

Sotheby's to Present FABRIZIO MORETTI X FABRIZIO MORETTI IN PASSING

A Creative Collaboration Between
Visual Artist and Musician Fabrizio (Fab) Moretti of The Strokes
&
Renowned Art Dealer and Collector Fabrizio Moretti



The Unique Exhibition & Auction
To Feature 20+ Old Master Paintings & Sculpture
Spanning the 14th – 18th Centuries,
Showcased in Dynamic & Immersive Installations
Designed Specially by Fab Moretti

PUBLIC EXHIBITION AT SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK 15 – 18 DECEMBER
Auction 18 December

NEW YORK, 6 November 2019 – Sotheby's is pleased to announce [Fabrizio Moretti x Fabrizio Moretti | In Passing](#), a special, one-time-only exhibition and auction of Old Master paintings and sculpture bringing together musician and visual artist Fabrizio (Fab) Moretti, of the critically acclaimed and internationally Platinum-certified band The Strokes, and renowned art dealer and collector Fabrizio Moretti, who specializes in Old Masters and is proprietor of the London-based Galleria Moretti.

The unique collaboration will include an exhibition of more than 20 Old Master paintings and sculpture selected by Fabrizio Moretti, which will be showcased in a series of immersive and interactive installations designed and fabricated by Fab Moretti, each playing on the concept of perspective and based on corresponding themes represented in the works.

The exhibit will be on view at Sotheby's New York 15 – 18 December, ahead of the live auction on 18 December. Online bidding for the auction opens 22 November, and all works in the auction will be sold without reserve.

This collaboration is part of an ongoing initiative spearheaded by Sotheby's Old Masters department to introduce new audiences to masterworks of the pre-Modern era. Earlier this year, Sotheby's hosted *The Female Triumphant*, a groundbreaking sale of paintings by female Old Master artists in partnership with Victoria Beckham. Previous initiatives also included *Naturalia*, an exhibition of Old Masters and Contemporary art at Kasmin Gallery; curated interiors featuring Old Master Paintings by contemporary designers; and a film by James Franco inspired by Renaissance sculptures by the della Robbia family.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale will benefit two organizations personally selected by Fab and Fabrizio: The International Rescue Committee, which responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and 26 offices across the U.S. helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future, and strengthen their communities; and The Fabrizio Moretti Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Prato, Italy, which works to give those with certain disabilities access to the therapeutic benefits of horses.*

Fabrizio Moretti x Fabrizio Moretti | In Passing

The concept of *In Passing* reflects the unique circumstance of Fab and Fabrizio not only sharing the same name, but the chance opportunity of their partnership with Sotheby's. Although Fab and Fabrizio come from very different backgrounds, they have each devoted their lives to creative endeavors, but in different ways. While Fab studied sculpture in college, he put his fine art ambitions on hold to pursue his musical career with The Strokes; Fabrizio is among the most respected dealers and gallerists of his generation, and recently made international headlines for acquiring a newly discovered Cimabue painting. It was not until the two were brought together through a mutual connection at Sotheby's that they realized they each shared a love of art, and Old Masters in particular. The opportunity to collaborate on this special exhibition and auction provided Fab and Fabrizio a unique venue to showcase their respective expertise and unite them in a way that goes far beyond their shared name.

For the exhibition, Fab will design and create a series of immersive installations throughout the exhibition, each reflecting and playing on various themes he identified as being represented in the Old Master works on display, including life, religion, purgatory, death, repentance and commerce. Utilizing light and space in dynamic and dramatic ways, the installations seek to explore new perspectives on the individual artworks, as well as address the traditional and often depersonalized ways the public experiences art.

As perspective was so critical in compositions of the Old Masters, Fab's maze-like construction of installations—with sharp-angled walls, narrow hallways, and hidden viewing rooms—continues their interest in playing with perspective, but with an interactive spin that brings the works into the present. Inspired by the devotional context of many of the Old Master works featured in the exhibition, Fab's installations encourage viewers to embrace a slower approach to their viewing, spending time in the installations individually to create a personal connection between the viewer and the work.

For Fab, the aim of the exhibition design and installations is to alter the viewer's perspective of these works, and recontextualize them in a more contemporary and relevant framework while respecting their subject matter. By mounting the works in interactive and engaging installations, Fab is asking viewers to view the works in a new way and reconsider them from a contemporary mindset.

For instance, one installation will invite gallery-goers to walk down a narrow hallway lit by yellow neon lights. As the patrons walk further down the hallway, their eyes become accustomed to the artificial lighting. Finally when they turn a corner, the paintings are furnished with natural light, causing their colors to seem increasingly vibrant, refreshing the viewer's vision to look upon the works with a newfound appreciation of their color and composition.

Another installation will position paintings close to the ground, inviting viewers to kneel before the paintings to see them fully. The concept of the installation was inspired by the paintings' religious imagery and devotional context, requiring a penitent pose for viewers to fully appreciate the work and its intended meaning.

Not only does the title of the exhibition refer to the serendipitous relationship of Fab and Fabrizio, but it also references the very long lives of Old Master works of art. Across centuries, these works have passed from one steward to another, and their meaning and significance has also changed over time as the context in which they are viewed evolves. *In Passing* draws on the past for inspiration, but also looks to the future to present works by Old Masters in a new and exciting light.

Notes to Editors:



Speaking about his vision for the exhibition, **Fab Moretti** stated: *"I was attracted to this project by this idea of perspective. It is pervasive throughout all aspects of this exhibit, starting simply by the fact that it involves one name but two pairs of eyes. The goal of this installation is to construct a process of orientation that abstracts and individualizes the experience of witnessing its art. By building a circuitous path that explores modes of limiting or expanding the way the work is observed the viewer is urged to consider another form of interaction with any given painting or sculpture. The installation speaks to the relevance of Old Masters today and will hopefully highlight the humanism that is threaded throughout the pieces. I hope to honor Fabrizio's collection, his wealth of knowledge and the passion he brings with it."*

Fabrizio Moretti commented: *"I am thrilled to be collaborating with Sotheby's once again, particularly on this innovative exhibition to present Old Masters through a new perspective. I have always been drawn to the timeless appeal of Old Masters since an early age and remain passionate about communicating the relevance of these works through enriching dialogues and partnerships. When approached to participate in this project, I was most excited to show these historical works in a new context not only to existing collectors, but also to welcome new audiences who may not have previously considered this genre. With this mission in mind, it was important for me to select a range of artists to feature in the sale: some of them are more well-known, while others remain anonymous. What unites them, however, is their mastery over their craft and their exploration of the universal themes of the human condition. I was intrigued to collaborate with another Fabrizio who shares my name, a man who is both a respected visual artist and musician who excels across disciplines, much like the artists featured in the exhibition, and to re-discover these themes with him. We hope that each viewer, by bringing their own perspective and background to the forefront of this immersive experience, will develop an emotional connection to the history of these pieces."*



Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's Director of eCommerce Development, stated: *"It has been incredibly exciting for my colleague Yasemin Ozuye and I to work on this collaboration with the two Fabrizio Morettis, each a powerful force in their respective fields. The collaboration speaks to the larger effort by Sotheby's to attract new and younger clientele by presenting Old Masters in fresh and interesting ways. Whether it is through working with Victoria Beckham, or partnering with contemporary art galleries on special exhibitions, we're always looking for opportunities to bring the Old Masters into the present. In that vein, Fab is the perfect partner for us. Fabrizio Moretti, who himself broke barriers by entering the Old Masters industry at age 22, continues to expand the significance of Old Masters by his forward-thinking initiatives, drawing parallels across art from other periods, including contemporary art. Having them come together and collaborate on an exhibition was a natural fit."*

Sale Highlights



Neapolitan School, 17th Century

A Pair of Memento Mori With Skulls and Crossbones

a pair, each oil on canvas

each 16¹/₈ by 19 in.; 41.1 by 48.4 cm. (2)

Estimate \$8/12,000



Taddeo Di Bartolo

The Burial

tempera on panel, gold ground

13 by 13³/₈ in.; 33 by 34 cm.

Estimate \$60/80,000



Giovanni Battista Caracciolo, Called Battistello

Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness

oil on canvas

59 by 46¹/₂ in.; 149.8 by 118.1 cm.

Estimate \$100/150,000

Marco (Fra Mattia) Della Robbia

Coat of Arms of Matteo di Giovanni di

Tommaso Bonsi

Polychrome glazed terracotta

diameter 32 in.; 81.3 cm.

Estimate \$40/60,000



**Through a generous donation by art dealer Fabrizio Moretti, Mr. Moretti will donate 5% of net sale proceeds (hammer price minus sale related expenses not to exceed \$10,000 in the aggregate) to the IRC and 5% of net sale proceeds to the Fabrizio Moretti Foundation of each item purchased by a buyer at the Fabrizio Moretti x Fabrizio Moretti | In Passing sale at Sotheby's on December 18, 2019. The IRC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing humanitarian aid, relief and resettlement to refugees and*

other victims of oppression or violent conflict. The Fabrizio Moretti Foundation works to give those with certain disabilities access to the therapeutic benefits of horses. For more information, visit www.rescue.org and WWW.FONDAZIONEFABRIZIOMORETTI.ORG. No portion of the purchase price is tax-deductible.

About Sotheby's

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby's Wine, Sotheby's Diamonds, and Sotheby's Home, the online marketplace for interior design.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

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