

Nanopublication – Richter's \$35.1 Million Candle Tops a Lackluster \$162.7 Million Christie's Sale

by Arnaud Quercy

This is a market report on auction-house sale prices, estimates, guarantees, and provenance for Christie's postwar and contemporary sales; it contains no claim about idea-formation, transliteration, diffraction, codex, or reception that the ideamorphism framework could confirm, complicate, or refute.

DECLINED – NO-PURCHASE [1]

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Not evaluated (37) – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: DECLINED:no-purchase – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-05-21 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 10,904 chars · 1 attempt(s)

FIRST PASS – KEPT AS WRITTEN

Reading produced by the T50 RSS pass, before the boundary lens. It is reproduced UNCORRECTED. Keeping it is the point: without it, a changed title is just a changed title – with it, what the second pass refused becomes legible.

Title it carried : « Richter's Market Dominance and the Dilution of Canonical Diffraction »

This market consolidation exemplifies the DILUTION CRISIS in ideamorphic terms. Richter's five canvases dominating the top ten represents not diffraction but RECOGNITION REPLICATION – the algorithm (auction market) rewards

canonical repetition over singular ouvertures. The 'tepid' overall sale despite Richter's dominance reveals the structural problem: maximum emission (five Richters circulating) produces minimum diffraction (predictable valuations, foreclosed receptions). The market has crystallized Richter as invariant, flattening the very generative loss that made his work diffractive. Collectors receive not through their ouverture but through the platform's pre-calibrated aperture. This is the platform as dilution engine.

T50 RSS assessment · 2026-05-21 · remplacée par boundary-lens-2026-08

REFERENCES

[1] Marian Goodman's \$35.1 M. Richter 'Candle' Leads Christie's Tepid \$162.7 M. Trio of Postwar and Contemporary Sales. ARTnews.com, 2026-05-21. <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/market/christies-marian-goodman-richter-21st-century-sale-report-1234786575/>

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	no purchase
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 1 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

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