



Damien HIRST



H9-2 Courage (Virtues), 2021

Diasc-mounted Giclée print on aluminum composite panel

120 x 96 cm (47.2 x 37.8 in)

Edition of 760

Hand-signed and numbered on the back

In mint condition



“I realised that, from a time-passing point of view, the tree meant everything to me: that’s another year, that’s another year. For a while, it just became like a clock. And I kind of love it for that reason: all the Japanese significance, the sakura; both optimistic and sad... renew and death.”

—Damien Hirst





Damien Hirst with *H9-2 Courage*



H9-2 Courage is one of the eight works from the iconic *Virtues* prints, the latest edition by British artist Damien Hirst. These eight limited editions are each titled after one of The Eight Virtues of Bushidō according to Nitobe Inazō - *Justice, Courage, Mercy, Politeness, Honesty, Honour, Loyalty, and Control*. A continuation of Hirst's *Cherry Blossom* works, which was exhibited for the first time at the Fondation Cartier in Paris, in July 2021. Hirst devoted two years (2018-2019) to creating the 107 imposing paintings that comprise the *Cherry Blossoms* series. In his London studio, he combined thick brushstrokes and elements of gestural painting, referencing Impressionism, Pointillism, and Action Painting.

Hirst has been fascinated by the subject of cherry blossoms from an early age. At an age of 3 he still remembers watching his mother paint cherry blossom trees in bloom. When he became a young Hirst was enchanted by a cherry blossom tree outside his bedroom window in Devon. The series of the *Cherry Blossoms* once again binds Hirst's oeuvre together; each blossom is made out of coloured dots echoing his *Spot* series, as well as the *Veils* paintings and even going all the way back to his *Visual Candy* series - early painterly representations created in an abstracted matter.

“I realized that, from a time-passing point of view, the Cherry Blossoms meant everything to me. It was like a clock.”

—Damien Hirst



Damien Hirst photographed in his studio alongside his eight Virtues © Damien Hirst

Hirst has said:

“What I love about them (at first) was the way that they were kind of in between representational and abstract. I always imagined them looking from underneath, at the canopy; they didn’t have an up or down. But then towards the end, I started painting the trunk, and they became much more rooted in the ground. And I became happier with

them looking a bit more like a tree, which I became afraid of. Maybe that’s why the trunks became more part of it, because in the beginning of the whole series, I was thinking more about being disconnected from the earth, whereas by the end of it, I wanted to be firmly rooted.”

DAMIEN HIRST

The Art Market

The series of *The Virtues* has showcased a high secondary market value appreciation over the past year.

*All editions are from *The Virtues* series, 2021. Diasec-mounted Giclée print on aluminium composite panel
Edition size varies, Each is 120 x 95 cm (47.2 x 37.8 in), Numbered and signed



The Virtues, Justice
Edition of 1005
Phillips New York March 2022
EUR 21,134



The Virtues, Courage
Edition of 760
Bonhams London March 2022
EUR 18,287



The Virtues, Mercy
Edition of 817
Phillips New York March 2022
EUR 20,022



The Virtues, Politeness
Edition of 1549
Bonhams London March 2022
EUR 25,782



The Virtues, Honesty
Edition of 728
Phillips London 2022
EUR 33,300



The Virtues, Honour
Edition of 693
Christie's London March 2022
EUR 22,664



The Virtues, Loyalty
Edition of 1067
Sotheby's London March 2022
EUR 42,306



The Virtues, Control
Edition of 862
Bonhams London December 2021
EUR 18,824

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