





A R T E M U N D I[®]

20TH & 21ST CENTURY ART AUCTIONS LONDON, OCTOBER 2022

Last week's London 20th / 21st Century Art sales, which coincided with Frieze London art fair, showed a strong focus on contemporary art. Modern and early Contemporary art sales offered just under 450 lots that sold for \pounds 206,949,304 in total. This is around half the result achieved during the June London sales where, however, there also were double as many lots for sale.

Under the name "Contemporary Art Evening Sale", omitting the usual "Modern art" in the title, Sotheby's brought to auction works from Post-War to present art movements and focused on fewer and more Contemporary art centered sales overall, with the last sale held on Saturday and not as usual during the work week only.

Christie's on the other hand embedded their main auctions alongside non-global sales to form their London Marquee Week, including Modern British and Irish art and Contemporary African art. Phillips, in turn, only offered an evening sale of 37 lots and no traditional day sale at this time.

The best-selling lot last week was again - just as in June - by Post-War artist Francis Bacon. His Three Studies for Portrait of Henrietta Moraes, formerly part of the renowned Collectrion of William S. Paley, sold to benefit the Museum of Modern Art and other Charitable Organizations and changed hands for £24,300,000 at Sotheby's evening sale. Next best-sellers were David Hockney's Early Morning, Sainte-Maxime, which sold at Christie's for £ 20,899,500 and two works by Gerhard Richter, one sold at Sotheby's for £ 18,287,800 and the other one at Christie's for £ 11,167,000.

At no surprise did the Nine Multicoloured Marilyns (Reversal Series) by Andy Warhol enter the Top 10 prices achieved last week, following what can be called a Warhol-mania these days. The work was sold at Sotheby's, where six out of the top ten lots sold, while Christie's contributed three lots to the list and Phillips entered with Alberto Burri's Sacco e Rosso, as well.

Christie's, which contributed 43% to the total achieved last week in Modern and early Contemporary sales, celebrated a white-glove evening sale, meaning that all lots offered found a new owner. The rest of the total was distributed between Sotheby's (48%) and Phillips (9%), however, it is worth noting, that Phillips only offered merely 37 lots during their only coresponding sale.

With a low average Bought-In (BI) rate of 11% signaling a solid market, especially Post-War artworks show consistency in prices and proof steady in otherwise uncertain economies and markets these days. Now, it remains to see how the year in auctions closes with the November Marquee sales around the corner.

10	TOP LOTS S	SOLD		
	Artist	Title	Venue	Sale Price
1	FRANCIS BACON	THREE STUDIES FOR PORTRAIT OF HENRIETTA	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 24,300,0
2	DAVID HOCKNEY	EARLY MORNING, SAINTE-MAXIME	CHRISTIE'S	£ 20,899,5
3	GERHARD RICHTER	192 FARBEN	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 18,287,8
4	GERHARD RICHTER	WOLKENSTUDIE (GRÜN BLAU)	CHRISTIE'S	£ 11,167,0
5	FRANCIS BACON	PAINTING 1990	CHRISTIE'S	£ 7,102,2
6	FRANK AUERBACH	HEAD OF J.Y.M.	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 5,648,8
7	ANDY WARHOL	NINE MULTICOLOURED MARILYNS (REVERSAL	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 5,189,2
8	DAVID HOCKNEY	BIG LANDSCAPE (MEDIUM)	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 4,149,0
9	YAYOI KUSAMA	INFINITY-NETS (QOTP)	SOTHEB Y'S	£ 3,423,0
10	ALBERTO BURRI	SACCO E ROSSO	PHILLIPS	£ 3,047,5
			TOTAL SALES	£ 103,214,0