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PRESS RELEASE

PHILLIPS' LONDON EVENING SALE OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART ACHIEVES £13 MILLION

New World Auction Record Set for Anna Ancher

London, 5 March 2026

Sale Total: £12,964,910 / \$17,308,155 / €14,909,647

Lots Sold: 23 | Lots Offered: 27

Sold by Value: 90% | Sold by Lot: 85%



Olivia Thornton, Deputy Chairwoman and Head of Modern & Contemporary Art, Europe, said, “Bidders from 30 countries joined Phillips this evening, demonstrating continued resilience in the market for exceptional works of Modern, Post-War and Contemporary Art. The sale presented the first opportunity to acquire Danish masterworks from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr., led by Vilhelm Hammershøi’s *Interior of Woman Placing Branches in Vase on Table* and a new world auction record for Anna Ancher. Andy Warhol’s *Mao* jointly led the sale and Banksy’s *Happy Choppers* exceeded its high estimate. The sale opened with Joseph Yaeger’s *Tyranny of the rational* selling for three times its low estimate, while Tracey Emin’s *An Insane desire For you* realised £774,000—an especially timely inclusion as London celebrates the artist’s critically acclaimed retrospective at Tate Modern. We now look forward to our Modern & Contemporary Art sale on Saturday.”

Top Ten Lots

Lot	Description	Estimate	Price Achieved
7	Vilhelm Hammershøi, <i>Interior of Woman Placing Branches in Vase on Table (Interiør med kvinde, der stiller grene i et glas, Strandgade 30)</i> , 1900	£1,500,000 - 2,000,000	£1,642,000

15	Andy Warhol, <i>Mao</i> , 1973	£1,400,000 - 1,800,000	£1,642,000
14	Banksy, <i>Happy Choppers</i> , 2006	£1,000,000 - 1,500,000	£1,520,000
10	Harald Sohlberg, <i>Autumn at Leangbukten, Oslofjord (Höst ved Leangbukten, Oslofjord)</i> , 1926	£850,000 - 1,300,000	£1,093,000
18	Ei Anatsui, <i>Zebra Square</i> , 2007	£750,000 - 1,000,000	£967,500
4	Tracey Emin, <i>An Insane desire For you</i> , 2019	£600,000 - 800,000	£774,000
12	Georg Baselitz, <i>Die Wildnis im Zimmer</i> , 1989	£600,000 - 800,000	£645,000
5	Rebecca Warren, <i>Fascia V</i> , 2012	£250,000 - 350,000	£541,800
16	Donald Judd, <i>Untitled</i> , 1987	£380,000 - 500,000	£541,800
11	Anselm Kiefer, <i>Right wing, left wing</i> , 1991	£400,000 - 600,000	£516,000

New Auction Records

Lot	Description	Estimate	Price Achieved
6	Anna Ancher, <i>Young Girl Reading a Letter (Ung pige, der læser et brev)</i> , 1902 <i>*previous record price: \$146,551 set in 2006</i>	£30,000 - 50,000	£154,800

*Lot 9 was sold after the lot closed, whilst the sale was ongoing, and is therefore included in the total sale result.
Exchange Rate on 5 March 2026: £1 = US\$1.335, €1.15, HK\$10.44

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EST. 1796

As Phillips marks its 230th anniversary in 2026, the house celebrates more than two centuries at the forefront of the global market for Modern & Contemporary Art, Design, and Luxury. Founded in 1796 by the charismatic auctioneer Harry Phillips, the company has, since its earliest days, offered a distinct and forward-looking approach to sales and collecting. Over the centuries, Phillips has delivered record-breaking results and landmark offerings, while also pioneering new modes of collecting via the likes of Dropshop. Through its partnership with Bacs & Russo, Phillips continues to lead the industry in watches, setting new benchmarks for excellence, innovation, and connoisseurship. Today, Phillips remains true to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founder while redefining the role of a 21st century auction house.

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.

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