

## **A STRONG SALE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT SOTHEBY'S TONIGHT TOTALS \$25,244,650**

***--Lucian Freud's *The Painter's Mother* Sells for \$3,302,500 --***

***-- Andy Warhol's *Marlon* Sells for \$2,642,500--***

New York, NY, May 18, 1999 - A strong auction of Contemporary Art at Sotheby's tonight brought \$25,244,650 (£15,598,669), within the pre-sale estimates and was 89% sold by value and 77% by lot. Andy Warhol's *Marlon* brought an outstanding \$2,642,500, well over its high estimate of \$2 million. Works from the Kraetz Collection offered during Part I, which included Warhol's *Marlon*, fetched \$3,908,700, surpassing the high estimate of \$2.7 million.

Tobias Meyer, Worldwide Director of Sotheby's Contemporary Art Department and this evening's auctioneer, commented: "Tonight was a collector's night at Sotheby's, one of the liveliest sales in many years. The strong results were due to the very fresh material we were able to assemble, particularly the Kraetz Collection. This resulted in spirited bidding, predominately from private collectors, mostly American, with some European competition, notably for the top Warhol. "

Lucian Freud's *The Painter's Mother* (est. \$3/4 million) sold for \$3,302,500 to Richard Nagy of the Dover Street Gallery in London. Painted in 1982-84 it shows Freud's mother lying on a bed, clothed in a white gown, one leg crossed over another, with her hand on her chest and staring blankly at the ceiling.

The highlight of works offered from the Kraetz Collection was Andy Warhol's magnetic and seductive image from 1966, *Marlon* (est. \$1.5/2 million) which, after an exciting round of bidding between eight different bidders, sold for \$2,642,500 to a private collector over the phone. For this work Warhol used a photographic still from the movie *The Wild One* (1953) in which he contorted the image of Brando, painting the vertical still on a horizontal canvas, purposely leaving the left portion of the canvas blank.

Also from the Kraetz Collection was Warhol's *Suicide*, an arresting image of a man jumping from a building which sold for \$717,500 soaring past the pre-sale estimate of \$100/150,000. In 1991 Sotheby's offered nine lots from the Kraetz Collection which totaled \$3,184,500.

Alexander Calder's *Constellation* (est. \$600/800,000), Property of Theodate and Scott Severns, from 1943, fetched an impressive \$1,982,500, more than twice its high estimate and a top price for a wall mounted sculpture. The work was commissioned from the artist by Philip Johnson and hung in the "Hidden House" which he shared with his sister, Theodate Severns. Calder's *Trépied* (est. \$1.5/2 million) a monumental standing mobile, from 1972, painted in red and black, sold for \$1,542,500 to a private collector.

Francis Bacon's *Two Figures at a Window* sold for \$1,542,500, surpassing its pre-sale estimate of \$800/1,200,000. This profoundly haunting image was produced at the same time as one of Bacon's most significant works, *Study after Velazquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent*.

Among several younger artists' records set in this evening's sale was Wim Delvoye's *Mosaic* (est. \$25/35,000) which sold for \$28,750, Robert Irwin's *Disc* (est. \$90/120,000) which fetched \$134,500, an auction record for a sculpture by the artist and Mike Kelley's *Number One* and *Number Two* (est. \$40/60,000) which sold for \$79,000, setting a record for Kelley's sculpture at auction.

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Contemporary, Part II including works from the Kraetz Collection will continue tomorrow, Wednesday, May 19 at 10.15am and 2pm.

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