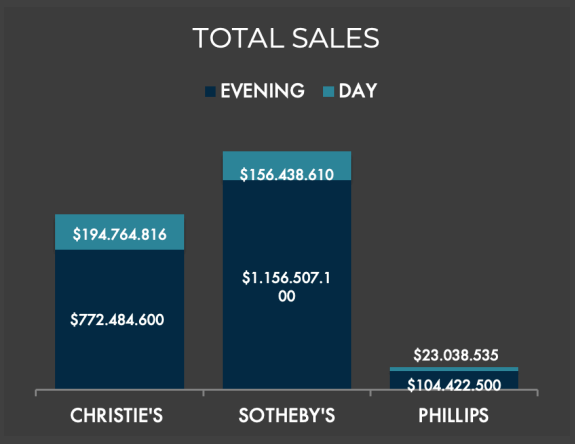
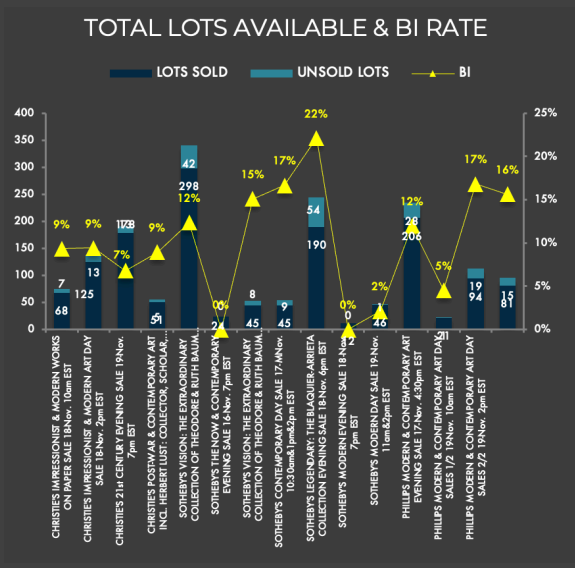
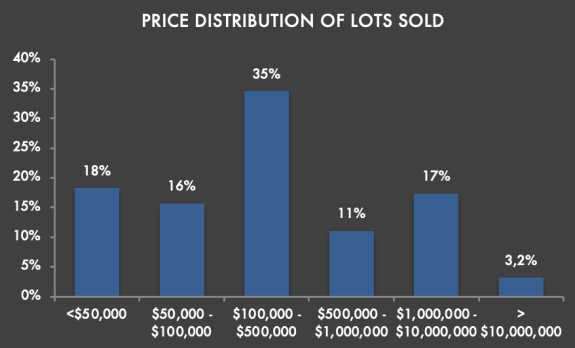
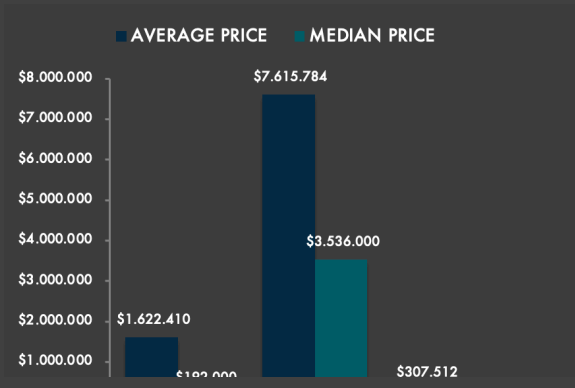
ARTEMUNDI®

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









Last week in New York, Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips held their November Marquee sales, covering Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, Modern, Post-War and Contemporary art. As the final major auction cycle of the year, these sales often set the tone for the market ahead. Across fifteen auctions, the three houses offered 1,700 lots, selling nearly 1,500 and achieving an average sell-through rate of 87%. The combined total of USD 2,407,656,161 almost matched May's result, falling just 4%, while outperforming last November's Marquee week by 8%.

Major collections, including those of Blaquier-Arrieta, Theodore and Ruth Baum, Agnes Gund and Herbert Lust, significantly shaped the week's results and helped establish new auction records for several artists. The average price per lot reached USD 1,622,410, in line with May, while 47 lots sold for more than USD 10 million.

Vincent van Gogh's *Châtaigniers en fleurs* led the week, setting a new artist record at USD 190,430,000. Paul Cézanne's *Arlequin* followed at USD 111,010,000. Both works came from Sotheby's Blaquier-Arrieta sale and accounted for 13% of the weekly total. Christie's 20th Century Evening Sale secured the next two positions, with Wassily Kandinsky's *Betonte Ecken* selling for USD 85,780,000, also a record, and Gustav Klimt's *Litzlbergkeller* reaching USD 82,330,000. The results reinforced demand for established 20th-century masters and works with exceptional provenance.

After several weaker seasons, Phillips returned to the top ten with Amedeo Modigliani's *Tête*, sold for USD 44,630,000, and improved its own November results by 55%. The house accounted for 5% of the weekly total, against 55% for Sotheby's and 40% for Christie's.

Fernando Botero and Wifredo Lam were among twenty artists to achieve new auction records. Lam's *Ogue Orisa (Eggue Orissa, l'herbe des dieux)* sold for USD 11,605,000 to Gary Nader, who plans to include it in an upcoming exhibition at the Gary Nader Art Centre. The strength of Latin American masters points to growing international interest in the category. Contemporary art, by contrast, has yet to recover, with Christie's 21st Century Evening Sale closing below its pre-sale estimate, excluding fees. Selective bidding across the week reflected increasingly discerning buyers.

A 10% average bought-in rate, falling to around 6% for evening sales, further confirmed the strength of the results. Sotheby's achieved two white-glove sales, with every lot sold.
The week closed on a positive note, leaving the market well positioned ahead of Art Basel Miami Beach in December, the year's final major art-world event.

10 TOP SOLD LOTS

	Artist	Title	Venue	Sale price
1	Vincent van Gogh	Châtaigners en fleurs	Sotheby's	$ 190.430.000
2	Paul Cézanne	Arlequin	Sotheby's	$ 111.010.000
3	Wassily Kandinsky	Betinte Ecken	Christie's	$ 85.780.000
4	Gustav Klimt	Litzlbergkeller	Christie's	$ 82.330.000
5	Edward Hopper	The Martha McKeen of Wellfleet	Sotheby's	$ 47.830.000
6	René Magritte	L'Ami de l'Ordre	Sotheby's	$ 45.530.000
7	Amedeo Modigliani	Tête	Phillips	$ 44.630.000
8	J.-M. Basquiat	Untitled (Leonardo and his...)	Christie's	$ 32.880.000
9	Pablo Picasso	Le Baiser	Christie's	$ 31.155.000
10	Pablo Picasso	Tête de femme (Dora Maar)	Christie's	$ 30.005.000
			TOTAL SALES	$ 701.580.000