

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 26 APRIL 2024 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS

*Property from
the Collection of* **MARY & JOHN
PAPPAJOHN**



20th Century Evening Sale

Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn

JASPER JOHNS (B. 1930)

0 through 9

Sculp-metal and collage on canvas with Sculp-metal on wood frame

Executed in 1961.

Estimate: \$5,000,000-7,000,000

NEW YORK – Christie's is honored to announce **Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn** which will be offered as a group of highlights during the Spring Marquee Week of sales in New York. The collection includes an incredible array of artworks by leading names in post-war and contemporary art including Jasper Johns, Bruce Nauman, Agnes Martin, Henry Moore, and Ad Reinhardt. The collection is led by *0 through 9* (\$5,000,000 - 7,000,000) an all-important 1961 example by the iconic Jasper Johns, in which he uses layering to challenge formal notions of numerical symbols.

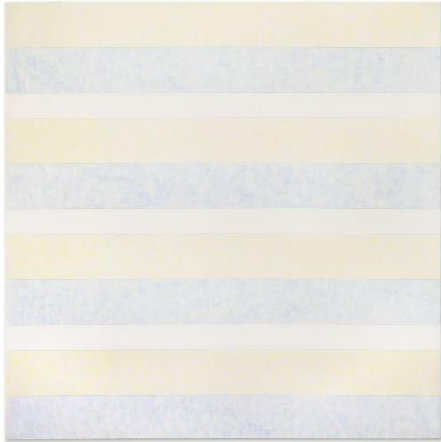
In 1955, soon after the artist completed his first *Flag* and *Target* paintings, Johns began his *Numbers* paintings which would go on to form the central core of a career that spanned second half of the twentieth century. The present work is a particularly important example from within the series as it is the original Sculp-metal painting from the artist's first European show, held in Paris at the Galerie Rive Droite in the summer of 1961. Property from the Collection of Mary and John Pappajohn will be offered in both the 21st Century Evening Sales on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 and the 20th Century Evening Sale on Thursday, May 16, 2024 as well as in the subsequent Day Sales.

Johanna Flaum, Christie's Vice Chairman of 20th and 21st Century Art, remarks, "*Mary and John Pappajohn collected with deep passion and together created a collection richly reflective of post-war and contemporary art in America. Beginning in the 1960s, the works they acquired challenged accepted norms and pushed boundaries, proposing new concepts and ideas of what art could be. Their singular vision resulted in a best-in-class collection that was far ahead of its time, featuring artworks of the highest quality. We are thrilled to offer this phenomenal selection across our 20th and 21st Century Spring Marquee Week sales.*"

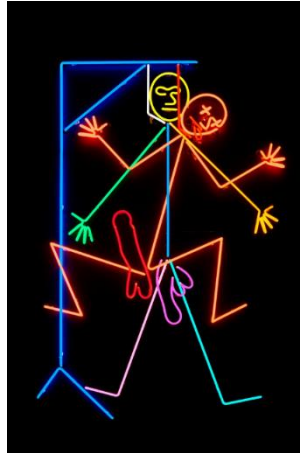
The Pappajohns' collection comprises bold examples by artists testing the limits of previously conceived notions of art. In *Untitled # 7* (\$3,000,000 – 5,000,000), Agnes Martin employs aspects of both Abstract Expressionism and Minimalism to evoke a transcendental state of spirituality through a rarified "field of vision." Bruce Nauman's *Hanged Man* (\$4,000,000 – 6,000,000) transforms simple neon lines into a frenetic, sexual image. Made at the height of the AIDS crisis, the work prioritizes cognitive provocation over aesthetic pleasure. As a whole, the collection subverts traditional modes of subject and composition, and exemplifies the very best in groundbreaking contemporary art.

John Pappajohn first discovered his love of art through a course taken during his senior year at the University of Iowa; Mary Pappajohn studied art at the University of Minnesota. After meeting and falling in love, the couple embarked on a lifelong journey together of appreciating and collecting meaningful artwork. They married in 1961 and bought the first piece for their collection within the first month of marriage, a fifty-dollar print by Keith Achepohl from a Des Moines art gallery. The Pappajohns had art on their walls before they even had furniture. In 2009, Mary and John Pappajohn gifted their extensive sculpture collection to the city of Des Moines, and effectively transformed the neighborhood into a world-class cultural attraction with the Pappajohn Sculpture Park. Mary and John Pappajohn were the most generous philanthropists in Iowa's history and were among the most important cultural philanthropists in the United States.

Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn | Additional Highlights



20th Century Evening Sale
Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn
AGNES MARTIN (1912-2004)
Untitled #7
acrylic and graphite on canvas
Painted in 1996.
Estimate: \$3,000,000-5,000,000



21st Century Evening Sale
Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn
BRUCE NAUMAN (B. 1941)
Hanged Man
neon tubing mounted on metal monolith
Executed in 1985. This work is number two from an edition of three.
Estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000



20th Century Evening Sale
Property from the Collection of Mary & John Pappajohn
HENRY MOORE (1898-1986)
Animal Form
travertine
Conceived and carved in 1969
Estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000

CHRISTIE'S NEW PRESS CENTRE IS NOW ONLINE

SUBSCRIBE TO DOWNLOAD IMAGES + RECEIVE OUR NEWS

PRESS CONTACT: Jessica Stanley | +212 636 6280 | Christie's Americas | pressamericas@christies.com

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business with a physical presence in 46 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, and flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. Renowned and trusted for our expert live and online-only auctions, as well as bespoke [Private Sales](#), Christie's unparalleled network of specialists offers our clients a full portfolio of [global services](#), including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's [auctions](#) span more than **80 art and luxury categories**, at price points ranging from \$500 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 7 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction, launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art and manages [an investment fund](#) to support innovative startups in the art market. Christie's is also committed to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide. To [learn more](#), browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at [christies.com](#) or by downloading Christie's apps.

** Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

###

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON

