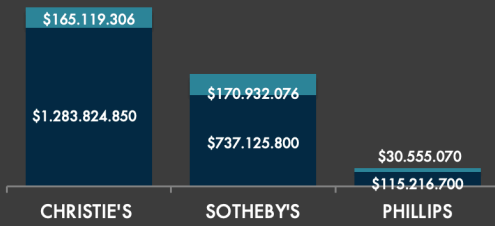


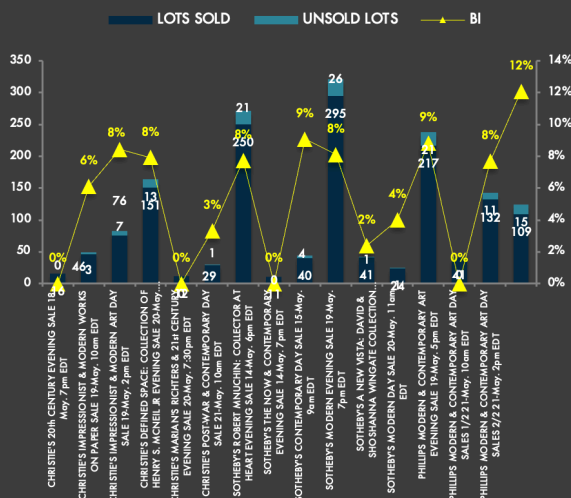
20TH & 21ST CENTURY ART AUCTIONS NEW YORK, MAY 2026

TOTAL SALES

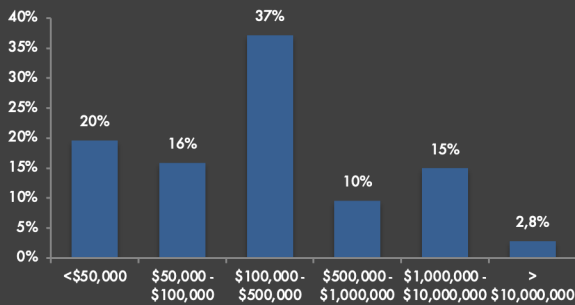
■ EVENING ■ DAY



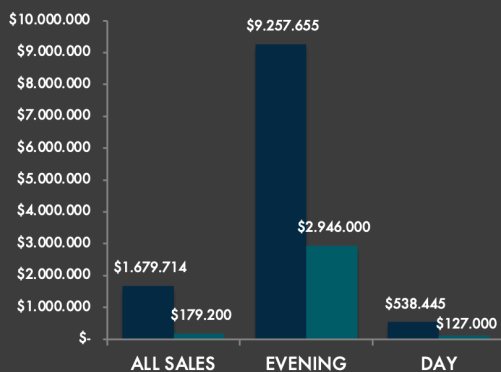
TOTAL LOTS AVAILABLE & BI RATE



PRICE DISTRIBUTION OF LOTS SOLD



■ AVERAGE PRICE ■ MEDIAN PRICE



Over the last seven days, Christie's, Sotheby's, and Phillips celebrated the May Marquee sales of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, Modern, Post-War, and Contemporary art auctions in New York. Following the positive start to the year of the London sales in March, the New York auctions reconfirmed the upward trend with record-breaking sales filling headlines beyond the art world. However, before we tune into the chant of the opulent return of the art market that many have proclaimed, let's take a closer look at the results.

The total for the week, at \$2,502,773,802 USD, surpassed last November's New York auctions by 13% and doubled the results from May 2025. Just over 1600 lots came up for auction, spread over 16 sales: Christie's offered 39% of the lots over seven auctions, Sotheby's offered 42% over six auctions, and Phillips held three sales offering the remaining 19% of lots this season. Still, the share of the week's total shows a different picture: While Christie's slightly lagged behind Sotheby's in terms of volume, Christie's was responsible for 58% of sales by value. Sotheby's contributed 36% to the total, and Phillips 6%.

The strong results were largely carried by over forty lots selling north of ten million USD and six lots selling for more than fifty million USD.

When Jackson Pollock's *Number 7A*, 1948, from the S.I. Newhouse collection sold at Christie's for 181,185,000 USD it did not only triple the previous auction record of the artist but became the best-selling lot this season and the fourth most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.

The second-best-selling lot, Constantin Brancusi's *Danaïde*, also came from the same prestigious collection and changed hands for 107,585,000 USD. Overall, the S.I. Newhouse single-owner sale contributed 25% to this week's total and gave four of the top ten best-sellers despite of comprising of 16 lots only, merely one percent of this week's volume.

Another highly anticipated single-owner collection of Robert Mnuchin, which sold at Sotheby's, shone with a 1957 Mark Rothko that sold within estimate for 85,780,000 USD but fell behind Christie's Rothko from Agnes Gund's collection, achieving 98,385,000 USD and marking a new artist record.

The number of female artists included in evening sales noticeably increased. Among them, *The Desert* by Agnes Martin, which sold for \$9.225 million at Christie's, becoming the artist's highest-priced work this season and her sixth best price at auction. Proceeds from the sale of this artwork, previously part of Fundación Lumberras – Colección Adrastus and sold with the support of Artemundi, will be directed to Collegium, a museum located in rural Spain.

BI-rates were remarkably low and indicate increased pre-sale labor to find buyers for most of the lots offered, including guarantees. Evening sales had an average sell-through rate of 97%, day sales of 92%, resulting in an average BI-rate of only 5% this season, also due to four white-glove sales.

Still, Sotheby's evening sales results fell short of their estimate, and while Phillips was able to outperform its evening sale estimate by 27%, Sotheby's efforts did not meet the performance of its competitors this time. Sotheby's numbers visualized the dilemma of the market optimism: the return of jaw-dropping sales at the top end is not necessarily exemplary of the performance of the second- and third-tier lots, which indicate a recovering market that, however, is still in a phase of recalibration. Art Basel in June will add the perspective of the private market to the picture of the current art market.

10 TOP SOLD LOTS

	Artist	Title	Venue	Sale price
1	Jackson Pollock	Number 7A	Christie's	\$ 181.185.000
2	Constantin Brancusi	Danaïde	Christie's	\$ 107.585.000
3	Mark Rothko	No.15 (Two Greens and Red Stripe)	Christie's	\$ 98.385.000
4	Mark Rothko	Brown and Blacks in Reds	Sotheby's	\$ 85.780.000
5	Joan Miró	Portrait de Madame K.	Christie's	\$ 53.535.000
6	J-M. Basquiat	Museum Security	Sotheby's	\$ 52.717.500
7	Henri Matisse	La Chaise Lorraine	Sotheby's	\$ 48.405.000
8	Pablo Picasso	Tête de Femme (Fernande)	Christie's	\$ 48.360.000
9	Roy Lichtenstein	Anxious Girl	Christie's	\$ 46.060.000
10	Cy Twombly	Untitled	Christie's	\$ 45.485.000
	TOTAL SALES			\$ 767.497.500