

For Immediate Release

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**CELEBRATED WORKS BY
ANDY WARHOL AND JASPER JOHNS LEAD THE OCTOBER
PRINTS AND MULTIPLES SALE**



Prints and Multiples

Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28, October 2009

New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the *Prints and Multiples* sale on October 27th and 28th. The two day sale is comprised of over 440 works with estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$450,000. The sale encompasses a selection of Modern, Post-War, and Contemporary prints including several works from the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco that are being sold to benefit the acquisitions fund. Highlights include works by Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Henri Matisse, M.C. Escher, and Marc Chagall.

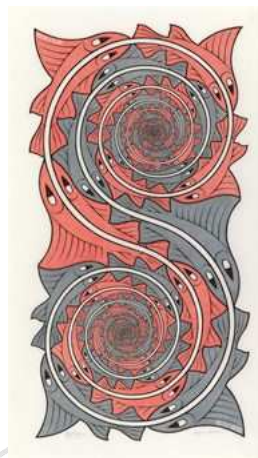
Of the thirty Andy Warhol lots included in the sale, the highlight is *Flowers*, the complete set of ten screenprints in colors (three are pictured above, estimate: \$250,000-350,000). Warhol first started using the flower motif in the mid-sixties as an invitation to one of his popular gallery openings. He returned to the same composition throughout his career and it has remained one of his most desirable subjects. The screenprint known as 'the black' *Marilyn* is another celebrated Warhol image and a fine example is included in the sale (pictured right, estimate: \$100,000-150,000). After Marilyn Monroe's untimely death in 1962, Warhol



frequently depicted the star as seen in a photograph originally taken to promote the 1953 movie *Niagara*. In doing so, Warhol underscores the tragedy of Monroe's celebrity by parodying the popular consumption of her image that many believe led to her demise.



Jasper Johns' work has centered on the use of universally recognizable motifs. The sale includes two examples of his exploration of the stars and stripes: *Flag I*, is one of his most vibrant and arresting depictions, (pictured above left, estimate: \$350,000–450,000) and *Flag* (pictured above right, estimate: \$40,000-60,000) from the artists' *Lead Reliefs* series of 1969. The lead relief method was unprecedented in the history of printmaking. Johns began the arduous process by creating a plaster model that was then converted into an epoxy mold. Soft sheet lead was flattened into the surface of the mold, creating a relief multiple. The resulting work - half sculpture and half image - displays a surface in constant flux due to the unique properties of its lead surface.



M.C. Escher's market has remained strong and the *Prints and Multiples* sale offers six outstanding examples of his graphic work. *Hell* (pictured above left, estimate: \$30,000-40,000) is inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's 15th century painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights*. In this early work, Escher reconfigures Bosch's exploration of the underworld by crafting nonsensical relationships between figures and space. *Hell* foreshadows his later illusionist geometric compositions such as *Whirlpools*

(pictured above right, estimate: \$20,000-30,000), in which Escher creates an optical game through his use of repeating and receding shapes.



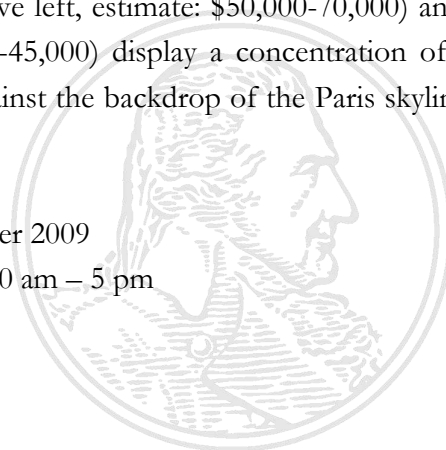
Consigned by the Children of J. Irwin and Xena S. Miller, *La Danse* by Henri Matisse is a rare example of the artist's color print work. This etching from 1935-36 relates to the three major paintings of the subject executed some twenty years earlier and it is a prime example of the artist's skill in combining form, movement and color to achieve a distinctly modern tone.



The sale offers a rare opportunity to acquire Marc Chagall's late series of *The Fourteen Large Lithographs of 1980*. Offered here for the first time in their entirety, these large scale and vibrant works represent a late flourish in the artist's graphic work, and are consequently very sought after by collectors. Scenes such as *La Joie* (pictured above left, estimate: \$50,000-70,000) and *Dans le Ciel de l'Opéra* (pictured above right, estimate: \$35,000-45,000) display a concentration of the artists rich iconography of lovers and circus players, set against the backdrop of the Paris skyline lit with warm saturated color.

Auction: Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 October 2009

Viewing: Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October, 10 am – 5 pm



Sunday 25 October, 1 pm – 5 pm

Monday 26 October, 10 am – 12 pm

About Christie's

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*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images from this sale are available at <ftp://ftpus.christies.com> (user name and password: christies)

More information about Christie's sale of Prints and Multiples can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

