

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS *A PLACE WITH NO NAME: WORKS FROM THE SINA JINA COLLECTION*

A DEDICATED SALE OF WORKS FROM ROBERT  
DEVEREUX'S COLLECTION

RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT ARTS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITIES

13 OCTOBER 2022



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Highpower* (2007, estimate: £600,000-800,000)  
and El Anatsui, *Ogal* (2003, estimate: £60,000-80,000)

- Works from Robert Devereux's *Sina Jina Collection* will be a highlight of Christie's Frieze Week programme of sales and events
- The auction is anticipated to be the largest single owner sale of contemporary art from Africa and the diaspora as the market for works by the artists presented continues to expand
- Proceeds from the dedicated auction will benefit a number of arts and environment charities internationally: The Africa Centre, The African Arts Trust, Bèt-bi, Gasworks & Triangle Network, and The Lamu Environmental Foundation (LEF)
- Artists offered include El Anatsui, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Nicholas Hlobo, William Kentridge, Marcia Kure, Elias Sime, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

**LONDON** – Robert Devereux has supported the arts and artists since the 1980's and began acquiring works for his *Sina Jina Collection* in the early 2000's. This coincided with the seminal exhibition *Africa*

Remix, curated by Simon Njami, which toured from Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf, to Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and Hayward Gallery, London. Taking its name from Swahili, 'sina jina' translates as a place with no name, a phrase associated with Devereux's house on the island of Lamu, Kenya. In 1996, Devereux made a journey that took him from Mozambique to Kenya, and the collection was built as a response to what he has witnessed in the years that ensued. Comprised of some 600 multi-media works, the sale will include around 70 pieces, becoming the largest single owner collection dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and the diaspora to be offered at auction. Described by Devereux as a "work in progress", the Sina Jina Collection's founding principle has always focused on supporting artists to continue creating pioneering art.

Featuring work by leading contemporary artists, including El Anatsui, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Nicholas Hlobo, William Kentridge, Marcia Kure, Elias Sime, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, part of the proceeds from the sale will be used to support arts and environmental charities. The auction will take place on 13 October 2022 alongside the 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> Century: London Evening Sale. Highlights will be on view at Christie's Paris in September alongside the Parours du Monde, before being exhibited in London from 6 to 13 October. There will also be an educational lecture in collaboration with Christie's Education. The auction has a pre-sale estimate in the region of £2 million.

**Robert Devereux:** *"Proceeds from this auction will benefit a number of charities that are close to my heart, including The African Arts Trust that I founded. For as long as I can remember, Gasworks has been at the forefront of presenting artists from under represented parts of the world with a healthy focus on Africa. It was here that I first encountered the work of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. In its new incarnation in the London borough of Southwark, The Africa Centre is the best possible platform for showcasing the breadth and depth of artists' creativity in Africa and the diaspora. Bët Bi will be one of the first contemporary museums to be built in Africa designed by an African architect, led by the inspirational founder of the Albers Foundation, Nick Fox Weber. I have a home in Lamu and therefore the protection of the island's biodiversity is a private passion, which The Lamu Environment Fund supports, particularly in the preservation of marine life."*

**Isabel Millar, Specialist, Head of Sale, Post-War and Contemporary Art:** *"We are immensely proud to partner with Robert Devereux on the sale of works from his Sina Jina Collection. Built over the course of the last 20 years, the extraordinary collection is a testament to his dedication to supporting artists from Africa and its diaspora. Ranging from installations, sculpture and painting to photography, the diverse selection showcases the artists' deep wealth of talent and is an inspiring proposition to new and seasoned collectors of contemporary African art. The sale will benefit a number of arts organisations, including The African Arts Trust, and proceeds will help to support the next generation of artists and grassroots arts organisations, as well as environmental initiatives."*

**Katharine Arnold, Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art, Europe:** *"Christie's Frieze Week has historically presented auctions dedicated to the collections of key art world figures, including Leslie Waddington and Jeremy Lancaster, and we are delighted to collaborate with Robert Devereux as he offers his collection to benefit emerging art and our environment. This October, we will also continue our highly successful partnership with 1-54 with further details of our event and auction programme to be announced in the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming our clients from across the globe to our autumn season here at King Street."*

Robert Devereux first encountered the work of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye during the artist's residency at Gasworks, London in 2007. Four works by the artist are presented, each one depicting a protagonist conjured from Yiadom-Boakye's imagination. The figure in *Highpower* (2008, estimate: £600,000-800,000) could be a contemporary character or the representation of a renaissance man, a paragon of erudition. Her paintings deliberately avoid being attributable to a particular moment in history, her practice instead highlighting that black figures have been always been present. *Manual* (2007, estimate: £120,000-180,000) and *Erector* (2007, estimate: £100,000-150,000) are offered alongside the playful triptych *Magic* (2007, estimate: £150,000-200,000).

Ibrahim El Salahi's *The Tree* (2010, estimate: £20,000-30,000) forms part of his series that explored the depths of pure abstraction. A supremely elegant composition, his mastery of the genre cements his status as one of the most significant artists of the last century. The artist spent just over six months wrongly imprisoned without trial in Sudan. The hardship he endured there has informed much of his later work. El Anatsui's *Ogal* (2003, estimate: £60,000-80,000) is a wooden sculpture which typifies the artist's expressive use of the medium, part drawing, part sculpture. Created using tools that range from a chainsaw

to a wood drill, the individual mark-making of the equipment is exploited by the artist to become an integral part of his artistic process.

Samuel Fosso's *Patrice Lumumba* (2008, estimate: £12,000-18,000), taken from his African Spirits series sees Fosso inhabit the body and spirit of Lumumba, embracing his persona and reviving the energies of the visionary leader, the Congo's first president who was murdered within weeks of taking office. This is presented alongside *Le Chef: Celui Qui A Vendu L'Afrique Aux Colons* (1997, estimate: £15,000-20,000), which was featured on the cover of the Africa Remix catalogue in 2004.

Deciding to remain in Abidjan during the Second Ivorian Civil War between 2010-2011, Aboudia's work is populated with skulls and haunted expressions conveying the trauma of this period. There is an urgency to his bold expressive paintings as well as a consistently bold use of saturated colour as exemplified by his early and monumental work *Untitled* (2011, estimate: £60,000-80,000).

Elias Sime references and draws upon the craft traditions of weaving and braiding, creating work from circuits, wires, keyboards, all of which are sourced from the largest open-air market in Africa, in Addis Ababa.

Proceeds from the dedicated auction will benefit a number of arts charities internationally: Gasworks & Triangle Network, The Lamu Environmental Foundation (LEF), The Africa Centre, Bët-bi and the African Arts Trust. Often described as a London home for artists, Gasworks is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting UK and international artists through the provision of studios, artists' residencies and career-defining exhibitions. The Africa Centre is a charity that celebrates the diversity of Africa and its diaspora, promoting social cohesion, education, thought leadership, and innovation in art, culture, and entrepreneurship. Bët-bi ("the eye" in Wolof) is an institution devoted to the revelation and evocation of vision through art. It will be a museum and centre for culture and community constructed on an island in the Saloum Delta, near to the city of Kaolack in Senegal. The African Arts Trust is a charitable trust set up to support visual artists by Robert Devereux, following the successful fundraising auction of his private collection of post-war British art in 2010. The Lamu Environment Foundation (LEF) was established in 2021 to support grassroots environmental and conservation projects across Lamu County, Kenya to protect, preserve and restore the natural beauty for generations to come.

Christie's will publish a book to accompany the sale that commemorates the collection, with texts by leading curators and writers, including Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Christine Eyene, Azu Nwagbogu, and Aurella Yussuf.

#### **PRESS CONTACT:**

Sara Macdonald | +44 (0)20 7752 3136 | [saramacdonald@christies.com](mailto:saramacdonald@christies.com)

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

##### **The Africa Centre**

[The Africa Centre](#) is a London-based charity that celebrates the diversity of Africa and its diaspora. It serves its communities by providing spaces for experiencing African culture and heritage, enterprise, and exchange of ideas. The organisation aims to promote Africa-inspired thought and innovation through art, culture, entrepreneurship, and innovation. With an original remit to foster non-governmental relations between newly independent Africa and Britain, The Africa Centre's mission is to educate, connect, and advocate for Africa and its global diaspora, creating a home away from home for Africans in the UK and a warm and welcoming space for anyone with an interest in Africa.

##### **The African Arts Trust**

The African Arts Trust is a charitable trust set up to support visual artists by the collector and philanthropist, Robert Devereux, following the successful fundraising auction of his private collection of post-war British art at Sothebys, London in 2010. The trust is based on years of frequent travel to Africa and the recognition that there is a wealth of talented visual artists whose opportunities are stifled by the lack of resources available locally in the visual arts sector. The charity is run by the following trustees, Robert Devereux, Founder and Director, Hamish Dewar, Director of Hamish Dewar Conservation Ltd, Robin Woodhead, Chairman of Sotheby's International and administered by Danda Jarolimek, Circle Art Agency, Nairobi.

<https://www.theafricanartstrust.org/>

##### **Bët-bi**

The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation/Le Korsa is pleased to announce Bët-bi, a new museum and centre for culture and community due to open in southwestern Senegal in the vicinity of the historic city of Kaolack in early 2025. Mariam Issoufou Kamara, an architect from Niger and founder of the award-winning practice atelier masōmī, has been selected by a jury to lead



the design of Bêt-bi from a shortlist of four African architectural firms which also included Aziza Chaouni Projects (Fez and Toronto), MASS (Rwanda and global) and Meskerem Assegued and Elias Sime (Addis Ababa).

<https://www.betbi.org/>  
[www.albersfoundation.org](http://www.albersfoundation.org)  
[www.aflk.org](http://www.aflk.org)

### Gasworks & Triangle Network

Often described as a London home for artists, Gasworks is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting UK and international artists through the provision of studios, artists' residencies and career-defining exhibitions. Since its establishment in 1994, it has hosted over 400 artists and commissioned more than 100 exhibitions by emerging artists from 70 countries across the world.

Gasworks is also the hub of the Triangle Network, a world-wide support system for non-profit visual art organisations, coming together to offer opportunities for artists and curators across the world to exchange ideas, share knowledge and learn from one another. Established in 1982 by Robert Loder and the celebrated British sculpture Sir Anthony Caro, Triangle has provided opportunities for thousands of artists to make and disseminate their work internationally.

[www.gasworks.org.uk](http://www.gasworks.org.uk)  
[www.trianglenetwork.org.uk](http://www.trianglenetwork.org.uk)

### Lamu Environmental Foundation

Lamu Environment Foundation (LEF) was established in 2021 to support grassroots environmental and conservation projects across Lamu County, Kenya to protect, preserve and restore the natural beauty for generations to come. LEF raises funds from individuals and businesses who care passionately about Lamu, to support local organisations. The foundation was set up as a branch of the Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations in 16 locations supporting local and effective conservation projects.

[lamuenvironment.org](http://lamuenvironment.org)

### About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

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 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022), for a single charitable collection sale (the [Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller](#), 2018), and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019).

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include 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 use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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The COVID-related re-opening status of our global locations is available [here](#)

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