

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | GLOBAL | 12 FEBRUARY 2021

Christie's Proudly Announces

## **WE ARE ALL WARRIORS**

**The Sale of an Epic Work by Jean-Michel Basquiat  
Poised to Become the Most Valuable Western Artwork Ever Offered in Asia**

**An Exclusive Single-Lot Evening Sale, Part of Christie's Spring 20<sup>th</sup> Century Season  
in March**



**Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988)**

***Warrior***

signed and dated 'Jean-Michel Basquiat 1982' (on the reverse)

acrylic, oilstick and spray paint on wood panel

72 x 48 in. (183 x 122 cm.)

Painted in 1982

**Estimate: HK\$240,000,000-320,000,000 / US\$31,000,000-41,000,000**

**Global** – On 23 March, Christie's will offer Basquiat's landmark work, ***Warrior*** (estimated at HK\$240,000,000-320,000,000 / US\$31,000,000-41,000,000), in a live and livestreamed, single-lot evening sale entitled **We Are All Warriors – The Basquiat Auction**, to be held in Hong Kong as a key element of Christie's Spring Season of 20<sup>th</sup> Century sales. The masterpiece, which represents the pinnacle of Basquiat's creative output, is poised to become the most expensive Western artwork ever offered in Asia.

Painted in 1982, at the height of his artistic power, Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Warrior* is a commanding and authoritative portrait that amply demonstrates why the artist is regarded as one of the most important painters of the last half century. The work will be offered in a sale format that highlights Basquiat's international appeal, uniting collectors from different geographies and time zones. The evening of auctions will reflect the dialogue established between two cultural hubs in the London to Paris sale series in October 2020 and the Hong Kong to New York series in December 2020.

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The forthcoming sale will be a milestone for the Western art market in Asia, speaking to Christie's continued success in the region. The sale of *Warrior* follows a record-breaking season of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century Art sales in Hong Kong last December, which showcased the strongest offering of Western artworks to date, and set phenomenal prices fuelled by Asian collectors.

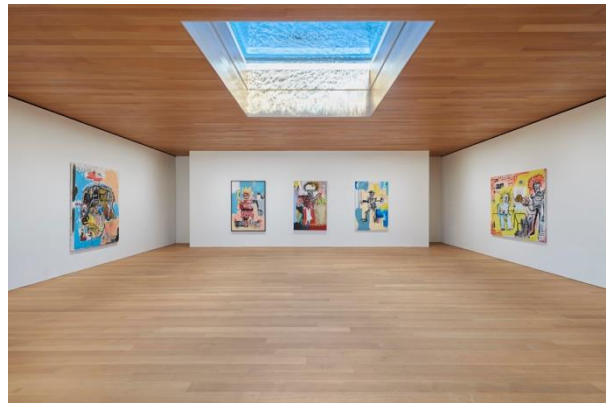
## **Basquiat's *Warrior* - An Artwork of Ground-breaking Importance:**

- **A Masterpiece by the Artist** - *Warrior* is considered one of Basquiat's finest creations and is part of a series created on panel in 1981-82, including *La Hara* and *Irony of Negro Policeman*.
- **Finest Period** - The work is a masterful example of when Basquiat's artistic language reached maturity. Created as an absolute statement piece, it showcases his celebrated raw, exuberant energy, which permeates every inch of the composition.
- **A Semi-Autobiographic Masterpiece** – Basquiat was highly aware of the inequality in the socio-political environment and the absence of representation of black people in art history. *Warrior* can therefore be interpreted as a semi-autobiographic work.
- **Iconic Subject Matter** - The work depicts a powerful warrior in full length, wielding his silver sword, barrelling his penetrating eyes directly towards the viewer. The Christ-like, gladiatorial figure is a crucial subject extensively explored by the artist in numerous sketches prior to this work.
- **Renowned Provenance** - First exhibited at Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, in 1983, *Warrior* has been featured in numerous important Basquiat publications and exhibitions around the globe. In particular, it was one of the centrepieces of the 2019 blockbuster exhibition 'Jean-Michel Basquiat' at the Brant Foundation Art Study Center in New York City.



*Installation view, Akira Ikeda Gallery, Tokyo, Jean-Michel Basquiat, 1983, showing (left to right) Untitled (1982) and the present work.*

*(Photo: Akira Ikeda, 1983  
Artwork: © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat.  
Licensed by Artestar, New York. )*



*Installation view, © Tom Powel Imaging/ Courtesy The Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT. Artwork: © Estate of Jean-Michel Basquiat. Licensed by Artestar, New York.*

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Preview (by appointment):

**New York** | 19 February – 1 March | 20 Rockefeller Plaza

**Hong Kong** | 15 – 23 March | 22/ F, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road Central

### Auction:

**Hong Kong** | 23 March | 22/ F, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road Central

(Instagram hashtag: [#TheBasquiatAuction](#))

### Christie's Global Spring Season of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art:

1 March

A Family Collection: Works on Paper, Van Gogh to Freud, New York, 2pm EST

Modern British Art Evening Sale, London, 7:30pm GMT

23 March

We Are All Warriors – The Basquiat Auction, Hong Kong, 10pm HKT

20<sup>th</sup> Century Art Evening Sale, London, 2pm GMT, Directly following We Are All Warriors – The Basquiat Auction

The Art of the Surreal Evening Sale, 2pm GMT, Directly following We Are All Warriors – The Basquiat Auction

### Recent world auction records at Christie's:

Marina Abramović, *The Life*, price realised £287,500

Maria Farrar, *Wave*, price realised £87,500

Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, *Sango neMuchero*, price realised £37,500

Sophie Von Hellermann, *When He Came...*, price realised £15,000

Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, *Ko Bungisa Mbala Mibale (Second Loss)*, price realised £118,750

Daniel Richter, *Tarifa*, price realised £1,162,500

George Condo, *Force Field*, price realised HK\$53,150,000

Dana Schutz, *Elevator*, price realised HK\$50,050,000

Georges Mathieu, *Souvenir de la maison d'Autriche*, price realised HK\$17,290,000

Eddie Martinez, *High Flying Bird*, price realised HK\$15,725,000

Amoako Bofo, *Baba Diop*, price realised HK\$8,890,000

Mary Corse, *Untitled (White/Black Inner Band Beveled)*, price realised HK\$5,000,000

Shara Hughes, *High Waters*, price realised HK\$4,125,000

Joyce Pensato, *Sunset Batman*, price realised HK\$2,250,000

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### About Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 350 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 clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie's global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie's accessible to all.

\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.

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Images available on request

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