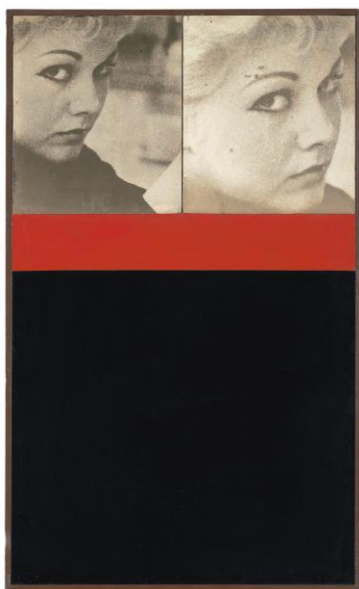


PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 18 July 2013

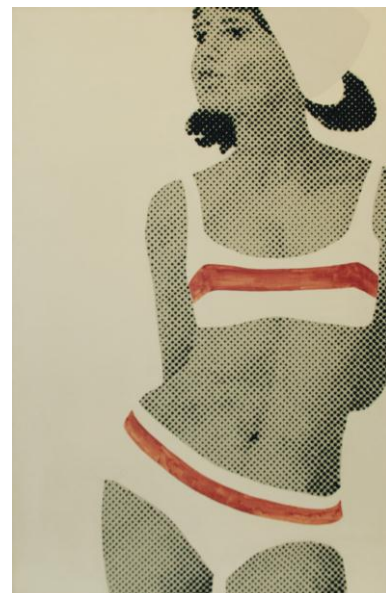
## FIRST-EVER EXHIBITION OF BRITISH POP ART IN LONDON



**Peter Blake**, *Kim Novak*, 1959  
Private Collection



**Allen Jones**, *First Step*, 1966  
Allen Jones Collection  
Courtesy of Institute for Cultural Exchange, Tübingen



**Gerald Laing**, *Number Seventy-One*, 1965  
Courtesy of Waddington Custot Galleries, London

### When Britain Went Pop!

### British Pop Art: The Early Years

Christie's Mayfair, 103 New Bond Street

9 October – 24 November, 2013

*"Pop Art is: popular (designed for a mass audience), transient (short-term solution), expendable (easily-forgotten), low-cost, mass-produced, young (aimed at youth), witty, sexy, gimmicky, glamorous, Big Business"* – Richard Hamilton

**London** - In October 2013 Christie's, in association with Waddington Custot Galleries, will stage *When Britain Went Pop!*, an exhibition exploring the early revolutionary years of the British Pop Art movement, which will launch Christie's new gallery space in Mayfair. This is the first comprehensive exhibition of British Pop Art to be held in London. *When Britain Went Pop!* aims to show how Pop Art began in Britain and how British artists like Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake, David Hockney, Allen Jones and Patrick Caulfield irrevocably shifted the boundaries between popular culture and fine art, leaving a legacy both in Britain and abroad.

British Pop Art was last explored in depth in the UK in 1991 as part of the Royal Academy's survey exhibition of International Pop Art. This exhibition seeks to bring a fresh engagement with an influential movement long celebrated by collectors and museums alike, but many of whose artists have been overlooked in recent years.

A catalogue will accompany the exhibition, with an essay by the pre-eminent authority on British Pop art, Marco Livingstone, and interviews with artists and key figures of the time.

A key feature of the exhibition is a collaboration with the artists of the British Pop Art movement and their families, and private collectors who are lending works of British Pop Art from their personal collections. These include Richard Hamilton's *Swingeing London*, Peter Blake's *Everly Wall*, Gerald Laing's *Lincoln Convertible*, Colin Self's *Leopardskin Nuclear Bomber No. 1*, Allen Jones' *First Step* (illustrated on page one, centre). Other artists exhibited in the show will include Clive Barker, Derek Boshier, Pauline Boty, Patrick Caulfield, Antony Donaldson, Jann Haworth, David Hockney, R.B. Kitaj, Gerald Laing, Nicholas Monro, Eduardo Paolozzi, Peter Phillips, Richard Smith and Joe Tilson. Many of these works have not been exhibited publicly since the 1960s.

The exhibition spans British Pop Art, from the 1940s collages of Eduardo Paolozzi to its full maturity in the late 1960s, building on the pioneering work of the 'Independent Group' of artists, who began to explore popular culture from the early 1950s. A highlight of this exhibition is works from the ground-breaking 1961 'Young Contemporaries' exhibition where British Pop Art first appeared in force, including one of the first works David Hockney ever sold (which still has its £12 price tag on the back), and works by Patrick Caulfield, Allen Jones and Derek Boshier. The exhibition firmly established the Pop movement on the UK art scene. *When Britain Went Pop* represents both early work from the 1940s and 50s by Paolozzi and Hamilton, as well as early 1960s works by Peter Blake, R.B. Kitaj and Hockney, created during and just after their respective periods of study at the Royal College of Art, including Hockney's study for *We Two Boys Together Clinging*.

*When Britain Went Pop!* looks at an era not only of ground-breaking artists but also of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Swinging 60s. A multimedia and diverse movement, British Pop Art was vividly documented in Bryan Robertson, John Russell and Lord Snowdon's seminal book from 1965, *Private View: The Lively World of British Art*, and the catalogue will also illustrate a selection of Lord Snowdon's original photographs from the book, as well as the film 'Pop goes the Easel' and other contextual material to bring this period to life.

Many of these works have come from international collectors, demonstrating the global appeal of the movement. Some of the privately owned works will be for sale.

---

**PRESS CONTACTS: Cristiano De Lorenzo | +44 207 389 2283 | [cdelorenzo@christies.com](mailto:cdelorenzo@christies.com)  
Matthew Paton | +44 207 389 2965 | [mpaton@christies.com](mailto:mpaton@christies.com)**

---

---

**Editor's Notes:**

This exhibition will be the first at Christie's Mayfair, a new gallery space at 103 Bond Street, London W1S 1ST.

The first survey exhibition in England of British Pop Art was *Pop Art in England*, York City Art Gallery, 1976, which was a touring show from Germany.

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion, the highest total for the period in company history. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai.

**About Waddington Custot Galleries**

Waddington Custot Galleries is based in London and deals in modern and contemporary works of art: painting, sculpture and works on paper.

The gallery represents a number of contemporary artists from Great Britain, Europe, and North America including Peter Blake, Ian Davenport, Peter Halley, Axel Hütte, Robert Indiana, Mimmo Paladino, William Turnbull, Bill Woodrow, and the Estates of Josef Albers, Milton Avery, Patrick Caulfield, Jean Dubuffet, Barry Flanagan and Patrick Heron.

For further information about Waddington Custot Galleries please contact Roxana Afshar at [roxana@waddingtoncustot.com](mailto:roxana@waddingtoncustot.com)

---

***Images available on request***

Visit Christie's at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

Follow Christie's on:



---