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Guess who?



Jasper Johns, *0 Through 9*, 1970, from the collection of Georges Marciano

When we come across an auction with a mysterious title that only identifies the art as coming “from the collection of a lady”, we often find ourselves scratching our heads, wondering what the story behind the sale might be. Such a one takes place tomorrow, 23 November, at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, where a collection of “Contemporary Art—Property of a Distinguished Gentleman Signature Auction” goes under the hammer. This tantalising sale includes 187 lots by 66 artists, including Roy Lichtenstein, Damien Hirst, Anish Kapoor and Arman. One of the top lots is a Jasper Johns lead relief limited edition, *0 Through 9*, 1970, published by Gemini GEL in Los Angeles, with an estimate of \$60,000-\$80,000. Fortunately for us though, a considerably thorough cataloguer at the auction house has cured our curiosity, taking snaps of every detail of the works—including the back, where a shiny collection label appears on almost every lot. So this time, the “distinguished gentleman” turns out to be none other than Georges Marciano, the co-founder of Guess jeans, who amassed an impressive art collection, but was forced into bankruptcy in 2011 after losing a libel case.

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