

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 3, 2019

Contact: Alexandra Nelson
 Communications Director
 212-254-4710 ext. 19
alexandra@swannalleries.com

Print Record for Franz Kline in Swann Contemporary



CONTEMPORARY ART

Sale 2509; May 16, 2019

All prices include Buyer's Premium.

New York–Swann Galleries’ **May 16** sale of **Contemporary Art** brought a record price for a Franz Kline print and saw an 81% sell-through rate, earning \$1.4M.

Todd Weyman, Vice President and Director of Prints & Drawings, noted of the sale, “There was strong bidding across the board and we achieved record prices for market masters like Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Motherwell and Cy Twombly.” **Franz Kline’s** 1957-60 untitled aquatint and etching set a record for any print by the artist at \$27,500. Print records included *Delos*, 1991, a color lithograph by Robert Motherwell and **Cy Twombly’s** 1974 color lithograph *Natural History, Part I, Mushrooms: No. V.*, both selling for \$16,250, and Roy Lichtenstein’s 1996 color screenprint *Venetian School II* at \$15,000.

Additional Lichtenstein works of note featured the 1996 color screenprint *Art Critic* (\$39,375) and the 1966 porcelain enamel on steel multiple *Sunrise* (\$15,000). Further Pop-Art masters included Andy Warhol with the 1983 color screenprint *Brooklyn Bridge* (\$27,500), and David Hockney’s color etching *Two Vases in the Louvre*, 1974 (\$27,500), as well as *Snow without Colors*, color lithograph, 1973 (\$13,750).

Abstract Expressionists proved to be successful with works by the movement’s luminaries earning top spots. Gerhard Richter’s 2003 color screenprint in 41 colors, *Eis 2*, led the sale at \$50,000.



William de Kooning found success with charcoal drawings: *Untitled (Washington Monument)*, 1969-70, at \$35,000, and a circa 1983 untitled work at \$15,000. Works by Jackson Pollock and Robert Motherwell were also among the top lots.

“While there was competitive bidding internationally, especially on all of our internet platforms, pushing prices for many lots well within the estimate ranges or over the high estimates, the majority of lots sold to US buyers bidding via telephone with Swann representatives. The bidding remained noticeably strong in this auction for artists whose markets have been particularly robust lately,” concluded Weyman.

The next auction of **Contemporary Art** will be held in November 2019. The house is currently accepting quality consignments. Visit swanngalleries.com for information on selling at Swann.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

[Lot 9](#): Franz Kline, *Untitled*, aquatint & etching, 1957-60. Sold for \$27,500, a record for any print by the artist.

[Lot 140](#): Cy Twombly, *Natural History, Part I, Mushrooms: No. V*, color lithograph with mixed-media collage, 1974. Sold for \$16,250, a record for the print.

Specialist: Todd Weyman • tweyman@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 32

Press: Alexandra Nelson • alexandra@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 19

Social media: @swanngalleries

#

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE, ADDL. IMAGES & COMPLETE PRICES REALIZED ON REQUEST

Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world’s largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world’s only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries’ two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit swanngalleries.com for more information.