

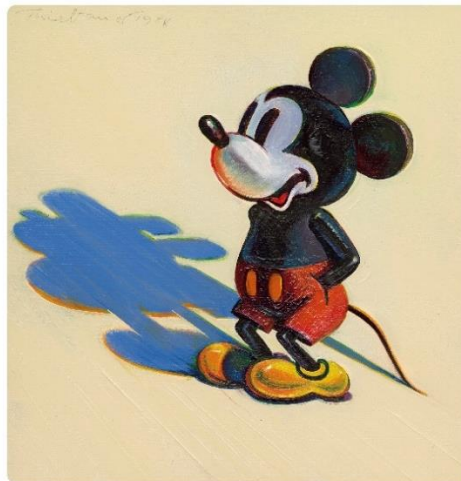
# CHRISTIE'S

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | NEW YORK 1 OCTOBER 2019

## CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCES THE RON AND DIANE DISNEY MILLER COLLECTION



**RICHARD DIEBENKORN (1922-1993)**  
*Ocean Park #108*  
oil on canvas  
Painted in 1978  
Estimate: \$7,000,000 – 9,000,000



**WAYNE THIEBAUD (B. 1920)**  
*Mickey Mouse*  
acrylic on board  
Painted in 1988  
Estimate: \$400,000-600,000



**ANDREW WYETH (1917-2009)**  
*Oliver's Cap*  
tempera on panel  
Executed in 1981  
Estimate: \$3,000,000 – 5,000,000

**New York** – Christie's is honored to announce The Ron and Diane Disney Miller Collection, a dynamic grouping of paintings, drawings, works on paper, and sculpture in the categories of Impressionist and Modern, Post-War and Contemporary, and American Art. Building on the philanthropic traditions begun by Diane Disney Miller's father, Walt Disney, the sale of these works will benefit causes close to the family's heart through the late couple's eponymous charitable fund. The Collection includes a total of 40 lots with a low estimate of \$14 million.

Together, Ron and Diane Disney Miller built an impressive private collection of works by artists such as **Richard Diebenkorn, Milton Avery, and Wayne Thiebaud**—figures whose works, like the animations of her father, are infused with bold experimentation in line, color, and movement. Of particular poignancy are works in the collection that reflect both the Millers' connection to California, as well as the artists' own association with The Walt Disney Company. **Thiebaud**, for one, apprenticed at Walt Disney Studios as an animator drawing characters such as Goofy, Pinocchio, and Jiminy Cricket—early influences for what would become his signature style of stylized realism in lively technicolor. During WW II, **Diebenkorn** was dispatched to Hawaii to work in cartography alongside Disney animators, where he learned to translate three-dimensional imagery onto a two-dimensional plane—a key element within his later work.

Whether in the couple's exceptional grouping of American landscapes or Contemporary paintings and works on paper, Diane and Ron built a collection remarkable for its originality and diversity. The legacy of Diane Disney Miller rests not only in the remarkable continuation of Walt Disney's artistic spirit, but in her own unwavering belief in fostering a more inspired, creative world.

### PHILANTHROPY

Proceeds from the sale of **Wayne Thiebaud's** *Mickey Mouse* will fund programming initiatives at The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, a 40,000-square foot institution housing historic archival materials and artifacts of the 95-year-old company paired with the latest technology to fully illustrate Disney's rich legacy. Sale of the remainder of the collection — including works by **Henri Matisse, Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth, Roy Lichtenstein**, and others — will benefit

additional causes important to the family including the Jane Goodall Institute, the HALO Trust, the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The latter being especially significant to the Disney family, as in 1987, Lilian B. Disney (Diane Disney Miller's mother) gave an initial donation of \$50 million to build the Frank Gehry-designed California performance venue in memory of her pioneering husband.

**Barrett White, Head of Christie's Post-War & Contemporary Art, Americas**, remarks: "Ron and Diane Disney Miller's lifelong passion for the arts is exemplified by their extraordinary collection that extends across categories. Diane's close relationship with her storied father, Walt Disney, is evident in her keen eye as a collector and her dedication to philanthropic causes. This sale carries on Disney Miller's rich legacy with proceeds benefitting the couple's namesake fund and the charitable organizations that were so near to their hearts."

## POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING SALE | NOVEMBER 13

**Richard Diebenkorn's** *Ocean Park #108* (\$7 - 9 million) belongs to the series of *Ocean Park* paintings that the artist made in his studio in the Ocean Park neighborhood of Santa Monica, which afforded abundant natural light and a narrow view of the Pacific Ocean. *Ocean Park #108*, painted in 1978, is suffused with the ineffable qualities that define the West Coast way of life, which Diebenkorn has distilled into a taut, geometric design. Diebenkorn devoted twenty years to the *Ocean Park* series, continuously refining and perfecting his craft from its beginnings in 1967. By the end of the 1970s, when *Ocean Park #108* was created, the artist's flair for color had been honed to a fine point. About a year after it was completed, this work and others in the series were selected for a solo exhibition at the artist's gallery in New York with many from this show now located in major American museum collections including the Oakland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

## POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART MORNING SESSION | NOVEMBER 14

**Wayne Thiebaud's** depiction of the iconic cartoon character, *Mickey Mouse*, 1988 (estimate: \$400,000 - 600,000), is a delight in both its composition and color palette. Reminiscent of Disney's golden age, *Mickey Mouse* demonstrates Thiebaud's modern treatment of color with his bold use of acrylic paint, bringing new life to Walt Disney's globally beloved icon. Thiebaud's ability to transform a universally recognizable character into a subject of drama and complexity is a testament to his power of observation as well as his extraordinary sense of color and form.

## AMERICAN ART | NOVEMBER 20

**Andrew Wyeth's** *Oliver's Cap* (estimate: \$3,000,000 – 5,000,000) is an enigmatic painting, characteristic of his greatest works in its realization of a distinct, delicate balance, being at once both intensely complex and intimate. Painted in 1981, on the surface *Oliver's Cap* may appear as a simple, traditional, American portrayal of a rural country scene. With *Oliver's Cap*, Wyeth achieves a mysterious detachment from his subject while effectively communicating an intimate personal narrative, a quiet, pervasive tension, and sense of anticipation. Wyeth considered the present work intensely personal, stating in a letter, "I want you to know the egg tempera painting you have, titled 'Oliver's Cap' I consider one of my very richest (sic) and most personal pictures."

Additionally, the collection includes a group of works on paper by **Winslow Homer** featuring his classic maritime themes as depicted in *Boats Alongside a Schooner* (estimate: \$300,000-500,000), **Thomas Hill's** *Picnic by the Sea*, a 7 ½-foot-wide 1873 painting of San Francisco Bay (estimate: \$70,000-100,000), and **William Keith's** *The Headwaters of the Owens River* (estimate: \$100,000-150,000).

## RON AND DIANE DISNEY MILLER

Born to one of the most influential figures in modern cultural history, Diane Disney Miller grew up surrounded by art and creativity. Indelibly shaped by the genius of her father, Walt Disney, and his eponymous animation studio, she built a life

centered on art, music, and philanthropy, becoming a champion for not only the Disney family legacy, but for her own tremendous generosity of spirit.

As the animator's eldest daughter, Diane Disney Miller inherited her father's remarkable enthusiasm and energy, as well as his commitment to philanthropy and the arts, particularly classical music. Throughout her nearly 60-year marriage to Ron Miller, a professional football player who later became president and CEO of the Walt Disney Company, the couple carried on the Disney family's devotion to philanthropy. As her husband built his career in entertainment, Diane devoted her time to raising their seven children while her interest in vineyards and winemaking grew, eventually acquiring land in Napa that became Silverado Vineyards. Together, the Millers undertook an impressive cultural contribution record across California, with Diane especially dedicated to classical music organizations such as the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and Napa's acclaimed Music in the Vineyards.

For most of her life, Diane Disney Miller eschewed the limelight, instead directing her efforts to ensuring the true legacy of her famous father. The charitable fund, which the couple set up — and which will benefit from the proceeds of this sale — continues the Disney family's legacy of supporting art, culture, and charity.

#### TOUR DATES & LOCATIONS

##### **Los Angeles | 15 – 17 October:**

Christie's  
336 N Camden Drive

##### **Public Viewing:**

15 Oct, 10am-5pm  
16 Oct, 10am-5pm  
17 Oct, 10am-5pm

##### **Press Preview:**

Cocktail – 16 Oct, 6-8pm

##### **San Francisco | 22 – 25 October:**

Minnesota Street Project, Gallery 200  
1275 Minnesota Street

##### **Public Viewing:**

22 Oct, 11am-5pm  
23 Oct, 11am-5pm  
24 Oct, 11am-5pm  
25 Oct, 11am-12pm

##### **Press Preview:**

Cocktail - Mon, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 5:30-7:30pm

#### **Note to Editors:**

Christie's has previously announced the following highlights of its upcoming fall season, including its flagship 20<sup>th</sup> Century Week sales:

- [The Clarke Collection](#)
- [The Collection of Terry Allen Kramer](#)
- [The Collection of Eileen and I.M. Pei](#)
- [The Collection of Richard L. Weisman](#)
- [The Collection of James and Marilyn Alsdorf](#)

---

#### **CHRISTIE'S PRESS CONTACTS:**

Andrew Nodell | + 1 212 636 2680 | [ANodell@christies.com](mailto:ANodell@christies.com)  
Rebecca Riegelhaupt | + 1 212 636 2680 | [RRiegelhaupt@christies.com](mailto:RRiegelhaupt@christies.com)  
Sara Fox | + 1 212 636 2680 | [SFox@christies.com](mailto:SFox@christies.com)

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

*Images available on request*