

PHILLIPS de PURY & COMPANY ANNOUNCES A LONDON AUCTION OF RUSSIAN CONTEMPORARY ART AND A TWO PART AUCTION OF CONTEMPORARY ART ON FEBRUARY 28 AND 29, 2008

TOTAL SALE ESTIMATE £28,700,500 – 41,440,500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London – January 28 – Phillips de Pury & Company is pleased to announce a Contemporary Art Evening Sale on Thursday February 28 at 7pm and a Contemporary Art Day Sale on Friday, February 29 at 2pm. In addition, Phillips de Pury & Company will be offering an Important Contemporary Russian Art from the Property from a Foundation on Thursday February 28 at 6pm.

The sale will mark the permanent opening of the company's newly established European headquarters at Howick Place, SW1.

Highlights of the Contemporary Evening Sale include an exceptional work by the artist best known for his sophisticated critiques of mass culture, **Richard Prince**. *Surfing Nurse*, painted in 2003 is one of 19 paintings the artist made in the celebrated Nurse series which marked a return to painting for the artist. Combining a masterful use of colour on large reproductions of covers of pulp fiction novels, Richard Prince offers the viewer a clever interplay of human desire, the intellectual rigor of abstraction and the pure pleasure of paint.

The demure *Surfing Nurse* is seen in profile, absorbed in her task at hand, wearing a white surgical mask and hat which obscures all but the faintest glimpse of her blond hair and one closed eye, long lashed and framed with a perfectly groomed eyebrow. The rest of the painting tells us nothing about the woman, other than the fact that she was featured on the cover of a novel with the title 'Surfing Nurse', as the text hovering above her head in a wash of neon-pink announces. The vibrant blue painted surface of *Surfing Nurse* masks the rest of the original cover treatment, leaving behind only the female figure and the text. This generic figure, identified only by her profession, is a symbolic depiction of the fetishised role of the nurse within American culture – from pulp fictions to television dramas – as vixens and vamps, and potentially sinister women.

Surfing Nurse by Richard Prince will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £1,500,000-2,000,000.

continues (1/3)

Damien Hirst, *3-(CHLORO-2-HYDROXPHENYLAZO)-4, 5-DIHYDROXY-2, 7-NAPHTHALENEDISULFONIC ACID*, 1998.

Damien Hirst's 'Pharmaceutical Paintings' series represents the artist's tireless investigation into the limit of painting as a medium, while exploring society's fascination with medication. This work displays several hundred uniquely coloured spots arranged in a geometric grid, equidistant from one and other. The methodical structure of this painting would normally lend itself to logic and order, but each spot's subtle differentiation in pigment contributes to an overwhelming sense of chaos and unease within the larger composition.

Damien Hirst's *3-(CHLORO-2-HYDROXPHENYLAZO)-4, 5-DIHYDROXY-2, 7-NAPHTHALENEDISULFONIC ACID* will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £1,500,000-2,500,000.

Other highlights include **Andy Warhol's**, *Untitled (Pontiac)*, 1962 estimated £800,000-1,200,000 and **Jeff Koon's** (*Violet Ice*) *Kama Sutra*, 1991 estimated between £800,000 – 1,200,000; **Jean-Michel Basquiat's** *Joy*, 1984 estimated between £1,000,000 – 1,500,000

Works by **Christopher Wool**, **Rudolf Stingel**, **Rosemarie Trockel**, **Takashi Murakami**, **Eric Bulatov** and **Miquel Barceló** will also be offered.

In addition, Phillips de Pury & Company will be offering in the Evening Sale, 12 master works of Chinese contemporary art from a private European collection representing China's leading artists. The artistic explorations in these works concern the notions of modernity, urbanization, and the Chinese identity in the 21st century.

Wang Guangyi's *Great Criticism and Visa* series portray the social and psychological pressures faced by Chinese artists and citizens in the hyperkinetic decade of the 1990s. Several works by Wang Guangyi will be offered including *Great Criticism*, *Disney*, 2000 estimated between £200,000-250,000 and *Visa*, 1995 estimated between £100,000-150,000.

Zhan Wang's stainless steel sculpture – the largest ever offered at auction to date – is derived from the fantastical rocks that adorn Chinese scholars' gardens, a magical intersection of historical inspiration and modern industrial material. *Ornamental Rock*, 2006 will be offered with a pre-sale estimate of £100,000-150,000.

Highlights of Contemporary Art Part II to include works by **Kendell Geers**, **John Currin**, **Anselm Reyle** and **Thomas Struth**, as well as **Tim Noble and Sue Webster**.

Auctions:
9 Howick Place, London SW1

Important Contemporary Russian Art - Property from a Foundation Thursday February 28 2008 6pm
Contemporary Art Evening Sale Thursday February 28 7pm
Contemporary Art Day Sale Friday February 29 2pm

PHILLIPS de PURY & COMPANY

Viewings:

9 Howick Place, London SW1
Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1 B4DA

From February 23 - 28, 10am – 5pm.

www.phillipsdeputy.com

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