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Dark Beauty: Captivating Photographs of the Sinister, Tragic, and Enchanted

Featuring works by Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Francesca Woodman, and Helmut Newton, among others

Live on artnet Auctions from September 12 through 24, 2013

New York / Berlin, September 12, 2013—artnet Auctions is pleased to present a new photography sale, Dark Beauty: Captivating Photographs of the Sinister, Tragic, and Enchanted. Dark Beauty features a selection of unforgettable photographs, by artists such as Pierre Molinier, Joel-Peter Witkin, Robert Parke-Harrison, E.J. Bellocq, Nan Goldin, Francesca Woodman, Helmut Newton, Andres Serrano, Jan Saudek, Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, and David LaChapelle. The sale is comprised of over 40 lots, with estimates ranging from US$4,000 to 40,000.

One example of the beauty represented in this sale is Sally Mann’s Crossed Braids (1992), estimated at US$15,000–20,000. In this gelatin silver print, Mann displays a keen awareness of human mortality and its interconnectedness with the natural world. As in much of her work, the imagery suggests the cyclical nature of birth, death, and the beyond. Another important artist featured in the
The sale is Robert Mapplethorpe (American, 1946–1989). Mapplethorpe’s iconic black-and-white photograph *Tulips* (1979), estimated at US$17,000–22,000, uses flowers—a recurring theme in the artist’s work—to explore the fragility of life. Representing the sale’s darker side is Andres Serrano’s *Ecce Homo*, also known as *Piss Christ*, a sensational work that has attracted controversy for more than two decades, and has an estimate of US$25,000–30,000.

Belloq’s *Untitled (Storyville Prostitute), 1912*, is a haunting photograph of a female sex worker in New Orleans in the 1910s wearing just her stockings with her face blacked out. This portrait of a Storyville prostitute is one of a series from photographer E.J. Bellocq (American, 1873–1949), photographed in hotel rooms in New Orleans in 1912. For many years, these images had been kept private, but in the late 1960s, photographer Lee Friedlander (American, b.1934) purchased the negatives and brought these haunting portraits to light. Many of the faces on these erotic photographs were deliberately scraped out, although it is not known whether or not that was done by Bellocq himself.

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For more information about the sale, please contact *artnet Auctions* specialists:

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