

PHILLIPS de PURY & COMPANY TO OFFER IMPORTANT ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE COLLECTION OF LISA LYON AT NEW YORK AUCTION ON OCTOBER 16, 2008

SALE TO INCLUDE STRONG GROUP OF FASHION PHOTOGRAPHS WITH ICONIC WORKS BY HELMUT NEWTON, STEPHEN KLEIN AND DAVID LACHAPELLE ALONGSIDE SIGNIFICANT EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ALEXANDER RODCHENKO, EDWARD STEICHEN AND EUGÈNE ATGET

AUCTION DATE: October 16, 2008
OPENING RECEPTION: October 7, 2008
VIEWING DATES: October 8-15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York – September 26, 2008 – Phillips de Pury & Company is pleased to announce the highlights of its Photographs sale on October 16, 2008 in New York.

Robert Mapplethorpe: Photographs from the Collection of Lisa Lyon features an exceptional selection of eighteen images from Mapplethorpe's celebrated series *Lady Lisa Lyon*. Between 1980 and 1982, at a pivotal moment in Mapplethorpe's artistic practice, the photographer produced this intimate series of black and white portraits of the pioneering 1970s female bodybuilder Lisa Lyon. As collaborators, performers and close friends until the artist's death in 1989, Mapplethorpe and Lyon transcended the standard photographer/subject relationship. While the portraits cast Lyon in a multitude of characters, from girl-next-door to dominatrix; fashion model to vamp; the photographs also convey a collaborative play in which both Mapplethorpe and Lyon inhabit performative roles – much as Mapplethorpe performed as both photographer and subject within his radical self-portraiture. The results are electric, a powerful series of work documenting a play of selves both before and behind the camera.

Lisa Lyon with snake, 1982, one of the most highly sought after works from *Lady Lisa Lyon*, is featured with an estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000. This compelling photograph casts Lyon in the image of Eve, an aesthetically perfect being handling – or captive to – a powerful python, the controlled setting conveying both desire and fear.

Another powerful lot consisting of four gelatin silver prints, each titled *Lisa Lyon*, 1982, documents the bodybuilder in her prime element. In these images, Lyon engages in a basic workout, her fluid movements read as elegant yet potent, even fearsome. This classic celebration of the body in motion, in which routine is transformed into ritual, is estimated at \$15,000-25,000.

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Beyond the Lyon Collection, an enduring Mapplethorpe image *Calla Lily #2*, 1984 is additionally offered with an estimate of \$40,000-60,000. From his famous series of floral still-lives, here the artist invests the subject with a stillness verging on the sexually charged.

A significant body of fashion photographs is offered in this sale with several seductive masterpieces from **Helmut Newton**, the legendary photographer who conveyed the erotic pleasures of voyeurism. Newton's legendary masterpiece *Charlotte Rampling at the Hotel Nord Pinus II, Arles*, 1973 conveys classic Newtonian hallmarks of naughty decadence and elegant debauchery and is offered with an estimate of \$120,000-180,000. Also offered is Newton's *Rue Aubriot, Paris*, 1975, a photograph which defines the chic aura of the fashion house Yves Saint Laurent, and *Office Love, Paris*, 1976, a peephole view into a kinky afternoon tryst. *Office Love, Paris* will be offered at an estimate of \$25,000-35,000.

Additional works from photographers working in the fashion idiom are offered from **Stephen Klein**, **David LaChapelle** and **Izima Kaoru**.

Featured in the sale are works by **Ed Ruscha**, **Lewis Baltz** and **Robert Adams**, whose photographs exemplify the **New Topographics** movement. Named for the 1975 exhibition at the George Eastman House that championed new perspectives on landscape photography, these works portray vast empty spaces and sprawling landscapes largely devoid of people but dotted with manufactured signs of life: empty cars, neon signs and billboards. A prime example offered is the complete set of **Henry Wessel's** *Forty Real Estate Photographs*, 1990-1991, presented with an estimate of \$30,000-50,000. These deadpan images of modest bungalows cast light on both the allure and underbelly of the sunny California Dream. Shot out of a car window, the collective effect of Wessel's *Forty Real Estate Photographs* is to portray an unfulfilled dream, rather than a dream as-advertised.

Peter Beard's work of action and adventure, *Lolindo Lion Charge*, 1964, depicts the frenzied rush of a lion attack, heightened further by the artist's bloody handprint accompanied by physical fetishes, stones and bones scattered throughout the large scale assemblage. This iconic image is offered with an estimate of \$80,000-120,000. Other works by Beard include *Maureen Gallagher, Mbuna & a night feeder at Hog Ranch, 2:00 am, February*, 1987, estimated at \$30,000-50,000 and *Masai Prince*, 1964, estimated at \$15,000-20,000.

Seven platinum prints from the master **Irving Penn** are offered, including the haunting *Two Guedras, Morocco*, 1971, estimated at \$50,000-70,000 and *Cuzco Family, Peru, Christmas*, 1948, offered with an estimate of \$30,000-50,000.

Prime examples of contemporary photography in this auction include **Thomas Ruff's** *Substrat 7 III*, 2002, from his famed series in which he digitally manipulates images taken from Japanese *manga* cartoons, and **Erwin Olaf's** *Royal Blood, Sissi + 1898*, 2000, an exquisite, unsettling commentary on celebrity and violence. Other contemporary photographers include **Paolo Ventura**, **Nobuyoshi Araki** and **Robert Polidori**.

Two exemplary works from the Portuguese conceptualist **Helena Almeida** are offered: *Pintura Habitada*, 1975 and *Work-25*, 1977, both concise explorations of the photograph's illusionistic picture plane. Almeida uses physical strategies of interference – sewing a thread through the photograph in *Work-25* and by obscuring her identity with blue paint in *Pintura Habitada* (Inhabited Painting) – to test the optical reality of photography. Each work is offered at \$15,000-20,000. Additional conceptual work is offered from **John Baldessari** and **Felix Gonzalez-Torres**. Baldessari's ten-print artwork, *The Pot with Nine Removals* is offered with an estimate of \$15,000-20,000.

This sale additionally presents an exciting selection of international artists, including **Wang Qingsong** and **Abbas Kiarostami**. Wang's *Yaochi Fiesta*, 2005, references a mythic place in Chinese lore and is a prosaic portrait of group nudity. *Yaochi Fiesta* is estimated at \$25,000-35,000. Kiarostami's *Untitled #1 from Snow White*, 1998 is a cinematic portrayal of lone isolated trees floating within an ethereal landscape. This poetic work from the widely celebrated Iranian filmmaker and photographer is offered at \$30,000 – 40,000.

A strong selection of early photographic works by **Eugène Atget**, **Alexander Rodchenko**, **Edward Steichen** and **Ansel Adams** is presented in the morning session. Of special note is a Rodchenko gelatin silver print of *Poet Vladamir Mayakovsky* coupled with a book entitled *Soviet Advertising Poster*, both gifts from the Rodchenko family to the art critic Douglas Davis during his visit to Stalin-era Russia. This unique lot is offered at \$15,000-25,000.

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Auction Date:
October 16, 2008 10 am & 2 pm

Opening Reception:
October 7, 2008 6-8 pm

Viewing Dates:
October 8-15 10 am – 5 pm Monday-Saturday
 12 pm – 5pm Sunday

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