

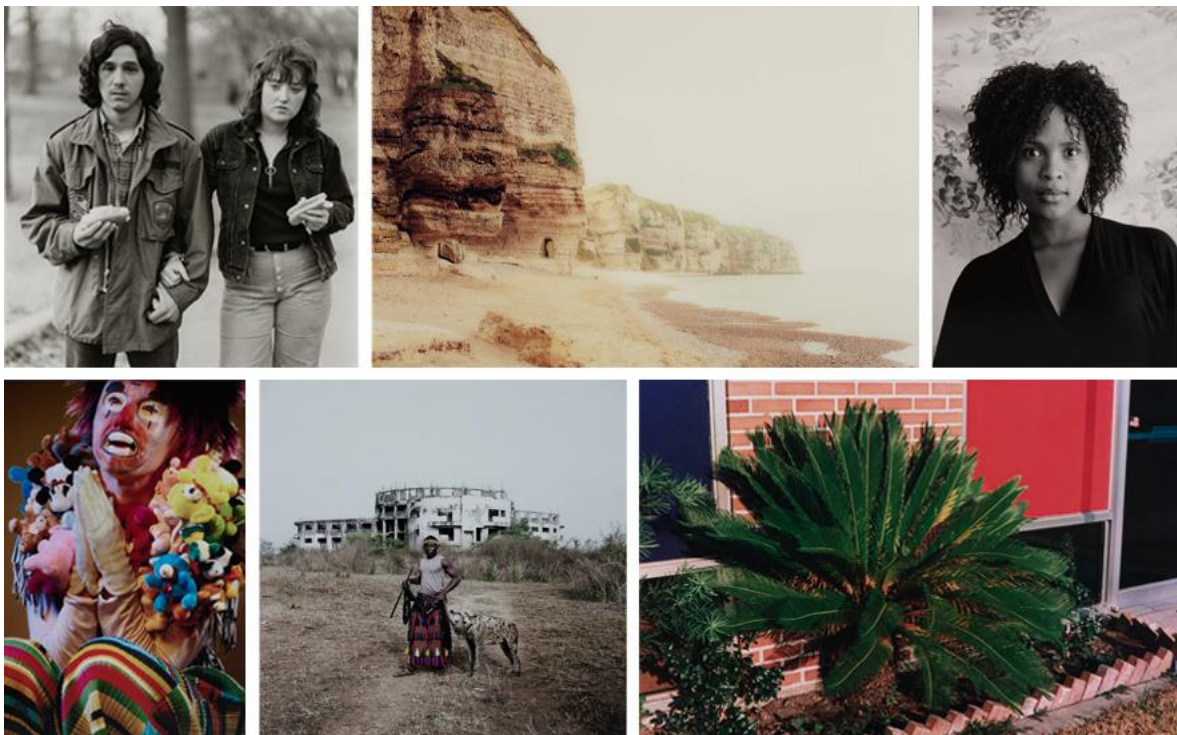
CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 4 FEBRUARY 2022

THE COLLECTION OF ELLEN AND DAN SHAPIRO TO BE OFFERED IN *FIRST OPEN: POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART*

23 FEBRUARY TO 9 MARCH 2022

- Forty-four photographs from the Ellen and Dan Shapiro Collection will be offered in *First Open: Post-War and Contemporary Art*, live for bidding from 23 February to 9 March 2022
- Highlights include Diane Arbus, William Eggleston, Elger Esser, Andreas Gursky, Annie Leibovitz, Richard Mosse, Zanele Muholi, Irving Penn, Alex Prager, Viviane Sassen and Cindy Sherman
- Estimates range from £600-£50,000, offering collectors of all levels an opportunity to acquire works from this visionary collection
- A preview of the collection will be on view at Christie's King Street from 9 to 16 February 2022



A selection of photographs from the Ellen and Dan Shapiro Collection*

ONLINE – Photographs from the collection of Ellen and Dan Shapiro will form a focal point for the online-only sale *First Open: Post-War and Contemporary Art*, which will be live for bidding from 23 February to 9 March 2022. Together, Ellen and Dan Shapiro have amassed one of the most highly regarded and extensive collections solely dedicated to photography. Christie's will offer 44 photographs that represent the diversity and range of artists within the collection. Highlights include Diane Arbus, William Eggleston, Elger Esser, Andreas Gursky, Annie Leibovitz, Richard

Mosse, Zanele Muholi, Irving Penn, Alex Prager, Viviane Sassen and Cindy Sherman. Estimates range from £600-£50,000, offering collectors of all levels an opportunity to acquire works from this visionary collection.

The Shapiros began collecting lithographs in the 1970s and 80s but Ellen developed a keen eye for black and white modernist photography and in the 1990s, they decided to shift their focus solely to photography. By the mid-90s they had begun to collect the Düsseldorf School, including Bernd and Hilla Becher, and Candida Höfer, while the first contemporary photograph they acquired was by Cindy Sherman. Ellen became very influential, working with MoMA's Photography Council and London's National Portrait Gallery Photography Committee. Ellen was always attracted to those qualities that made a photographer unique, whether that was their technique or subject matter. This quest for cutting edge creativity is exemplified by Richard Mosse's *Come Out (1966) IX*, an image that captures war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo using reconnaissance infrared film, which turned the landscape red or pink as a result. The Shapiros collected select artists extensively, including Mosse, Diane Arbus, Irving Penn, and Zanele Muholi.

Isabel Millar, Head of *First Open: Post-War and Contemporary Art*, and Jude Quinn, Senior Specialist, Photographs, Christie's: "Ellen and Dan Shapiro built this stunning collection on the founding belief that they should pursue the finest examples of photography by artists that have pushed the boundaries of the medium. This unerring principle led them to develop one of the most celebrated collections worldwide with Ellen's influence unparalleled. We are thrilled that the 44 examples being offered to the market will form a core group within our ever-expanding *First Open: Post-War and Contemporary Art* online sale."

Ellen and Dan Shapiro moved to London in 2002 bringing only selected items with them, one of those being Vik Muniz' *Action Painter*, an image that recreated Jackson Pollock's aesthetic using chocolate sauce. They then filled their home with an encyclopaedic archive of photographs.

A preview of the collection will be on view at Christie's King Street from 9 to 16 February 2022.

For further insight into the collection, please read the exclusive [interview](#) Ellen Shapiro gave to Christie's regarding her passion for collecting.

* Diane Arbus, *Young Man and his girlfriend with hot dogs* (1971, estimate: £6,000-8,000)

Elger Esser, *Cap d'Antifer* (2000, estimate: £12,000-18,000)

Zanele Muholi, *Sost Moletsane, Yeoville, Johannesburg* (from *The Faces and Phases*) (2011, estimate: £8,000-10,000)

William Eggleston, *Untitled (Fronde outside Building)*, From the *Los Alamos Project* (1965-1974, estimate: £8,000-12,000)

Pieter Hugo, *Mohammed Rabi'u with Jamis, Ibusa, Nigeria*, From the series *Hyena and Other Men* (2007, estimate: £15,000-25,000)

Cindy Sherman, *Untitled* (From *Merce Cunningham Dance Company: 50th Anniversary*) (2003, estimate: £4,000-6,000)

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Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

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Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and

bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

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