

It's a Man's World

WOMEN MAY BE GAINING GROUND in curatorial circles—with retrospectives this year devoted to Marlene Dumas, Barbara Hepworth, and Agnes Martin at Tate in London; Isa Genzken at the Stedelijk in Amsterdam; and Marilyn Minter at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston—but it is no secret that the art markets are biased in terms of gender. All of the top 100 works ever sold at auction were created by male artists; ironically, their depictions of women often fetch the highest prices. But just how wide is the gender gap? An analysis of some five million auction records across all media for the past 55 years reveals that there was \$34 billion in total turnover for the 20 top-performing male artists, while there was only \$2.2 billion for the top 20 women. Moreover, the price paid for a work by a top-performing woman is rarely more than half of that shelled out for works by a male counterpart. Only five women have notched eight digits on the block, while men cross that benchmark regularly. BY ROMAN KRAEUSL

Untitled Film Stills, 1977–80, a group of 21 images by Cindy Sherman, set an artist record at auction when they sold as a single lot at Christie's New York in November 2014 for a mid-estimate \$6,773,000.



THE 20 TOP PERFORMING MALE ARTISTS AT AUCTION, 1960–2015

A survey of male artists by total turnover across all media attests their superiority on the auction block over several decades. Pierre-Auguste Renoir's artist record at auction, for example, was set in May 1990, when his *Au moulin de la Galette*, 1876, sold for \$78.1 million at Sotheby's New York.

RANK	NAME	ARTWORKS SOLD AT AUCTION	TURNOVER	RECORD ARTWORK	PRICE	DATE & AUCTION HOUSE
1	Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)	28,418	\$5,956,459,736	<i>Les femmes d'Alger (Version 'O')</i> , 1955	\$179,365,000	May 15, 2011; Christie's New York
2	Andy Warhol (1928–1987)	14,869	\$4,047,601,094	<i>Silver Car Crash (Double Disaster)</i> , 1963	\$105,445,000	Nov. 13, 2013; Sotheby's New York
3	Claude Monet (1840–1926)	1,226	\$2,844,401,133	<i>Le bassin aux nymphéas</i> , 1919	\$80,451,178	June 24, 2008; Christie's London
4	Francis Bacon (1909–1992)	1,094	\$1,765,974,026	<i>Three Studies of Lucian Freud</i> , 1969	\$142,405,000	Nov. 12, 2013; Christie's New York
5	Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919)	5,120	\$1,714,554,644	<i>Au moulin de la Galette</i> , 1876	\$78,100,000	May 17, 1990; Sotheby's New York
6	Gerhard Richter (1932–)	2,228	\$1,678,229,466	<i>Abstraktes Bild</i> , 1986	\$46,303,719	Feb. 10, 2015; Sotheby's London
7	Alberto Giacometti (1901–66)	2,296	\$1,516,942,853	<i>L'homme au doigt</i> , 1947	\$141,285,000	May 11, 2015; Christie's New York
8	Henri Matisse (1869–1954)	5,362	\$1,420,166,081	<i>Nu de dos, 4 état (Back IV)</i> , 1930	\$48,802,500	Nov. 3, 2010; Christie's New York
9	Mark Rothko (1903–1970)	303	\$1,348,753,770	<i>Orange, Red, Yellow</i> , 1961	\$86,882,500	May 8, 2012; Christie's New York
10	Marc Chagall (1887–1985)	10,993	\$1,315,625,745	<i>Anniversaire</i> , 1923	\$13,500,000	May 17, 1990; Sotheby's New York
11	Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1888)	1,619	\$1,252,737,387	<i>Dustheads</i> , 1982	\$48,843,750	May 15, 2013; Christie's New York
12	Zhang Daqian (1899–1983)	3,705	\$1,200,342,386	<i>Lotus and Mandarin Ducks</i> , 1947	\$24,562,674	May 31, 2011; Sotheby's Hong Kong
13	Joan Miró (1893–1983)	8,845	\$1,159,060,415	<i>Peinture (Etoile bleue)</i> , 1927	\$36,946,396	June 19, 2012; Sotheby's London
14	Amedeo Modigliani (1884–1920)	1,161	\$1,067,505,656	<i>Tête</i> , 1911–12	\$70,725,000	Nov. 4, 2014; Sotheby's New York
15	Edgar Degas (1834–1917)	2,597	\$1,055,733,122	<i>Danseuse au repos</i> , ca. 1879	\$37,042,500	Nov. 3, 2008; Sotheby's New York
16	Roy Lichtenstein (1923–1997)	4,283	\$1,051,143,336	<i>Woman with Flowered Hat</i> , 1963	\$56,123,750	May 15, 2013; Christie's New York
17	Fernand Léger (1881–1955)	4,077	\$1,034,346,925	<i>Etude Pour 'La Femme en bleu'</i> , 1912–13	\$39,241,000	May 7, 2008; Sotheby's New York
18	Paul Cézanne (1839–1906)	965	\$1,012,869,138	<i>Rideau, cruchon, et compotier</i> , 1893–94	\$60,500,000	May 10, 1999; Sotheby's New York
19	Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890)	462	\$1,009,996,217	<i>Portrait du Dr. Gachet</i> , 1890	\$82,500,000	May 15, 1990; Christie's New York
20	Willem de Kooning (1904–1997)	1,449	\$977,437,081	<i>Untitled VIII</i> , 1977	\$32,085,000	Nov. 12, 2013; Christie's New York



THE 20 TOP PERFORMING FEMALE ARTISTS AT AUCTION, 1960-2015

While Joan Mitchell tops the list of leading ladies, with a turnover of \$315 million, she would rank #65 in an all-gender table. Georgia O'Keeffe, the second highest-selling artist by turnover and holder of the female record at auction with the November 2014 sale of *Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1*, 1932, for \$44,405,000 at Sotheby's New York, she would be ranked at only #104 in an all-gender table.

RANK	NAME	ARTWORKS SOLD AT AUCTION	TURNOVER	RECORD ARTWORK	PRICE	DATE & AUCTION HOUSE
1	Joan Mitchell (1925-1992)	522	\$314,828,328	<i>Untitled</i> , 1960	\$11,925,000	May 13, 2014; Christie's New York
2	Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)	211	\$195,812,000	<i>Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1</i> , 1932	\$44,405,000	Nov. 20, 2014; Sotheby's New York
3	Yayoi Kusama (1929-)	1,133	\$144,999,530	<i>White No. 28</i> , 1960	\$7,109,000	Nov. 12, 2014; Christie's New York
4	Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)	885	\$139,810,975	<i>Children Playing with a Dog</i> , 1907	\$6,200,000	May 24, 2007; Christie's New York
5	Agnes Martin (1912-2004)	263	\$132,758,394	<i>The Beach</i> , 1964	\$6,549,000	Nov. 13, 2013; Sotheby's New York
6	Tamara de Lempicka (1898-1980)	563	\$125,840,726	<i>Le rêve (Rafaëla sur fond vert)</i> , 1927	\$8,482,500	Nov. 2, 2011; Sotheby's New York
7	Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010)	340	\$120,808,025	<i>Spider</i> , 1996	\$10,722,500	Nov. 8, 2011; Christie's New York
8	Natalia Goncharova (1881-1962)	1,329	\$111,982,377	<i>Les fleurs</i> , ca. 1912	\$10,870,506	June 24, 2008; Christie's London
9	Marie Laurencin (1883-1956)	3,423	\$111,962,830	<i>La vie au château</i> , 1925	\$1,300,000	May 9, 1989; Sotheby's New York
10	Cindy Sherman (1954-)	766	\$111,783,469	<i>Untitled Film Stills</i> , 1977-80	\$6,773,000	Nov 12, 2014; Christie's New York
11	Irma Stern (1894-1966)	811	\$98,835,444	<i>Arab Priest</i> , 1945	\$4,655,455	March 23, 2011; Bonhams London
12	Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)	585	\$95,947,447	<i>Figure for Landscape</i> , 1959-60	\$7,073,168	June 25, 2014; Christie's London
13	Berthe Morisot (1841-95)	477	\$87,019,088	<i>Après le déjeuner</i> , 1881	\$10,924,931	Feb. 6, 2013; Christie's London
14	Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (1908-1992)	795	\$57,570,113	<i>Hiver</i> , 1960	\$1,136,000	June 2, 2010; Sotheby's Paris
15	Gabriele Münter (1877-1962)	821	\$59,367,940	<i>Landschaft mit Einoedhof</i> , ca. 1908	\$1,186,000	May 6, 2015; Sotheby's New York
16	Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011)	769	\$59,015,753	<i>Saturn Revisited</i> , 1964	\$2,830,000	May 12, 2015; Sotheby's New York
17	Niki de Saint Phalle (1930-2002)	1,478	\$57,570,113	<i>Ana Lena en Grèce</i> , 1965-67	\$1,136,000	Nov. 14, 2006; Sotheby's New York
18	Marlene Dumas (1953-)	333	\$56,241,704	<i>The Visitor</i> , 1995	\$6,336,072	July 1, 2008; Sotheby's London
19	Bridget Riley (1931-)	609	\$55,878,727	<i>Chant 2</i> , 1967	\$5,107,645	July 1, 2008; Sotheby's London
20	Helene Schjerfbeck (1862-1946)	460	\$49,235,978	<i>The Dancing Shoes</i> , 1882	\$6,025,369	May 30, 2008; Sotheby's London