

PRICE DISTRIBUTION OF LOTS SOLD







POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 2019

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While the total was down more than 25% from the equivalent sale a year ago, the Sothe by's auction ended New York's auction week on a relatively secure note. With a solid 10% BI, 21 lots offered sold above estimate, 22 within estimates, only 3 below estimate. The night's biggest lot was Willem de Kooning's *Untitled XXII* (1977), for \$30.1 M, surpassing by 5% its low estimate. The same Asian bidder previously secured Clyfford Still's *PH-399* (1946) for \$24.3 million just two lots earlier. The top third lot of the night was Mark Rothko's *Blue Over Red* (1953) and it, too, sold to an Asian bidder.

Christie's marketing department were the true heroes behind the sale of Ed Ruscha's new record of *Hurting the Word Radio #2* (1964) which soared to an above-estimate \$52.5 million. But the uneven performance from a few other expected top lots kept the overall total from launching beyond expectations. From the 55 lots offered, 12 sold above estimate, and only 6 lots failed to sell, representing a 13% Bl. Once again guarantees were a vital part of Christie's sober results since 24 of the 48 lots that sold were backed by third-party guarantees, meaning that, in effect, half of the deals were pre-made. This was also noticeable in the final result, since 23 sold lots saw the hammer fall at a price beneath their low estimate.

Phillips evening sale of 20th-century and contemporary art achieved just over \$108 million. The sale was far from exciting with 5 lots selling above estimate, but it also represented steady results, since 19 of the lots sold within estimates and only 16 below estimates. Nevertheless, the auction room came alive when the Norman Rockwell painting Before the Shot (1958) came on the block. Bidding opened at \$1.7 million and at least bidders chased it, finally selling for \$4.7 million with premium. Of 42 lots offered, the sale saw a robust BI rate of 7%, with only two lots failing to sell (98% of the total estimated value).







10 TOP LOTS SOLD				*****
	Artist	Title	Venue	Sale Price
1	ED RUSCHA	HURTING THE WORD RADIO #2	CHISTIE'S	\$ 52,485,000
2	WILLEM DE KOONING	UNTITLED XXII	SOTHEBY'S	\$ 30,105,800
3	DAVID HOCKNEY	SUR LA TERRASSE	CHISTIE'S	\$ 29,501,250
4	MARK ROTHKO	BLUE OVER RED	SOTHEBY'S	\$ 26,461,000
5	CLYFFORD STILL	PH-399	SOTHEBY'S	\$ 24,296,900
6	GERHARD RICHTER	VOGELFLUGLINIE	CHISTIE'S	\$ 20,478,000
7	ANDY WARHOL	BIG ELECTRIC CHAIR	CHISTIE'S	\$ 19,000,000
8	KERRY JAMES MARSHALL	VIGNETTE 19	SOTHEBY'S	\$ 18,488,000
9	YVES KLEIN	BARBARA	CHISTIE'S	\$ 15,597,500
10	JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT	THE RING	PHILLIPS	\$ 15,035,000
			TOTAL SALES	\$ 251,448,450

*All prices are in USD