

## POST WAR & CONTEMPORARY AUCTIONS LONDON, FEBRUARY 10th, 11th and 12th. ARTEMUNDI



The Contemporary art evening sale at Sotheby's auction house realised a final total of £69,461,000 with a BI of 27% over 59 artworks offered. The sale was led by Lucian Freud's tender portrait of his lover Bernadine Coverley, pregnant at the time with their daughter Bella. The 1960-61 work was pursued by six bidders and sold for £16.1 million, more than £9 million above the pre-sale low estimate and a new record for an early painting by the artist. The Sotheby's Contemporary Art day auction achieved a final result of £16,164,500. The top lot of the sale was Robert Longo's monumental charcoal drawing *Untitled (Tiger Head, No. 8)*. The work sold for £450,000 against a pre-sale estimate of £450,000-650,000. Sigmar Polke's 1999 work *Druckfehler* and Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Untitled (Blue Painting)* from 1986 also achieved strong results, selling for £785,000 and £509,000 respectively. According to Art Market Monitor, this February Contemporary day sale's total was down about 4.4% year over year with 30% fewer lots sold. That means Sotheby's Contemporary Day sale average lot value rose by nearly a third.

Amid a grim trading day of sinking financial markets worldwide, Christie's Post-War and Contemporary evening art resulted £58,099,000. Only seven of the 61 lots offered failed to sell, for a crisp of BI of 13%. Eleven works sold for over a million pounds and of those, three made over £5 million; and 18 works sold for more than a million dollars. Remarkably, seven of the top 10 prices were set by British artists: Lucian Freud, Francis Bacon, Peter Doig, and David Hockney. Closing the first season of February's auction, Christie's pulled off its Post-War and Contemporary day art auction sale with a BI rate of only 17%. Even though, the £14 M total is far from impressive, it seems that the middle market strategy with realistic estimates are producing stable results, -compared with the 43% BI-rate form Alfred Taubman's auction-. Only time will reveal the middle-market's true profits during the next auction seasons in May at NY.







10 TOP LOTS SOLD				
	Artist	Title	Sale Price	Venue
1	LUCIAN FREUD	PREGNANT GIRL	£ 16,053,000	SOTHEBY'S
2	PETER DOIG	THE ARCHITECT'S HOME IN THE RAVINE	£ 11,282,500	CHRISTIE'S
3	ALBERTO BURRI	SACCO E ROSSO	£ 9,109,000	SOTHEBY'S
4	JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT	UNTITLED (HEAD OF MADMAN)	£ 6,197,000	SOTHEBY'S
5	FRANCIS BACON	TWO FIGURES	£ 5,458,500	CHRISTIE'S
6	ANDY WARHOL	LARGE CAMPBELL'S SOUP CAN	£ 5,133,000	SOTHEBY'S
7	LUCIAN FREUD	HEAD OF ESTHER	£ 4,786,500	CHRISTIE'S
8	PETER DOIG	ISLAND PAINTING	£ 3,442,500	CHRISTIE'S
9	ADRIAN GHENIE	THE SUNFLOWERS IN 1937	£ 3,117,000	SOTHEBY'S
10	DAVID HOCKNEY	BEACH UMBRELLA	£ 3,106,500	CHRISTIE'S
			TOTAL:	£ 67,685,500

<sup>\*</sup>All prices are in GBP