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PRESS RELEASE

Phillips Announces

The Robert Tibbles Collection: Young British Artists & More

**With Seminal Works by Damien Hirst, Michael Craig-Martin,
Gilbert & George, Sarah Morris, Julian Opie, and More
To Be Offered in Multiple London Sales This Year**



Damien Hirst

Bodies, 1989

Estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000

LONDON – Phillips is proud to present [*The Robert Tibbles Collection: Young British Artists & More*](#), a multitude of YBA treasures to be sold across the London auctions including 20th Century & Contemporary Art, New Now, Photographs, and Editions. The collection includes seminal works by Damien Hirst, Gilbert & George, Gary Hume, Michael Craig-Martin, Sarah Morris, and Julian Opie, among others – often acquired directly from the artists or galleries the same year of their creation. The 30 works in this collection are expected to realise a total in the region of £4 million, with the first works highlighting the 20th Century & Contemporary Art sales on 13 and 14 February.

A bond salesman for many years, Robert Tibbles' collecting journey began at the genesis of a movement that transformed contemporary British art, and ushered a novel artistic language built on rebellion and audacity. A principle author of this movement was Damien Hirst, whose degree show in 1989 marked the beginnings of his 'Medicine' series.

Named after the 12 tracks from the Sex Pistols' UK debut album, the show featured the first four from a suite of 12 cabinets, created using empty medication packages. Robert Tibbles acquired *Bodies* – one of these four seminal works – in 1989 from Karsten Schubert, for the mere sum of £600, marking him as the first collector of Hirst's work. The work captures the genius of Hirst's artistic investigation, and its provenance tells a story of passion, trust and vision. In the three decades since it was purchased, *Bodies* has only been shown three times, at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples; L&M Arts, New York; and finally, in 2012 at Tate Modern, London.

Robert Tibbles, said, *"The collection has filled my head and my heart. I have been incredibly lucky to have been shown fantastic stuff whilst in a position to buy it, and to put this collection together. It is great the idea that these works will go on to new owners, and I hope they are able to enjoy them just as much as I have."*

Cheyenne Westphal, Global Chairwoman, said, *"Robert is one of the most visionary and forward-thinking collectors of his generation. He was the first person to buy Damien Hirst alongside Charles Saatchi, and collected on the grounds that you buy a work of art because you respond to it, and because you love it. Robert saw something that others did not, and the result is an unrivalled collection that captures a defining moment in the history of contemporary British art. Works of this caliber are a rarity in the market, and we are incredibly excited to present collectors and admirers with a unique opportunity to see these works in person."*

The Robert Tibbles Collection: Young British Artists & More comprises a total of six works by Hirst. *Antipyrylazo III*, 1994, is an early example of his 'Spot Paintings', and has been hanging above the collector's fireplace since he purchased the work from Jay Jopling the same year of its creation. Featuring a joyous amalgamation of 2,050 hand-painted spots, *Antipyrylazo III* sits within Hirst's investigation into the medical realm. Hirst pairs the work's obscure and esoteric title with an image that is clear and recognisable to all: candy-like spots multiplying with jubilant energy.

"To create that structure, to do those colours, and do nothing. I suddenly got what I wanted. It was just a way of pinning down the joy of colour." Damien Hirst

Further works include a leading example of Hirst's 'Spin Paintings', titled *Beautiful tropical, jungle painting (with pink snot)*, 1997 (estimate: £270,000-350,000). With its luxurious splashes of colour, the work conjures a wondrous explosion that departs from the artist's usual intentness on order, repetition, and quasi-scientific formulaism. Two works that sit in eerie conversation with one another are *Summer Breeze*, 2002 (estimate: £250,000-350,000), and *Aids/The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew/Hatred*, 2003 (estimate: £80,000-120,000). Capturing Hirst's preoccupation with life and death, *Summer Breeze* depicts a clear blue sky scattered with butterfly wings glued to the canvas, whereas *Aids* engulfs the viewer in darkness, with thousands of flies trapped behind glass.

The collection includes two monumental paintings by Michael Craig-Martin, the mastermind behind this new generation of artists and Hirst's former teacher at Goldsmith's College, London. *Full*, 2000, is likely to set a world record price for Craig-Martin when it is auctioned in the 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale on 13 February 2020. By theme of appropriation, each object references seminal art-historical icons: Jasper Johns' paintbrushes, Marcel Duchamp's bottle rack, Man Ray's metronome, and Craig-Martin's very own symbols, including a glass of water and a ladder.



Damien Hirst
Antipyrylazo III, 1994
Estimate: £900,000-1,200,000

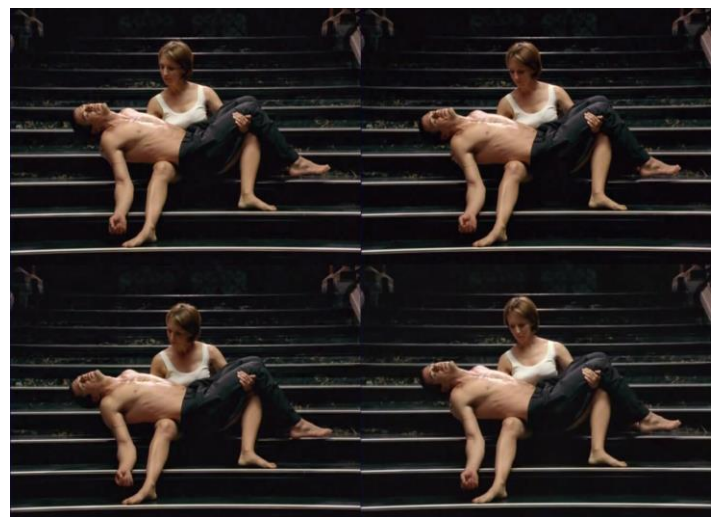


Michael Craig-Martin
Full, 2000
 Estimate: £80,000-120,000

During his collecting years, Robert Tibbles met Michael Craig-Martin through Karsten Schubert, and one of his most exciting purchases was when he commissioned *Narrative Painting*, 1993-94 (estimate: £30,000-40,000). The commission followed Craig-Martin's show in Paris in 1993, where he had painted the walls of each room a different colour, with one image on each wall. Craig-Martin asked Robert if he'd like the same concept for his London home, but as Robert was moving the artist produced a canvas with a large expanse of pink to symbolise one wall, and an eighth of yellow to symbolise part of another wall. Robert Tibbles said, "*Michael then included a book because he always said if you want to be a really serious Contemporary Art collector, Robert, you cannot have curtains or books. And then he included the back of a canvas to show I am a collector, which was sweet.*"

City Fairies, 1991, is a vast double portrait characteristic of the work of Gilbert & George (estimate: £120,000-180,000). Between the two artists, at the core of the photographic construction, lies an image of Liverpool Street Station. This is particularly meaningful as Robert Tibbles worked there for over two decades at UBS. At the time of its creation, *City Fairies* was a very controversial work. Each artist is birthing the other through the mouth, haloed from beneath by their exposed buttocks, and flanked by aggrandised flees on both sides of the composition.

Adding a different dimension to the Collection is a profoundly moving video projection by Sam Taylor-Johnson, titled *Pietà*. The work is about kindness and friendship, capturing the softness and warmth shared by the artist Taylor-Johnson and her friend, the actor Robert Downey, Jr. It was executed at a time when both were experiencing low points in their lives – Taylor-Wood through illness, and Downey Junior through struggles with addiction. The tenderness of the exchange is captured by Robert Tibbles, who recalls, "*When Sam came to the flat to see the work installed in the dining room – she explained that Robert Downey Junior was very conscious of his weight on her legs while they were filming, and at one point lifts himself up so that the impact of his weight is lessened.*"



Sam Taylor-Johnson
Pietà, 2001
 Estimate: £20,000-30,000

20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale

Auction: 13 February 2020

Location: 30 Berkeley Square, London

20th Century & Contemporary Art Day Sale

Auction: 14 February 2020

Location: 30 Berkeley Square, London

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Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services.

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