

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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EXCEPTIONAL CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN ART ON SALE AT CHRISTIE'S OPEN HOUSE AUCTION THIS JUNE



Iona Rozeal Brown
23 Bling Propaganda #3
Estimate: \$5,000-7,000



Jacob Lawrence
Flight #1 (Walking in the Rain)
Estimate: \$120,000-150,000

**Open House Auction
June 30, 2008**

New York - Christie's June 30 *Open House* sale features an exciting assortment of Post-War and Contemporary art works to match both new and established collectors' tastes and budgets. Leading the sale are two exceptional collections of African American paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture. Works by modern masters such as Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden and Norman Lewis will be featured along side the next generation of creative minds including Carrie Mae Weems, Glenn Ligon and Michael Charles Ray. In addition to these offerings the sale features works by Robert Rauschenberg, Susan Rothenberg, Massimo Vitali and many more. With a total sale estimate

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Robert Rauschenberg
Guide (Rigs)
 Estimate: \$60,000-80,000

of \$2.8-4 million for 266 lots – the largest and most valuable to date – this June’s *Open House* sale is likely to build on the success established by the Post-War and Contemporary sales earlier this spring.

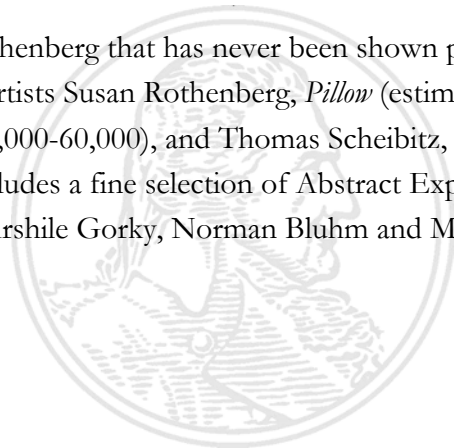
The catalogue opens with a selection of works from the Collection of Peggy Cooper Cafritz of Washington D.C. A staunch supporter of the arts and longtime patron of African American artists, Ms. Cafritz began collecting whilst studying in college and has today amassed a collection of critical importance, which reflects her unique vision and connoisseurship of the pioneers of the African American arts movement. Highlights include Carrie Mae Weem’s *You Became a Scientific Profile/ An Anthropological Debate/ A Negro Type/ & A Photographic Subject* (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), Glen Ligon’s *Malcolm X* (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), Robert Colescott’s *Yo Sign, Yo Yard?, Yo Marriage* (estimate: \$25,000-35,000) and Barkley Hendricks’s, *Big Guy (Three Game Series)* (estimate: \$8,000-12,000).



Barkley Hendricks
Big Guy (Three Game Series)
 Estimate: \$8,000-12,000

The catalogue will also feature Property from the private Collection of Alitash Kebede. A native of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Alitash began an appreciation for photography in her youth, through her exposure to LIFE magazine. Determined to establish a meaningful exchange between African and American artists, she represented them in her Los Angeles gallery and has collected modern African American artists such as Alma Thomas, Bob Thompson and Norman Lewis. Sale highlights include the catalogue’s cover lot, Jacob Lawrence’s *Flight #1* (estimate: \$120,000-150,000), Romare Bearden’s *Wednesday Evening* (estimate: \$40,000-50,000), as well as Bob Thompson’s *Study for Ascension to the Heavens* (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) and Alma Thomas’s, *Garden* (estimate: \$8,000-12,000).

Among the highlights is a work by Robert Rauschenberg that has never been shown publicly, *Guide (Rigs)* (estimate: \$60,000-80,000), and works by artists Susan Rothenberg, *Pillow* (estimate: \$50,000-70,000), David Smith, *ΔΣ 2/5/55* (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), and Thomas Scheibitz, *Untitled* (estimate \$4,000-6,000). In addition, the sale includes a fine selection of Abstract Expressionist works by Willem de Kooning, Milton Resnick, Arshile Gorky, Norman Bluhm and Michael Goldberg.



Auction: *Open House*

June 30 at 10am & 2pm

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

June 27-29

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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

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