

# PHILLIPS

PRESS RELEASE

## Phillips' Evening Sale of 20th Century & Contemporary Art Realizes \$134.6 Million, The Highest Total for a New York Auction in Company History

Five New Auction Records Set for Kehinde Wiley, Mickalene Thomas, Amy Sherald, Jadé Fadojutimi, & Vaughn Spann

*New York, 7 December 2020*

Evening Sale Total: \$134,583,400 / £100,426,133 / €110,977,472

Lots Sold: 31 | Lots Offered: 35

Sold by Lot: 89% | Sold by Value: 89%



Credit: Thomas De Cruz Media: Haydon Perrior

**Edward Dolman, CEO**, said, “Tonight marks a stunning achievement for Phillips where we have achieved the highest sale total for a New York auction in the company’s history. Tonight’s sale total marks a nearly 25% increase over last fall’s 20th Century & Contemporary Sale and amid a truly unprecedented year that saw myriad challenges to the art market and the auctions. At Phillips we have long had a digital first strategy that has borne out: the live auction event as we knew it has been reimagined and transformed, with the excitement and energy of the auction room being telegraphed worldwide from our custom designed studio set in London, including a live video feed from New York and bidding feeds from around the globe. This achievement comes on the heels of another record setting auction in Hong Kong, and we have seen continued growth in that market.”

**Jean-Paul Engelen and Robert Manley, Worldwide Co-Heads of 20th Century & Contemporary Art**, jointly said, “We are thrilled to be ending an unprecedented year so strongly; nine months after the initial shut down that threw the live auction world into uncertainty we have just had one of the strongest sales in Phillips’ history. This success is testimony to the strength of our team and the deep relationships we have with our collectors, forged over decades of expertly bringing the best works to market with the creativity and dynamism for which Phillips is known. The sale was one of our most diverse and we were pleased to see five artists of color achieve worldwide auction records this evening.

Out of the gate, Amy Sherald’s *The Bathers* shattered previous auction records more than tenfold to achieve a remarkable \$4,265,00, nearly 30 times the presale estimate with nearly 15 minutes of bidding. Titus Kaphar’s *Veil* achieved \$365,400, five times its presale estimate, and Matthew Wong’s *Before Night Falls* achieved \$1,252,100, more than tripling the presale estimate; demonstrating Phillips continuing strength in emerging artists markets.

Hockney’s *Nichols Canyon* sold for a ground-breaking \$41,067,500, setting a record for a landscape by the artist -- this price calibre is typically reserved for his figurative works but the rarity and truly exceptional nature of this landscape has shattered that notion. Clyfford Still’s remarkable PH-407, which achieved \$18,442,500, is a rare monumental work from his Maryland period, and it’s one of only a few dozen works by the artist to remain in private hands. Basquiat’s *Portrait of A-One AKA King* sold for \$11,500,000, marking the first time this work has come to market in 30 years. The painting is an exemplary work from the apex of Basquiat’s career, painted in 1982 when he was producing important works of art. We set a world record for Kehinde Wiley’s *Portrait of Mickalene Thomas, the Coyote*, achieving \$378,000, tripling the presale estimate while Mickalene Thomas’ *I’ve Been Good To Me*, achieved \$901,200, quadrupling the presale estimate for the work.”

## Top Ten Lots

Lot	Description	Estimate	Price Achieved
10	David Hockney, <i>Nichols Canyon</i> , 1980 *World auction record for a Landscape by the Artist	Estimate On Request	\$41,067,500 £30,644,569/€33,864,261
14	Clyfford Still, <i>PH-407</i> , 1964	Estimate On Request	\$18,442,500 £13,761,794/€15,207,686
16	Jean-Michel Basquiat, <i>Portrait of A-One A.K.A King</i> , 1982	\$10,000,000 - 15,000,000	\$11,500,000 £8,581,300/€9,482,900
24	Joan Mitchell, <i>Untitled</i> , 1953	\$10,000,000 - 15,000,000	\$11,297,500 £8,430,195/€9,315,919
1	Amy Sherald, <i>The Bathers</i> , 2015 *World auction record for the Artist	\$150,000 - \$200,000	\$4,265,000 £3,182,543/€3,516,919
26	George Condo, <i>Transparent Female Forms</i> , 2009	\$3,500,000 - 5,500,000	\$4,265,000 £3,182,543/€3,516,919
22	Gerhard Richter, <i>Abstraktes Bild (678-1)</i> , 1988	\$3,000,000 - 5,000,000	\$4,265,000 £3,182,543/€3,516,919
27	Helen Frankenthaler, <i>Off White Square</i> , 1973	\$2,800,000 - 3,500,000	\$3,720,500 £2,776,237/€3,067,924
5	Ruth Asawa, <i>Untitled (S.045, Hanging Five-Lobed, Multilayered Continuous Form within a Form, with Spheres in the First, Second and Third Lobes)</i> , 1960s	\$1,500,000 - 2,000,000	\$3,539,000 £2,640,802/€2,918,259
8	Donald Judd, <i>Untitled</i> , Executed in 1965 and refabricated in 1969	\$3,000,000 - 4,000,000	\$3,539,000 £2,640,802/€2,918,259

## New Auction Records

Lot	Description	Estimate	Price Achieved
1	Amy Sherald, <i>The Bathers</i> , 2015 <i>*previous record price: \$350,000 set in 2019</i>	\$150,000 - \$200,000	\$4,265,000 £3,182,543/€3,516,919
2	Jadé Fadojutimi, <i>Lotus Land</i> , 2017 <i>*previous record price: \$52,260 set in 2020</i>	\$40,000 - \$60,000	\$378,000 £282,064/€311,699
3	Vaughn Spann, <i>Big Black Rainbow (Deep Dive)</i> , 2019 <i>*previous record price: \$187,500 set in 2020</i>	\$40,000 - \$60,000	\$239,400 £178,640/€197,409
10	David Hockney, <i>Nichols Canyon</i> , 1980 <i>* World auction record for a Landscape by the Artist</i> <i>previous record price: \$28,453,000 set in 2018</i>	Estimate On Request	\$41,067,500 £30,644,569/€33,864,261
33	Kehinde Wiley, <i>Portrait of Mickalene Thomas, the Coyote</i> , 2017 <i>*previous record price: \$350,000 set in 2020</i>	\$100,000 - \$150,000	\$378,000 £282,064/€311,699
35	Mickalene Thomas, <i>I've Been Good To Me</i> , 2013 <i>*previous record price: \$567,000 set in 2019</i>	\$200,000 - \$300,000	\$901,200 £672,475/ €743,130

### ABOUT PHILLIPS

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.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices Achieved include the buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees. Phillips is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions.*

### PRESS CONTACTS:

NEW YORK – Jaime Israni, Public Relations Director, Americas  
LONDON - Katie Carder, Head of Press, Europe  
HONG KONG – Ingrid Hsu, Public Relations Director, Asia

[jisrani@phillips.com](mailto:jisrani@phillips.com)  
[kcarder@phillips.com](mailto:kcarder@phillips.com)  
[ingridhsu@phillips.com](mailto:ingridhsu@phillips.com)

+973 432 6337  
+44 20 7901 7938  
+852 2318 2043

PHILLIPS NEW YORK - 450 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

PHILLIPS LONDON - 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

PHILLIPS HONG KONG - 14/F St. George's Building, 2 Ice House Street, Central Hong Kong

PHILLIPS GENEVA - Rue de la Confédération, 7 Geneva 1204

VISIT US AT: [www.phillips.com](http://www.phillips.com)

FOLLOW US ON: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Weibo](#) | [WeChat](#) (use QR Code to right)

