

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | LONDON
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BRIAN SEWELL CRITIC & COLLECTOR



Brian Sewell, Christie's warehouse, circa 1962

London – The sale devoted to *Brian Sewell: Critic & Collector* will take place at Christie's in London on 27 September 2016. Brian Sewell (1931-2015), the renowned and controversial art critic, award-winning journalist and author, worked at Christie's as an auction house picture expert for almost nine years, between 1958 and 1967, having graduated in Art History at the Courtauld Institute. Acquired over many decades, approximately 250 lots will be offered for sale from the collection, including important Old Master Paintings and Drawings and 19th and 20th century British Art. Providing a wealth of opportunities for new and established collectors across price levels, the works carry estimates ranging from under £1,000 to £600,000.

Orlando Rock, Christie's UK Chairman: *"Brian Sewell was, undoubtedly, one of Christie's most colourful and learned former colleagues. What always motivated him was his love of great art and its power to move and inspire, combined with his characteristic and acerbic wit."*

Noël Annesley, Honorary Chairman, Christie's UK: *"Brian was a young man of 27 when he joined Christie's. As his assistant, I got to admire him and to like him enormously. He evolved from a rather shy, cerebral art historian turned auction house expert into one of the most famous and widely read British art critics of our time. Brian was a man whose opinions were sought not just on art but on a wide variety of topics, reflecting the exceptional range of his interests. He could be relied upon to provide witty and often devastating judgements. A wonderful instructor, serious but humorous too, he set a standard for us all."*

Highlights include:

OLD MASTER PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS



Old Master Paintings and Drawings will include, *left to right*: Brian Sewell's much loved work by Matthias Stomer (circa 1600 – after 1652?), *Blowing Hot, Blowing Cold* (estimate: £400,000-600,000); *The Madonna and Child with Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Cosmas and Damian* – a *bozzetto* by Andrea Sacchi (1599-1661) (estimate: £50,000-80,000); *Dido reclining, asleep* by Daniele da Volterra (1509-1566) (estimate: £100,000-150,000); and *Male nude* by Irish artist James Barry (1741-1806) (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

MODERN BRITISH ART

Modern British Art will include, *left to right*: *Lucian Freud*, 1946, by John Craxton (1922-2009) (estimate: £50,000-80,000), and a double-sided painting by Duncan Grant (1885-1978), *Chrysanthemums in a Jar, Charleston (recto) and Reclining Male Nude (verso)* (estimate: £20,000-30,000).



Further information about the full sale will be available at the end of August/ start of September

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Images available on request

Notes to Editors

2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary which will be celebrated with a series of events and exhibitions. Christie's has continued to be recognised as an innovator in the art market, continually evolving and curating sales to create different perspectives on the art market and collecting trends. Over the last 250 years, Christie's has expanded its reach beyond the headquarters in London. Since 2012 Christie's has also included regular online sales across all collecting categories. www.christies.com/250