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AMSTERDAM | 29 OCTOBER 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTISTS OF THE ZERO GROUP LEAD POST WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION IN AMSTERDAM

Karel Appel, John Baldessari, Heinz Mack,
Otto Piene, Gerhard Richter, Jan Schoonhoven and Günther Uecker



Günther Uecker (b.1930)
Gegenläufige Struktur
(1965)
Estimate: €180,000 -
240,000



Otto Piene (1928-2014)
Black Blossom (1980-4)
Estimate: €150,000 - 200,000



Jan Schoonhoven (1914-1994)
R69-32 (1969)
Estimate: €200,000 - 300,000

Amsterdam - Christie's is pleased to present the upcoming sale of Post-War and Contemporary Art in Amsterdam, which will feature works by leading European and international artists, including a strong core contingent of works by the groundbreaking group ZERO. Founded in 1957 by Heinz Mack and Otto Piene and joined in 1961 by Günther Uecker, Zero developed throughout the 1960s into a dynamic international network of artists. The auction is led by artists including Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Jan Schoonhoven and Günther Uecker, and will take place on Tuesday 3 November 2015, and will be followed by the Day Sale (Sessions 1 and 2) on 4 November 2015. Featuring 62 lots the evening sale is estimated to achieve over €4 million. Works are on view at Christie's Amsterdam from Friday 30 October to Tuesday 3 November.

Highlights of the auction include works from the collection of Margot Müller and the late Alfred Otto Müller, who were early advocates of the ZERO movement and very active in the contemporary art scene in the early 1950s in Cologne. Most of these pieces were acquired shortly after their creation by the couple who built a visionary collection. Significant pieces include Uecker's *Untitled (Spiegelkasten)* (1964-5), a prism of interlocking mirrors that surround a miniature white sun studded with Uecker's signature use of nails, and Heinz Mack's *Dynamische Form, Schwarz* (1959), an early example of his investigation of vibration and kinetic art, the collection provides a snapshot of a pivotal moment in the art history of Post-War Europe.

Another focal point of the sale is Schoonhoven's *R69-32* (1969), an exemplar of his series of white paper maché compositions that he made only after five o'clock in the afternoon after returning from his job at the PTT (Royal Dutch Post). The clarity of shadow and light achieved through the careful modulation of line and space demonstrates his abiding concern for an absence of hierarchy. Artists from the CoBrA movement also feature prominently with Karel Appel's *Têtes Volantes* (*Vliegende Hoofden*) (1958) and *Personnage Rouge* (1961), included alongside works by Asger Jorn, Shinkichi Tajiri, Constant and Corneille.



Gerhard Richter (b. 1932)
Abstraktes Bild (1981)
 Estimate: €250,000 - 350,000

A further central groupings of works originates from the collection of Martin Visser who was a leading light in Northern Europe for his pioneering patronage of the arts and dedicated support of the artistic development of many key neo-avant-garde artists, such as Sol leWitt, Bruce Nauman, Anselm Kiefer and Georg Baselitz, before a widespread understanding and appreciation of their practices had developed into what it is today.

More highlights in the sale include John Baldessari's *Two Men and Telephones (with Animals)* (1988) — an enigmatic montage of two black-and-white photographs, drawn from what seem to be generic Hollywood films from the 1950s and 1960s, and a frieze with animals. Gerhard Richter's *Abstraktes Bild* (1981), which dates from the dawn of Richter's large scale free abstractions and is complemented by a bold, brilliant palette, is also presented. Additional artists featured in the sale include Marina Abramovic & Ulay, Joseph Beuys, Marlene Dumas, Albert Oehlen and Nikki de Saint Phalle.

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