A special sale of photographs in honor of Valentine’s Day, live on artnet Auctions from February 11 to 20, 2014

New York / Berlin, February 12, 2014—artnet Auctions is pleased to present The Kiss, a special sale of photographs in honor of Valentine's Day. Throughout the history of photography, the kiss has always been a subject of voyeuristic fascination. An image of a kiss captures the intimate yet fleeting moment between two people that cannot be recreated.

One highlight of the sale is a platinum print by Annie Leibovitz (American, b.1949) entitled John Lennon and Yoko Ono, New York (1980), and is estimated at US$25,000–35,000. Leibovitz took this photograph for the cover of Rolling Stone on December 8, 1980, just hours before the famous singer was killed. Leibovitz’s original intention was for both of them to appear nude, but, when Yoko got camera shy at the last minute, they decided to experiment with the contrast between the two. The legendary image commemorates Lennon, the passion between him and Ono, and the vulnerability of love.
Also featured is the iconic *Les Amoureux de l'Hôtel de Ville* (1950) by Robert Doisneau (French, 1912–1994), estimated at US$15,000–20,000. Commissioned to do a spread on love for *Life* magazine, Doisneau approached the couple in the street in front of Paris’s City Hall, and asked them to pose for the photograph. Doisneau perfectly captures the essence of romance in Paris: the background and passersby are blurred, and time appears to have stopped for the couple, who are lost in the moment as the city rushes around them.

Another highlight is Marilyn Minter’s *Bridle* (2004), a seductive shot of a woman’s slightly open lips, with a crystal necklace pulled against her teeth. Estimated at US$15,000–20,000, *Bridle* exemplifies the sensual and glamorous imagery that Minter creates in her richly saturated photographs.

*The Kiss* is live on artnet Auctions from February 11 through 20, 2014, and is on view at http://www.artnet.com/auctions/search/?q=keyword-x_2014-category-all-artworks-active-auctions-only/.

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