant scenes from his everyday surroundings. This set Hopper apart from his contemporaries and allowed him to create a new and uniquely American iconography. In *Railroad Embankment*, Hopper captures the drama he saw in the effects of light on the rolling landscape and modest architecture of Cape Cod, and elevates his subject to a commentary on mid-century American life. Here, Hopper depicts an actual building, yet renders the scene in such an anonymous fashion so as to make it feel foreign, creating the tension and anticipation that are characteristic of his best works.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

Hills and Mesa to the West

oil on canvas

Painted in 1945

Estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000



Belonging to a seminal group of works depicting the red hills near O'Keeffe's home at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, *Hills and Mesa to the West* is a superb example of the artist's skillful use of color and light. Painted in 1945, this painting is both an objective interpretation of a desert landscape and a meditation on form and color. Composed of brilliant and varying hues, the work is also a testament to O'Keeffe's passion for color and her unique ability to capture the dramatic and transitory hues of the Southwest at various times of the day.

ADDITIONAL MODERNISM HIGHLIGHTS



Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)
Abstraction
 white-lacquered bronze
 Modeled in 1946; cast circa 1979-80.
 Estimate: \$600,000 – 800,000



Oscar Bluemner (1867-1938)
NRA
 watercolor, gouache and ink on paper
 Estimate: \$700,000 – 1,000,000



Milton Avery (1885-1965)
The Orange Shirt
 oil on canvas
 Estimate: \$1,000,000 – 1,500,000

AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM



Louis Ritman (1889-1963)
An Improvised Flower Basket
 oil on canvas
 Estimate: \$250,000 – 350,000



Childe Hassam (1859-1935)
The Old Paris Cab Stand
 oil on board
 Estimate: \$800,000 - 1,200,000



Frederick Carl Frieseke (1874-1939)
La Poudreuse (Woman Selecting a Necklace)
 oil on canvas
 Painted by 1913
 Estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000

REGIONALISM



Grant Wood (1891-1942)
Study for Dinner for Threshers
 charcoal, pencil and chalk on brown paper laid down on paper
 Executed in 1934
 Estimate: \$1,500,000 – \$2,500,000



Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975)
The Plains
 tempera on board
 Estimate: \$700,000 - 1,000,000



Gerard Curtis Delano (1890-1972)
Friend or Foe?
oil on board
Estimate: \$200,000 – \$300,000



Walter Ufer (1876-1936)
Trailing Homeward
oil on canvas
Painted by 1924
Estimate: \$400,000 – \$600,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year 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 in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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.*

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