

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | NEW YORK | 22 APRIL 2016 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AN EXCEPTIONAL SALE OF AFRICAN AND OCEANIC ART AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON MAY 12**

**11 WORKS TO BE OFFERED AND EXHIBITED ALONGSIDE WORKS FROM THE IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART AND THE POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY ART SALES**



LEFT: A Baule Female Figure Attributed to The Rockefeller Master, Ivory Coast, (Estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000)  
CENTER: The Helena Rubinstein Dan Mask, Probably Danane region, Ivory Coast, (Estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000)  
RIGHT: A Kongo-Vili Power Figure, Democratic Republic of Congo, (Estimate: \$600,000-900,000)

**New York** - On May 12, Christie's presents **Evolution of Form: African and Oceanic Art at the Genesis of Modernism**, an exceptional sale of 11 works from the Ivory Coast, Mali, Cameroon, Gabon and Congo regions. This rich selection will be offered during 20<sup>th</sup> Century Week and will be exhibited alongside works from the Impressionist & Modern Art and the Post-War and Contemporary Art sales. The sale is an ode to the landmark exhibition curated by William Rubin at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1984 – 'Primitivism' in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art – to show that these contemporary and modern masters all absorbed the movements, shapes, forms and originality of African cultures as part of their artistic foundation.

**Susan Kloman, International Head of African and Oceanic Art**, comments: "This is truly a special opportunity for many clients who recognize that African and Oceanic art has directly influenced modern and contemporary art. Affinities of form reveal themselves: an important Bioma figure from New Guinea is echoed in surrealist works and the creations of Jean Dubuffet; the Rubinstein Dan mask from the Ivory Coast 'shifts the paradigm of how we consider the human face just as Francis Bacon's work rivets us through similar brute transformations'. The intent of this sale is to demonstrate the continued importance of these works of art on the great world stage of art."

Please click here to view a video of [Susan Kloman](#) speaking about the exceptional [African & Oceanic art](#) works and how they inspired contemporary art.

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**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2015 that totalled £4.8 billion / \$7.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 2016 marks Christie's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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*Images available on request*

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