

Sotheby's ESTD 1744

UNWRAPPED

THE HIDDEN WORLD OF

Christo and Jeanne-Claude

A WHITE GLOVE SALE

THE COLLECTION OF LEGENDARY ARTIST DUO
IS 100% SOLD FOR \$11.2 MILLION

More than Double the Pre-Auction Estimate

AUCTION RECORD FOR CHRISTO

MORE THAN HALF OF BUYERS NEW TO SOTHEBY'S



Paris, 19 February 2021: The collection of legendary artist husband-and-wife duo, Christo and Jean-Claude concluded yesterday as a 'white glove' sale. The offering of 373 lots from the New York apartment they called home for sixty years was 100% sold across two auctions for an overall total of €9,216,000 / \$11,239,683, more than doubling the pre-auction estimate of €2.8-4.2 million.

54% of Buyers New to Sotheby's | 40% of Buyers Under 40

Bidders from 45 Countries | More Than Five Bidders Per Lot | 75% of Lots Sold Above High Estimate

Fittingly, it was a work by Christo which achieved the highest price across the two-days of auctions when his drawings for **The Umbrellas** (an installation of thousands of 6-meter-high umbrellas opened simultaneously in Japan and Los Angeles in 1991) set a new auction record for the artist.

Christo's drawings for the **yellow Californian umbrellas** soared to **\$2.1 million** / €1.7 million, the new artist record (lot 19). Drawings for the **blue Japanese umbrellas** reached \$1.5 million / €1.2 million (lot 20). Both works had been estimated at €200,000-300,00 and both were acquired by American collectors.

Earlier in the sale Christo's classic **Package** sold for \$629,255 / €520,700 (lot 5, est. €100,000-150,000) and the artist's preparatory drawings for the wrapping of **The Pont-Neuf** reached \$573,486 / €472,300 (Lot 13, est. € 200,000-300,000). Ahead of the auction, the previous record for Christo stood at \$596,432.

Sotheby's can also confirm that Christo's preparatory drawings for **The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City**, which were **offered for private sale** ahead of the auction, have now been sold to an American Private Collector. 36.8 kilometres of New York's most famous park were needed to place all of the 7,503 4.87-meter-high gates made for Christo's celebrated installation in 2005. Other drawings for **The Gates** are in the collections of the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Whitney Museum, Guggenheim Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

PICTURES OF FRIENDSHIP: ARTWORKS EXCHANGED WITH FRIENDS

Lucio Fontana was one of the very first people to acquire one of Christo's works, long before they actually met in Milan in 1963. At the time Fontana was 64 years old; Christo and Jeanne-Claude had just turned 28. Before leaving Milan, Fontana invited Jeanne-Claude to choose a work, and she selected a distinctive and rare tagli work on natural canvas, sold for \$1.1 million / €920,000 (Lot 11, est. €300,000-500,000).

Christo and Jean-Claude's beloved **Rietveld Chair** - one of the very few belongings they took with them when the pair emigrated to New York from Paris in 1964 - more than doubled its estimate to make \$260,090 / €258,959 (Lot 8, est. €80,000-120,000). The couple had received the chair from celebrated Dutch designer Martin Visser, in exchange for one of Christo's Packages.

A quintessential blue monochrome by **Yves Klein** has more than doubled its high estimate to make \$529,409 / €436,000 (Lot 3, est. €200,000-150,000). Yves Klein had gifted the painting to the couple in 1962 in exchange for a portrait Christo had made of Klein and his wife to celebrate their wedding.

A new auction record was also set for **William Copley**, one of the couple's closest friends in New York. **Lady Windermere's Fan**, was traded with the artist for another work in the mid 1960s, and sold today for a record \$305,988 / €252,000 (lot 15, est. €50,000-70,000).

Please see the full results for both sales here:

[Unwrapped, Part I: The Hidden World of Christo and Jeanne-Claude](#)

Live sale, held in Paris on 17 February
28 lots, 100% sold for \$9.7 million / €8 million
Est. \$2.5-3.8 million

[Unwrapped, Part II: The Hidden World of Christo and Jeanne-Claude](#)

Online sale, closed 18 February
345 lots, 100% sold for \$1.5 million / €1.2 million
Est. €300,000-440,000

This second part of the sale was led by a record for an aluminum plate from Jenny Holzer's **Truism** series that sold for \$76,000 / €63,000, against an estimate of €5,000 to €7,000 (lot 216). This exceptional result reflects the results for all the ten most valuable lots in the sale, which all surpassed their high estimate.

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