

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S WILL OFFER PAULINE BOTY'S *EPITAPH TO SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE* IN THE MODERN BRITISH AND IRISH ART EVENING SALE

THE ONLY PORTRAIT OF MARILYN MONROE BY BOTY IN PRIVATE HANDS



Pauline Boty, *Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give* (1962, estimate: £500,000-800,000)

London – Christie's will offer Pauline Boty's celebratory tribute to Marilyn Monroe, *Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give* (1962, estimate: £500,000-800,000), as a leading highlight of the Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale on 20 March. The painting was gifted to a close friend of Boty's in 1964 and has remained in the same collection since. One of Pop Art's founding members, Pauline Boty died prematurely at the age of 28 in 1966. *Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give* is one of only around 25 Pop paintings that Boty created and was included in a rare lifetime exhibition at Arthur Jeffress Gallery in London in 1962.

Boty painted two further depictions of Monroe as tributes to the actress following her death, both of which are held in museum collections: *Colour Her Gone*, 1962 (Wolverhampton Art Gallery) and *The Only Blond in the World*, 1963 (Tate, London). *Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give* will be on view in New York from 9 to 21 February before being exhibited in London from 13 to 20 March.

Angus Granlund, Head of Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale, Christie's: *"Painted in Boty's distinctive style, Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give takes the form of a pictorial collage that is entirely rendered in oil paint. A celebration of female empowerment, this is thought to be Boty's only painting of Monroe painted during the actress' lifetime. The epitaph referred to in the title relates to the film Something's Gotta Give shutting down production. The centrepiece of the composition is taken from a photograph published in Life magazine on 22 June 1962, depicting Monroe swimming in a pool on set. Collecting, collating and synthesising mass culture imagery from newspapers, adverts and magazines was central to Boty's practice. A true polymath, as well as being a ground-breaking artist, Boty was also a talented actress and political activist. She strongly identified with Monroe and is often associated with her. Held in the same private collection since 1964, this rare painting brings together these two celebrated 1960s icons. Christie's is honoured to present Epitaph to Something's Gotta Give as a leading highlight of the Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale and look forward to welcoming clients in New York and London to view this Pop Art masterpiece."*

Pauline Boty was a pioneering artist whose work shaped one of the greatest movements in British art of the 20th century. Within her short lifetime, she created a powerful, vibrant group of works that explored popular culture and left-wing politics, subjects which were coming into sharp focus in the 1960s. Boty studied at the Royal College of Art, the seedbed of the Pop Art movement, where she met, befriended and went on to exhibit with Sir Peter Blake, Derek Boshier, David Hockney, Peter Phillips and Patrick Caulfield. In 1961, she exhibited along with Blake and two others at the A.I.A. Gallery in a group show seen as the very first Pop Art exhibition.

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