

Per diffusione immediata
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CHRISTIE'S

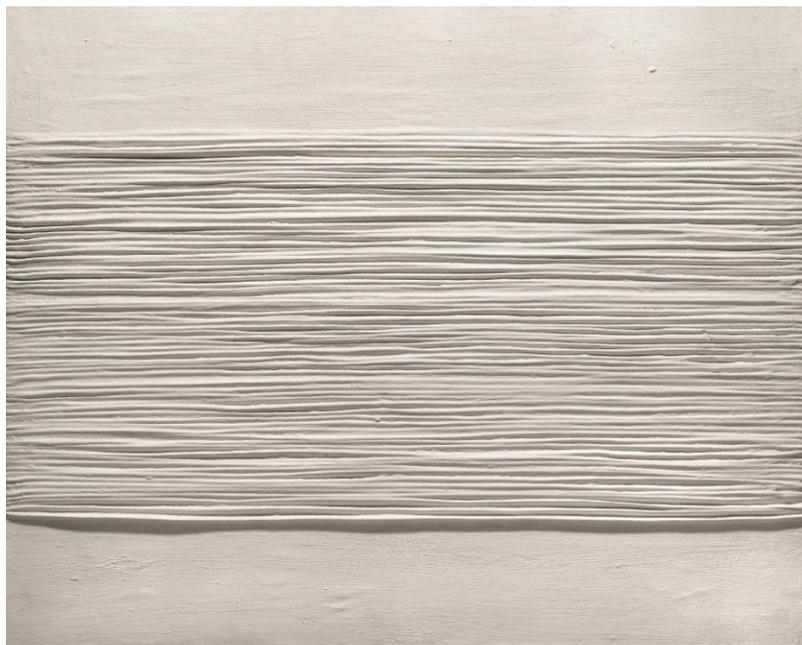
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ITALIAN MAESTROS CHRISTIE'S ITALIAN SALE



THE ITALIAN SALE

Christie's London, King Street

14 October 2011 - following the *Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction*

London - A not-to-be-missed appointment for any passionate collector of Italian art from the 20th and 21st centuries, Christie's annual Italian Sale in London on October 14 immediately follows the *Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction*. Featuring an extraordinary group of almost fifty lots carefully chosen by Christie's specialists from some of the best international private collections, the catalogue of the Italian Sale is especially focusing on important works created by the most sought-after Post-War masters. Highlighting the sale is a museum-quality and extremely rare *Achrome* by Piero Manzoni (1933-1963). With its relatively large, sublime and serene surface of chalky white beauty, this is an exceptional example of the artist's signature series. Executed in 1958-59, it comes from a prestigious European private collection and is estimated at £2,200,000-2,800,000 (*illustrated above*).

The sale is expected to realize an overall total in the region of £15 million.

Mariolina Bassetti, International Director in Christie's Post-War & Contemporary Art Department and Head of the Sale: "In 2010 Christie's set a new important record, achieving the highest total ever for an Italian art sale and demonstrating how a truly international audience of buyers is now keen to include Italian Post-War and Contemporary art in their collections. Thanks to the presentation of our catalogues and exhibitions, Christie's contributed to an extensive phenomenon of cultural diffusion showing to the world the quality of the works created by the best Italian artists. In the evening of October 14, we will offer for sale an exceptional selection of lots by celebrated artists such as Manzoni and Fontana, Gnoli and Boetti?".

Particularly rich in works created during the Post-War years, Christie's Italian Sale will showcase another very significant piece by **Piero Manzoni** (1933-1963), alongside the above mentioned top lot. Also an *Achrome*, it was executed in 1957-58 and is a rare example of this early incarnation of Manzoni's most celebrated series (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000.) *Achromes* of this kind are few in number and as, a reflection of their importance, similar examples are held in international public collections such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York and the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo.



Extraordinarily varied in terms of techniques, media and supports, is the selection of works by Italian 20th century star **Lucio Fontana** (1899-1968.) Highlighting this section is a rare *Concetto spaziale* dating from 1962 (*illustrated right*.) As one of only eleven paintings executed in the same large format, rectangular dimensions, this work is a rare example within the Italian artist's extensive oeuvre. Rendered in thick, inky-black oil paint, its ruptured and heavily impastoed surface clearly lingers on an ambiguous border, where painting takes on the characteristics of sculpture (estimate: £1,600,000-2,000,000).

A recent record-breaker at Christie's auctions, **Alighiero Boetti** (1940-1994) will also be widely represented in our upcoming Italian Sale with a comprehensive group of works encompassing the materials and ideas that became hallmarks of his career. Amongst those selected by our specialists is a wonderful *Tutto* (*illustrated below*). Executed in 1988, this vast and detailed embroidered canvas stretching over two and half metres long is one of the largest in this series (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000.) The series of *Tutto* (everything) are among the very last works that the artist made and represent the culmination of his entire aesthetic - a kind of pictorial summation of his artistic career. Like Boetti's *Mappe* or the *Arazzari*, in which the separate countries of the world or the individual letters that form words, were shown to combine into a cohesive unity, the *Tuttos* are embroidered representations of the world of objects as a selforganising composite of chaotic form.

Paintings by **Domenico Gnoli** (1933-1970) are rare and all the more sought after because of his untimely death at the age of only 37 in 1970. Dating from 1965, *Busto femminile di dorso* is a perfect example of Gnoli's revelatory celebration of the details of everyday life, thrown into a new perspective by being shown on a huge scale, with a combination of both humour and of incredible workmanship (*illustrated on the last page*.) Estimated at £500,000-£800,000, *Busto femminile di dorso* has been widely exhibited, having been shown in some of Gnoli's most important one-man shows in commercial galleries such as in Turin and Geneva, as well as his important museum shows in Brussels and Hannover.



CHRISTIE'S

POST-WAR & CONTEMPORARY ART EVENING AUCTION AND THE ITALIAN SALE

AUCTION:

Christie's London

8 King Street

Friday 14 October 2011 - evening auction

following the Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Auction

VIEWINGS:

Christie's London

8 King Street

Sunday 9 th October	12 noon-5pm
Monday 10 th October	9am-8pm
Tuesday 11 th October	9am-5pm
Wednesday 12 th October	9am-5pm
Thursday 13 th October	9am-6pm
Friday 14 th October	9am-3.30pm



About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totaled £2.0 billion/\$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £3.3 billion/\$5.0 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Images available on request

Complete catalogue are available online or via the Christie's iPhone app