

Sotheby's

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Edvard Munch's Seminal GIRLS ON THE BRIDGE

To Lead Sotheby's November Sales of
Impressionist & Modern Art

– Estimated in Excess of \$50 Million –

AUCTION IN NEW YORK 14 NOVEMBER 2016

Sotheby's Public Exhibitions of
Impressionist & Modern and Contemporary Art
Open 4 November on York Avenue

NEW YORK, 21 October 2016 – Sotheby's is honored to announce that Edvard Munch's stunning **Pikene på broen (Girls on the Bridge)** will lead our November 2016 auctions of Impressionist & Modern Art in New York.

Munch painted *Girls on the Bridge* in 1902, during an emotionally-turbulent yet highly-productive period of his life. The lyrical work ranks as one of the most powerful paintings of his career, and has twice set a new world auction record for the artist at Sotheby's.

Girls on the Bridge will come to auction on 14 November with an estimate in excess of \$50 million.



Simon Shaw, Co-Head of Sotheby's Worldwide Impressionist & Modern Art Department, commented: "Edvard Munch's importance to the full breadth of 20th century art cannot be overstated. From the Expressionists to Fauvism and Pop Art, his *oeuvre* is increasingly prized for its lasting influence on the art of recent times. Munch pioneered the art of the self: recent museum shows pairing his work with that of artists ranging from Vincent van Gogh to Robert Mapplethorpe, Louise Bourgeois, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol – among many others – have illustrated that his genius burns brighter today than ever. Our team has been privileged to present some of the artist's most exceptional works at auction, each of which has caused great excitement in the market, and *Girls on the Bridge* is no exception."

Sotheby's has been the stage for two decades of market-defining moments for the work of Edvard Munch, beginning with the 1996 sale of the present painting for a then-record \$7.7 million. In 2006, Sotheby's London held a historic sale of eight works by Munch from the collection of his patron Thomas Olsen, which together achieved nearly \$30 million and established a new record when *Summer Day* sold for \$10.8 million. Sotheby's broke the artist's record twice in 2008: first (and again) with *Girls on the Bridge* (sold for \$30.8 million), followed just six months later by *Vampire* (sold for \$38.2 million). In 2012, Sotheby's had the great privilege of auctioning one of four versions of Munch's iconic *The Scream*, which brought a world auction record price for any work of art: \$119.9 million.

The rich symbolism of *Girls on the Bridge* relates to Munch's *Frieze of Life*, which takes the stages of a young woman's development from puberty to maturity as one of its themes. *Girls on the Bridge* continues Munch's exploration of the themes of both sexual awakening and mortality. The image of a cluster of young women, huddled in a secretive mass between two points of land, resonates with explosive tension.



The present work has formed an integral part of several famed collections. It was first brought to the United States by Norton Simon in the 1960s. Wendell and Dorothy Cherry acquired *Girls on the*

Bridge from Norton Simon in 1980, adding to an extraordinary collection that included seminal works by Degas, Klimt, Modigliani, Sargent, Soutine and Picasso. Wendell Cherry passed away in 1991 and *Girls on the Bridge* remained with his widow Dorothy until 1996, when it was sold at Sotheby's New York.

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Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of Sotheby's Financial Services, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Contemporary Art department, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 90 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (BID).

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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