artnet auctions Presents:

Text Me: Art and Language

A selection of text-based art by a wide range of Contemporary artists

Live sale on artnet Auctions from March 12 through 19, 2013

Glenn Ligon
Condition Report (diptych), 2000
Iris print and iris print with serigraph
Edition PP 1/2 aside from edition 20
31.88 x 22.63 in. (each)
Est. US$30,000–40,000

New York / Berlin, March 12, 2013—artnet Auctions is proud to announce Text Me: Art and Language, a curated auction of over 50 works by leading Contemporary artists, including Ed Ruscha, Robert Indiana, Deborah Kass, Jenny Holzer, Glenn Ligon, Barbara Kruger, and Richard Prince.

Among the sale’s highlights is Glenn Ligon’s Condition Report (diptych) (2000), estimated at US$30,000 to 40,000. This terrific, rare two-panel print explores themes of identity, civil rights, and self-empowerment. The phrase “I Am A Man” is based on text from the placards of city sanitation workers, who participated in a civil rights protest during the spring of 1968 in Memphis, TN. When Ligon saw African American photographer Ernest C. Withers’s photograph of these strikers, he was inspired by the empowering message on the protesters’ signs.
Text Me: Art and Language also includes Ed Ruscha’s OOO, estimated at US$8,000 to 12,000. In the 1970s, Ruscha experimented with words as visual puns. In the lithograph OOO, Ruscha renders the letters as drops of water, implying perhaps that the sound of the word might uncover its meaning.

Another highlight of the sale is Deborah Kass’s Oy Yo (2011), which is a play on Ruscha’s iconic text-based painting OOF (1962). Kass comments on the male-dominated art world by putting her own witty spin on Ruscha’s text, rendering her piece in the same colors as the iconic work.

Text Me: Art and Language is live on artnet Auctions from March 12 through 19, 2013, and on view here.

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

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