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PRESS RELEASE

IN SEARCH OF THE ETERNAL: AMEDEO MODIGLIANI'S *TÊTE* TO HEADLINE PHILLIPS' NOVEMBER EVENING SALE

Among the Largest Examples from the Entire Series

To be Offered at Auction for the First Time Ever After Over Five Decades in an Esteemed Private Collection, Estimated at $28–35 Million



Amedeo Modigliani
Tête, 1911-1912
29 x 12 x 9 in.
Estimate: $28–35 Million

NEW YORK –13 OCTOBER 2026 – Phillips is honored to present *Tête* by Amedeo Modigliani as the centerpiece of the New York Evening Sale of Modern & Contemporary Art on 17 November. The sculpture has remained in the same family collection for over half a century and Phillips will bring the work to auction for the first time in its history. Carved from a single block of limestone between 1911 and 1912, *Tête* belongs to Modigliani's celebrated series of heads, a group widely recognized as the pinnacle of his sculptural achievement and among the defining monuments of early Modernism. Of the approximately 28 stone sculptures created by the artist during his lifetime, the vast majority are now housed in museum collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges

Pompidou, Paris. *Tête* is among the most significant from the series and, at nearly 30 inches tall, it is among the largest of the few remaining examples in private hands. Following a tour to London (13–15 October) and Paris (17–23 October), it will be on view at 432 Park Avenue from 7–17 November ahead of the auction, where it will be offered with an estimate of $28-35 million.

Jeremiah Evarts, Deputy Chairman, Americas, Senior International Specialist, Modern & Contemporary Art, said**,** "It is an extraordinary privilege to bring this masterpiece to auction. Fresh to the market after over half a century in the same important private collection, *Tête* embodies everything that makes Modigliani's sculpture so revered, including its profound art historical importance. Drawing on influences ranging from ancient Egyptian, Cycladic, and African art to the radical innovations of early 20th-century Modernism, the work bridges millennia of artistic tradition while remaining unmistakably Modigliani. As one of only a handful of examples still outside museum collections, it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for collectors."

Tête was created during a brief but transformative period in Modigliani's career, when he dedicated himself almost exclusively to direct carving, freeing the image out of the stone in the manner of Michaelangelo and inspired by his close friendship with Constantin Brancusi. As one of the most significant artists to be influenced by the true breadth of artistic creation, Modigliani developed a radically new sculptural language defined by elongated forms, restrained geometry, and spiritual intensity. *Tête* is among the earliest and most fully realized expressions of this vision.

The offering arrives amid sustained international demand for Modigliani's sculptural works, which are universally regarded as among the artist's rarest and most important creations. Conceived as part of Modigliani's unrealized vision for what he described as a “temple of beauty,” the sculpted heads were to serve as columns of caryatids and occupy a central place within the artist's oeuvre, bridging the ancient traditions that inspired him and the revolutionary artistic language of Modernism. More than a century after its creation, *Tête* remains one of the foundational achievements of 20th-century sculpture and an enduring testament to Modigliani's singular artistic ambition.

Phillips looks forward to continuing the momentum gained by bringing such an important work to the global collecting community on the heels of the strength of the spring season. The house’s Spring 2026 sales season saw total auction results increase by more than 60% year-over-year, while the May Evening Sale of Modern & Contemporary Art achieved more-than-doubled the total realized by its equivalent sale the previous year. The offering of *Tête* — distinguished by its remarkable state of preservation, commanding presence, and exceptional provenance — represents an extraordinarily rare collecting opportunity, continuing Phillips' commitment to presenting works of the highest caliber.

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As Phillips marks its 230th anniversary in 2026, the house celebrates more than two centuries at the forefront of the global market for Modern & Contemporary Art, Design, and Luxury. Founded in 1796 by the charismatic auctioneer Harry Phillips, the company has, since its earliest days, offered a distinct and forward-looking approach to sales and collecting. Over the centuries, Phillips has delivered record-breaking results and landmark offerings, while also pioneering new modes of collecting via the likes of Dropshop. Through its partnership with Bacs & Russo, Phillips continues to lead the industry in watches, setting new benchmarks for excellence, innovation, and connoisseurship. Today, Phillips remains true to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founder while redefining the role of a 21st century auction house.

Auction: 17 November 2026
Auction viewing: 7 – 17 November 2026
Location: 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY
Click here for more information: https://www.phillips.com/auction/NY010726/overview

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning.
Visit phillips.com for further information.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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