

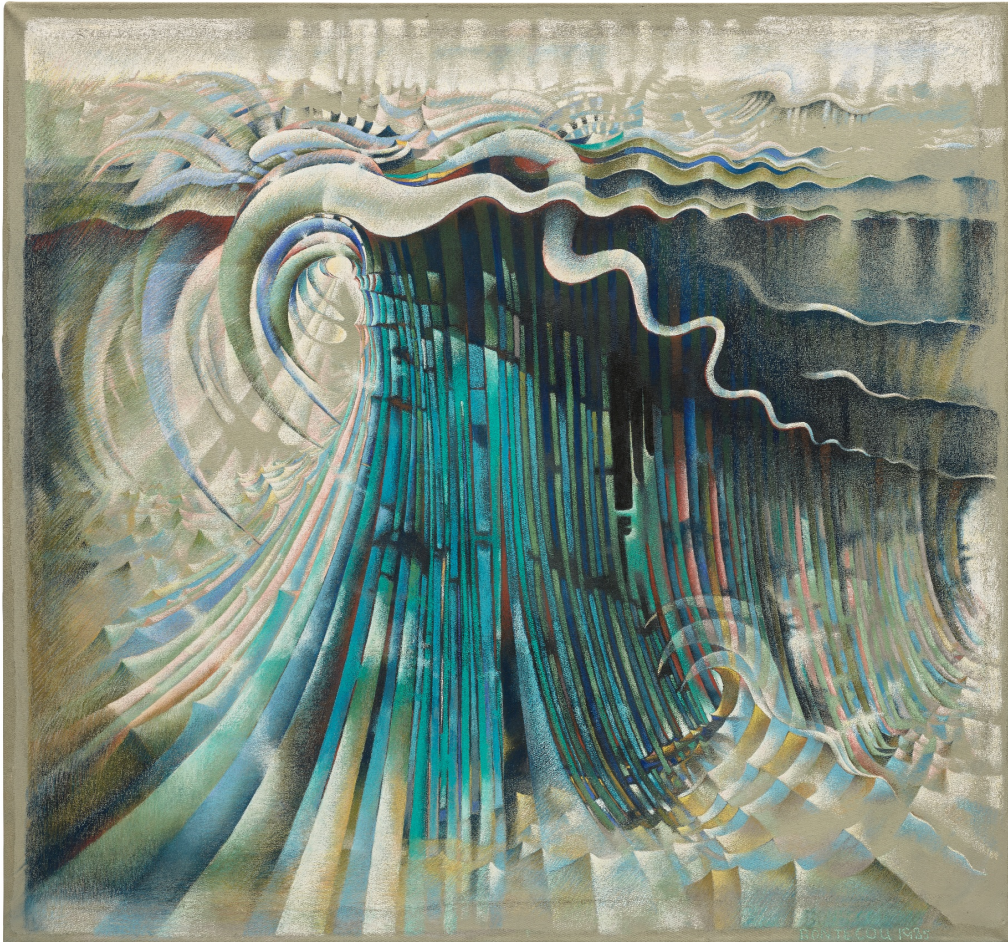
# PHILLIPS

MEDIA ALERT

## PHILLIPS TO OFFER THE MOST IMPORTANT TWO-DIMENSIONAL WORK BY LEE BONTECOU TO EVER APPEAR ON THE MARKET

*Plate 166* to be Featured in the May Evening Sale of Modern & Contemporary Art, Marking the First Time the Work Will be Offered at Auction, Poised to Achieve a Record-Breaking Result

Sale Marks the First Public Exhibition Since its Inclusion in Bontecou's Celebrated Retrospective at MoMA Over Two Decades Ago



**Lee Bontecou**  
*Plate 166*, 1985-2001  
Estimate: \$1,200,000–1,800,000

NEW YORK – 15 APRIL 2026 – Phillips is proud to announce that the May Evening Sale of Modern & Contemporary Art will offer the most significant two-dimensional work by Lee Bontecou to ever appear at auction. *Plate 166*, an acrylic and pastel on canvas measuring nearly six feet wide, has remained in the same private collection since its execution, and the auction on 19 May marks the first time that it will be offered publicly. The viewing ahead of the sale also marks the first time that the work will be exhibited since its prestigious inclusion in Bontecou's celebrated

2003-2004 traveling retrospective, which was jointly organized by New York's Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles's Hammer Museum, and Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Estimated at \$1.2–1.8 million, the work is poised to break the record for a two-dimensional work by the artist at auction.

*Plate 166* represents one of Bontecou's few works on canvas and the culmination of a decades-long cycle of drawings from the 1980s and 1990s. This luminous, expansive pastel composition, defined by sweeping, wave-like forms, embodies Bontecou's notion of the "worldscape," where landscape, organism, and imagined terrain converge into a single field of energy and transformation, animated by the medium's capacity to gather and diffuse light across its surface."

**Robert Manley, Chairman, Modern & Contemporary Art**, said, "*Plate 166* is a truly singular work within Lee Bontecou's oeuvre. While she is rightly celebrated for her revolutionary steel relief sculptures, this expansive work occupies a category entirely its own. There is nothing else quite like it in her entire body of work. Deeply immersive and luminous, this worldscape distills decades of Bontecou's thinking about space, energy, and transformation. Its scale, rarity, and presence make it incredibly special, and its appearance at auction for the first time represents a rare opportunity for our collecting community to encounter Bontecou at her most ambitious and visionary."

## PHILLIPS

EST. 1796

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:** 19 May 2026

**Auction viewing:** 9-19 May 2026

**Location:** 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY

**Click here for more information:** <https://www.phillips.com/auction/NY010326>

### 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](https://www.phillips.com) for further information.

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

### PRESS CONTACTS:

NEW YORK – Jaime Israni, Head of PR and Corporate Communications, Americas  
Katie Zoni, PR Manager

[jisrani@phillips.com](mailto:jisrani@phillips.com)

[kzoni@phillips.com](mailto:kzoni@phillips.com)

LONDON – Katie Carder, Head of Press and Corporate Communications, Europe

[kcarder@phillips.com](mailto:kcarder@phillips.com)

HONG KONG – Ingrid Hsu, Head of PR and Corporate Communications, Asia

[ingridhsu@phillips.com](mailto:ingridhsu@phillips.com)

PHILLIPS NEW YORK – 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

PHILLIPS LONDON – 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

PHILLIPS HONG KONG – G/F, WKCDA Tower, West Kowloon Cultural District, No. 8 Austin Road, West Kowloon

FOLLOW US ON:



WeChat