



DATABANK

TOP 50 ARTISTS OF 2015

When it comes to the highest-grossing artists on the auction block over the past several decades, it may seem a bit like a game of musical chairs. In 2015 Pablo Picasso, ranked #1 overall, reclaimed the top lot spot, having lost it temporarily to Andy Warhol the year before. Several names have been moving up the list, including that of Robert Ryman, at #48. Although he ranked #33 in 2014, Ryman's *Bridge*, 1980, fetched \$20.6 million in May at Christie's New York, suggesting renewed buyer interest in his work. The second-highest-ranked living artist after Gerhard Richter, Christopher Wool, at #13, has continued to yield strong auction results—with just 27 of his works commanding more than \$113 million in 2015. Nearly all the artists on our list fall into the Impressionist, modern, and postwar and contemporary categories, and the majority of sales of blue-chip works are once again taking place in New York, rather than in London. **BY ROMAN KRÄUSSL**

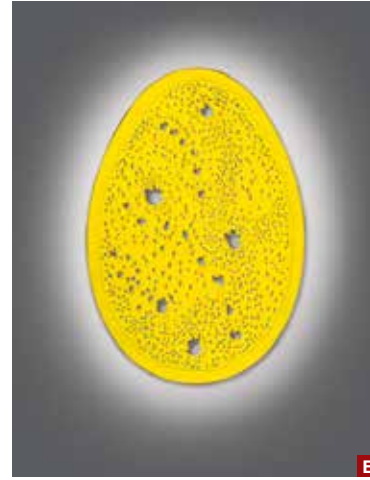
RANK 2015	RANK 2014	RANK 1970-2015	ARTIST	TURNOVER (USD)	LOTS SOLD	RECORD LOT IN 2015	AUCTION HOUSE DATE • PRICE
1	2	1	PABLO PICASSO <i>Spanish, 1881-1973</i>	\$556,103,731	308	<i>Les femmes d'Alger, (Version 'O')</i> , 1955	Christie's New York 5/11/2015 • \$179,365,000
2	1	2	ANDY WARHOL <i>American, 1928-1987</i>	\$455,363,190	372	<i>Colored Mona Lisa</i> , 1963	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$56,165,000
3	5	3	CLAUDE MONET <i>French, 1840-1926</i>	\$335,634,728	30	<i>Nymphéas</i> , 1905 D	Sotheby's New York 5/5/2015 • \$54,010,000
4	4	9	AMEDEO MODIGLIANI <i>Italian, 1884-1920</i>	\$251,331,200	15	<i>Nu couché</i> , 1917-18	Christie's New York 11/9/2015 • \$170,405,000
5	3	4	FRANCIS BACON <i>British, 1909-1992</i>	\$229,524,880	13	<i>Portrait of Henrietta Moraes</i> , 1963 A	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$47,765,000
6	6	7	MARK ROTHKO <i>American, 1903-1970</i>	\$219,166,034	8	<i>No. 10</i> , 1958	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$81,925,000
7	8	22	CY TWOMBLY <i>American, 1928-2011</i>	\$204,492,051	19	<i>Untitled (New York City)</i> , 1968	Sotheby's New York 11/11/2015 • \$70,530,000
8	15	18	LUCIO FONTANA <i>Italian, 1899-1968</i>	\$201,241,164	97	<i>Concetto spaziale, La fine di Dio</i> , 1964 E	Christie's New York 11/10/2015 • \$29,173,000
9	10	10	ROY LICHTENSTEIN <i>American, 1923-1997</i>	\$199,821,712	67	<i>Nurse</i> , 1964	Christie's New York 11/9/2015 • \$95,365,000
10	4	5	GERHARD RICHTER <i>German, 1932-</i>	\$195,233,386	90	<i>Abstraktes Bild</i> , 1986	Sotheby's London 2/10/2015 • \$46,303,719

250 AUCTION HOUSES



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11	12	13	VINCENT VAN GOGH <i>Dutch, 1853-1890</i>	\$137,059,562	8	<i>L'Allée des Alyscamps</i> , 1888	Sotheby's New York 5/5/2015 • \$66,330,000
12	7	8	JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT <i>American, 1960-1988</i>	\$127,617,726	38	<i>The Field Next to the Other Road</i> , 1981	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$37,125,000
13	11	35	CHRISTOPHER WOOL <i>American, 1955-</i>	\$113,181,269	27	<i>Untitled (Riot)</i> , 1990 C	Sotheby's New York 5/12/2015 • \$29,930,000
14	16	17	JOAN MIRO <i>Spanish, 1893-1983</i>	\$102,399,899	117	<i>Painting (Women, Moon, Birds)</i> , 1950	Christie's London 2/4/2015 • \$23,540,828
15	9	19	ZAO WOU-KI <i>Chinese, 1921-2013</i>	\$95,842,928	89	<i>07.04.61</i> , 1961	Sotheby's Hong Kong 4/4/2015 • \$7,176,447
16	56	36	LUCIAN FREUD <i>British, 1922-2011</i>	\$95,836,881	12	<i>Benefits Supervisor Resting</i> , 1994	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$56,165,000
17	31	24	RENE MAGRITTE <i>Belgian, 1898-1967</i>	\$75,186,968	37	<i>Le maître d'école</i> , 1955	Sotheby's New York 11/5/2015 • \$6,746,000
18	68	30	WU GUANZHONG <i>Chinese, 1919-2010</i>	\$75,014,557	58	<i>Hibiscuses</i> , 1975	Poly International Auction Beijing • 6/3/2015 • \$11,136,600
19	26	15	FERNAND LEGER <i>French, 1881-1955</i>	\$74,945,163	69	<i>Le corsage rouge</i> , 1922	Christie's New York 5/14/2015 • \$16,965,000
20	20	12	HENRI MATISSE <i>French, 1869-1954</i>	\$74,463,939	59	<i>Odalisque au Fauteuil Noir</i> , 1942	Sotheby's London 2/3/2015 • \$23,786,238
21	23	11	MARC CHAGALL <i>Russian-French, 1887-1985</i>	\$73,802,598	131	<i>Jeune fille au cheval</i> , 1927-1929 B	Christie's London 2/4/2015 • \$8,948,348
22	343	111	KASIMIR MALEVICH <i>Russian, 1878-1935</i>	\$71,401,226	4	<i>Mystic Suprematism (Black Cross on Red Oval)</i> , 1920-1922	Sotheby's New York 11/5/2015 • \$37,770,000
23	48	29	JEAN DUBUFFET <i>French, 1901-1985</i>	\$70,824,250	44	<i>Paris Polka</i> , 1961	Christie's New York 5/11/2015 • \$24,805,000
24	113	49	CHAIM SOUTINE <i>Russian, 1893-1943</i>	\$69,165,512	10	<i>Le Bœuf</i> , ca. 1923	Christie's New York 5/11/2015 • \$28,165,000
25	14	14	WILLEM DE KOONING <i>Dutch-American, 1904-1997</i>	\$67,260,083	26	<i>Untitled XXI</i> , 1976	Sotheby's New York 11/4/2015 • \$24,890,000
26	13	23	ZHANG DAQIAN <i>Chinese, 1899-1983</i>	\$66,238,009	163	<i>Riding in the Autumn Countryside</i> , 1950	Sotheby's Hong Kong 4/6/2015 • \$6,598,617
27	37	48	PIET MONDRIAN <i>Dutch, 1872-1944</i>	\$60,492,969	11	<i>Composition No. III, with Red, Blue, Yellow, and Black</i> , 1929	Christie's New York 5/14/2015 • \$50,565,000
28	32	47	CHUTEH-CHUN <i>Chinese, 1920-2014</i>	\$47,815,377	91	<i>Subtilité hivernale</i> , 1985	Poly International Auction Hong Kong • 10/5/2015 • \$4,414,380
29	21	61	PETER DOIG <i>Scottish, 1959-</i>	\$47,168,212	15	<i>Swamped</i> , 1990	Christie's New York 5/11/2015 • \$25,925,000
30	58	113	YAYOI KUSAMA <i>Japanese, 1929-</i>	\$47,011,933	107	<i>No. Red B</i> , 1960	Sotheby's Hong Kong 10/4/2015 • \$7,034,716

250 AUCTION HOUSES



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31	400	62	HENRI DE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC <i>French, 1864-1901</i>	\$46,316,180	71	<i>Au Lit: Le Baiser</i> , 1892	Sotheby's London 2/3/2015 • \$16,213,630
32	61	63	FRANZ KLINE <i>American, 1910-1962</i>	\$45,560,967	14	<i>Steeplechase</i> , 1960	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$21,445,000
33	75	27	YVES KLEIN <i>French, 1928-1962</i>	\$43,857,230	16	<i>Untitled Blue Monochrome (IKB 92)</i> , 1959	Sotheby's London 2/10/2015 • \$9,271,715
34	104	25	PAUL GAUGUIN <i>French, 1848-1903</i>	\$43,851,607	10	<i>Nature morte aux mangos</i> , 1891-1896	Sotheby's London 6/24/2015 • \$18,277,239
35	25	20	QI BAISHI <i>Chinese, 1864-1957</i>	\$43,307,297	126	<i>Eagle by the Pine Tree</i> , 1950	Poly International Auction Beijing • 6/4/2015 • \$4,078,360
36	29	75	SIGMAR POLKE <i>German, 1941-2010</i>	\$41,387,652	30	<i>Dschungel</i> , 1967	Sotheby's New York 5/12/2015 • \$27,130,000
37	871	31	GUSTAV KLIMT <i>Austrian, 1862-1918</i>	\$41,042,730	23	<i>Bildnis Gertrud Loew (Gertha Felsöványi)</i> , 1902	Sotheby's London 6/24/2015 • \$39,149,268
38	77	16	PAUL CÉZANNE <i>French, 1839-1906</i>	\$40,211,997	9	<i>Vue sur l'Estaque et le Château d'If</i> , ca. 1883-1885	Christie's London 2/4/2015 • \$20,486,588
39	24	99	MARTIN KIPPENBERGER <i>German, 1953-1997</i>	\$39,386,283	12	<i>Untitled</i> , 1988	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$16,405,000
40	65	50	JOAN MITCHELL <i>American, 1925-1992</i>	\$37,338,621	20	<i>Afternoon</i> , 1969-1970	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$5,765,000
41	38	66	EDRUSCHA <i>American, 1937-</i>	\$35,732,933	33	<i>OK</i> , 1990	Sotheby's New York 5/12/2015 • \$5,402,000
42	34	21	CAMILLE PISSARRO <i>French, 1830-1903</i>	\$32,680,850	36	<i>Paysannes causant dans la cour d'une ferme, Éragny</i> , 1889-1902	Sotheby's New York 5/5/2015 • \$4,730,000
43	78	44	EDGAR DEGAS <i>French, 1834-1917</i>	\$31,685,166	27	<i>Trois danseuses</i> , ca. 1900	Christie's New York 5/14/2015 • \$11,925,000
44	59	73	SAN-YU <i>Chinese, 1901-1966</i>	\$29,964,870	23	<i>Roses in a white pitcher</i> , 1929	Poly International Auction Hong Kong • 10/5/2015 • \$7,611,000
45	19	41	EDOUARD MANET <i>French, 1832-1883</i>	\$29,253,080	8	<i>Le mar aux Folies-Bergère</i> , 1881	Sotheby's London 6/24/2015 • \$26,767,556
46	86	34	ALFRED SISLEY <i>French, 1839-1899</i>	\$29,226,133	15	<i>Moret au coucher du soleil, Octobre</i> , 1888	Sotheby's New York 11/5/2015 • \$4,954,000
47	133	45	PAUL SIGNAC <i>French, 1863-1935</i>	\$28,998,606	13	<i>Clipper</i> , 1887	Sotheby's New York 11/4/2015 • \$6,410,000
48	33	112	ROBERT RYMAN <i>American, 1930-</i>	\$28,619,976	9	<i>Bridge</i> , 1980	Christie's New York 5/13/2015 • \$20,605,000
49	52	39	GEORGES BRAQUE <i>French, 1882-1963</i>	\$28,567,163	37	<i>Le violon</i> , 1914	Sotheby's New York 11/4/2015 • \$8,202,000
50	72	93	FRANK STELLA <i>American, 1936-</i>	\$27,994,737	14	<i>Delaware Crossing</i> , 1961	Sotheby's New York 11/4/2015 • \$13,690,000

FROM LEFT: SOTHEBY'S, CHRISTIE'S