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Michael
Craig-Martin ^{CBE RA}
NEWS

2010

Acrylic on aluminium
61 (h) x 61 (w) cm

Estimate:
£12,000 — £15,000

Irish, 1941
Lives and works in London;
MA (Hons) Fine Art,
Yale University, USA, 1966

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A much admired, highly respected artist and elder statesman of the contemporary art world, Michael Craig-Martin needs little introduction. Throughout his career, through work in many different media, he has explored the expressive potential of commonplace objects and images. His early work made deliberate reference to the American artists he most admired, such as Donald Judd, Jasper Johns and Robert Morris. Although he was particularly affected by Minimalism and used ordinary household materials in his sculptures, he played against the logic of his sources, always maintaining an elegant restraint and conceptual clarity.

During the 1990s the focus of his work shifted decisively to painting, with the same range of boldly outlined motifs – tables, chairs, stepladders – and luridly vivid colour schemes in unexpected and at times apparently arbitrary combinations applied both to works on canvas and to increasingly complex installations of wall paintings, including hung paintings, reliefs and wall-mounted sculptures.

Michael Craig-Martin has shown extensively nationally and internationally, as well as being a well-known key figure in the emergence of the ‘Young British Artists’ in the early 1990s. He is a Trustee of the Art Fund, was an Artist Trustee of the Tate Gallery from 1989-99, received a CBE in 2001, and was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2006.

His work appears in many major national and international collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Reina Sofia, Madrid; Tate, London; and V&A, London.