



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

For Immediate Release

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AFA'S 2006 ARTTALKS LECTURE SERIES OPENS WITH TOBIAS MEYER OF SOTHEBY'S

Thursday, March 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m.



New York, NY (March 10, 2006) – The American Federation of Arts is pleased to welcome Tobias Meyer as the first speaker of the spring 2006 season of ArtTalks, the AFA's lecture series. Mr. Meyer, Sotheby's Worldwide Head of Contemporary Art, will discuss the contemporary art market and his experiences at auction. The event will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the AFA, located at 41 East 65th Street, New York. Following the talk, audience

members are invited to participate in a question-and-answer session and then to join Mr. Meyer at a reception. Admission is \$15; \$10 for AFA members and students with valid identification. **Seating is limited and reservations are required.** For reservations, please call 212.988.7700 ext. 10 or contact pubinfo@afaweb.org.

Mr. Meyer began his career at Sotheby's in 1992 after three years in the Contemporary Art Department at Christie's. He has been Sotheby's Worldwide Head of Contemporary Art since 1997. Mr. Meyer is also Sotheby's principal auctioneer for sales of contemporary and Impressionist art in New York, where he is now based, as well as for contemporary art sales in London. At the podium, he has achieved 200 world-record auction prices, sold more works over \$5 million than any other auctioneer, and conducted the auction of more than 25 single-owner collections.

Among Mr. Meyer's many accomplishments are the May 2001 sale of the Stanley J. Seeger Collection, which realized \$58.4 million; the collection of Douglas S. Cramer, which realized

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\$20.7 million; and Property of the Greentree Foundation from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney, which realized \$189.9 million, the highest total for any single-owner collection and the highest price for a work of art at auction with the \$104.2 million sale of Pablo Picasso's *Garçon à la Pipe (Le jeune apprenti)*.

Mr. Meyer oversaw a series of record-breaking bidding in the November 2004 Contemporary Art Evening sale, which achieved a total of \$93.4 million – the highest total for a various-owner contemporary art sale at Sotheby's since 1989 – and set numerous artist records, including \$17.4 million for Mark Rothko's *No. 6 (Yellow, White, Blue over Yellow on Gray)* and \$10.9 million for Jasper Johns' *O Through 9* (which also doubled the previous record for any contemporary work on paper).



ArtTalks is presented by Target. **TARGET.**

Support has also been provided by the Joseph and Sylvia Slifka Foundation, Inc.

The AFA is a nonprofit institution that organizes art exhibitions for presentation in museums around the world, publishes exhibition catalogues, and develops education programs. For more information on the AFA, please visit www.afaweb.org.

Image credit: Pablo Picasso's *Garçon à la Pipe (Le jeune apprenti)* on the auction block, with Tobias Meyer taking bids. Courtesy Sotheby's