

**SATURDAY@PHILLIPS AUCTION NY CONCLUDES WITH A BANG, OPENING PIVOTAL DOORS FOR URBAN ART AND TOY ART DURING A WEEKLONG SOCIAL SPLASH**

**URBAN ART KINGS REIGN SUPREME: SHEPARD FAIREY *PROGRESS* (BARACK OBAMA) ACHIEVES PHENOMENAL \$6,875 – SMASHING OLD RECORDS AND ESTABLISHING THE NEW; FAILE LANDS IN TOP TEN WITH *SINFUL PLEASURES***

**CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS ANCHOR THE TOP TEN: TAKASHI MURAKAMI, GABRIEL OROZCO, ANDY WARHOL, JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT AND MARY HEILMANN**

**VIK MUNIZ'S *THREE WORKS* IS SECOND IN TOP TEN; PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York – October 27 – Phillips de Pury & Company concluded a weeklong series of buzzworthy events with its much-anticipated **Saturday@Phillips** auction in New York. Earlier in the week, the Phillips de Pury galleries were jam-packed for the Saturday@Phillips opening reception, with culture fiends crowding the gaily-striped rooms to preview the best of contemporary art, design, photographs and jewelry. A few Cape Cods into the evening, the crowd spotted actor **Robin Williams** eyeing the prime selection of Toy Art, right before the trapeze duo **Lollo Birgitta** swung into action.

The Saturday@Phillips auction on October 25 succeeded as a culture magnet in New York, as eagle-eyed collectors, tastemakers and a hip crowd from the **New York Art Book Fair** converged at Phillips de Pury & Company. The beehive spurring on the buzz: the auction room. This sale achieved \$794,313, with 60% of 519 lots selling by lot and 57% of lots selling by value.

Exceptional examples of **Toy Art** sparked fierce in-room bidding wars, egged on by online bidders. The bidding war for Lot 33 from the artist **Martin Ontiveros** for Gargamel Co, a *Custom painted Oni Ojo "Eyes"*, had heads turning as the 5" figurine sold for \$1,375 - over the triple its high estimate. With nearly 75% of all toy lots sold, an ecstatic **Steve Agin, Toy Consultant for Phillips de Pury & Company** said, "This sale is the beginning, the alarm signal to the toy art community. People are starting to regard Toy Art as synonymous with Phillips de Pury & Company." The audience for Toy Art is as diverse as the art form, evidenced by the sale of a 1,000 % **Bearbrick Chanel figurine produced by Medicom**. The fashion-meets-art toy fetched a cool \$5,000.

In sign of the times – and a sign that Saturday@Phillips has its finger on the pulse – **Shepard Fairey's** portrait of **Barack Obama**, *Progress* sold for a sensational \$6,875, smashing the established record for this image. Fairey's classic **Andre the Giant** iconography continues to resonate, with *Obey Flower (Giant Star Peace)* achieving \$8,750. The kings of **Urban Art** prevailed, with big results from **Banksy, KAWS** and **Faile**, whose *Sinful Pleasures* wrapped up the Top Ten list with an impressive result of \$10,000. Phillips de Pury &

Company's auction debut of prints from **Judith Supine, Date Farmers and Skullphone** drew popular attention and the sale's innovative presentation of international examples of Urban Art was well-received.

Says **Alex Smith, Urban and Contemporary Art Specialist** at Phillips de Pury & Company, "We're breaking new ground, introducing new artists and reaching a new audience. Our curated selection represents the breadth and global reach of Urban Art. So far there's been an extreme interest with this art form, a curiosity to understand the cultural importance of the movement."

**The Saturday@Phillips' Tastemakers** called out prescient shots. Early on, the creative philanthropist **Everard Findlay** had singled out **Mary Heilmann's** *Untitled* 6-panel painting; by auction end, the work had fetched \$10,000 and landed in the Top Ten. **Hamish Bowles** had called out **Takashi Murakami's** *Monogram Multicolore – black*, which was the headline Top Ten hit, solidly achieving \$13,750.

Of the 30 Murakami lots presented, 26 sold with consistently high results– indicative of the quality contemporary artworks presented at this sale. Blue-chip contemporary artists filled the Top Ten including **Andy Warhol** and **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, with **Gabriel Orozco** achieving the third-highest result.

**Calvin Klein** designer **Francisco Costa** arrived in the auction room just in time to witness the sale of a trio of works he had created in collaboration with the artists **Vik Muniz, Billy Sullivan** and **Ghada Amer**, with proceeds to benefit the **Whitney Museum Independent Study Program**. Muniz' sartorial statement *Three works* contributed to the cause by achieving the second-highest result of the Saturday@Phillips auction.

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