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## SOTHEBY'S CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING AUCTION TOTALS \$266,591,000

Artist Records Set For Roy Lichtenstein, Cy Twombly, And A Number Of Living Artists



NEW YORK, 9 May 2012: Tonight at Sotheby's, the Contemporary Art Evening Sale brought a strong total of \$266,591,000, well within the \$216/304 million pre-sale estimate and with 81% of lots sold.

Tobias Meyer, this evening's auctioneer and Sotheby's Worldwide Head of Contemporary Art, said: "We are thrilled with tonight's total of \$266 million, and especially with the results achieved for our top four lots, which set a record for Roy Lichtenstein, for a single panel by Francis Bacon, one of the strongest prices for Andy Warhol in some time, and a record for Cy Twombly. The top end of the market performed beautifully this evening due to a global demand for masterpieces that is almost unparalleled, and we saw a remarkable depth of bidding between \$30-40 million."

Alex Rotter, Sotheby's New York Head of Contemporary Art said: "We were honored to have been able to offer a group of works from the Collection of Theodore Forstmann, which attracted active bidding and brought the robust total of \$22 million compared to pre-sale estimates of \$13-18 million. There was especially

strong competition for Lichtenstein's **Sailboats**, which achieved \$11.8 million, eclipsing a price achieved for a comparable painting at the height of the market a sure sign of the health of today's market."

Roy Lichtenstein's **Sleeping Girl** from 1964 was sought by six bidders before selling for \$44,882,500, a new record for the artist at auction (est. \$30/40 million). *Sleeping Girl* is one of the high-points of the Lichtenstein's comic book inspired paintings and an icon of Post-War American art. The painting has not appeared on the market since it was purchased by noted West Coast collectors and philanthropists Beatrice and Phillip Gersh in 1964.

Just two lots later one of the most powerful and sophisticated paintings by Francis Bacon – **Figure Writing Reflected In Mirror** – also sold for \$44,882,500. The total exceeds the \$30/40 million estimate and is the highest auction price for a single-panel painting by the artist. *Figure Writing Reflected In Mirror* was included in the legendary 1977 exhibition at Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris and had not appeared on the market since.

A further highlight was **Double Elvis [Ferus Type]** by Andy Warhol which sold for \$37,042,500. The 1963 work is a seminal piece from the iconic series devoted to the singer and actor that was first seen at the Ferus gallery in Los Angeles the year it was created. Before tonight, it had not appeared on the market since 1977.

Prices continued to soar for works by the German artist Gerhard Richter tonight. **Abstraktes Bild 768-2**, which hasn't appeared on the market since 1992, was sought after by as many as six bidders before selling for \$16,882,500, well-above the high estimate of \$10 million. The artist's beautiful **Wolken (Clouds)** also inspired competition selling for \$5,682,500 (est. \$5/7 million), and an **Abstraktes Bild** from 1991 brought \$4,954,500 (est. \$2.8/3.5 million).

Contemporary Art from the Estate of Theodore J. Forstmann also performed well tonight totalling \$22,255,500, well over the \$13/18 million estimate. This success follows the \$83 million achieved in last week's Impressionist and Modern sales. The group was led by Roy Lichtenstein's **Sailboats III** which sold for \$11,842,500, well over the \$6/8 million estimate. **Ring**, a striking 1981 self-portrait by Jean-Michel Basquiat, fetched \$7,642,500 (est. \$4/6 million) and Arshile Gorky's **Khorkom** sold for \$2,770,500 (est. \$3/4 million).

The sale saw a number of strong prices for the American master Cy Twombly who died last year. **Untitled (New York City)** from 1966, one of the most important works by the artist to have appeared at auction, sold for \$17,442,500, comfortably within the \$15/20 million estimate and establishing a new record for the artist at auction, while **Untitled (Roma)** fetched \$3,442,500 (est. \$2/3 million).

**Artist Records**

Roy Lichtenstein	<i>Sleeping Girl</i>	\$44,882,500
Cy Twombly	<i>Untitled (New York City)</i>	\$17,442,500
Glenn Ligon	<i>Black Like Me #1</i>	\$1,314,500
Mark Bradford	<i>Grrr...</i>	\$886,500
Ai Wei Wei	<i>Kui Hua Zi (Sunflower Seeds)</i>	\$782,500
Isa Genzken	<i>Kinder Filmen I</i>	\$386,500

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