



**George Condo** (b. 1957)

*Reclining Nude*, 2015

Oil and pigment stick on linen

80 by 76 inches (203.2 x 193 cm)



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Signed and dated "Condo 2015" upper left

**Provenance:** Hauser & Wirth  
Private collection  
Private collection, Europe

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George Condo's enigmatic painting *Reclining Nude*, 2015 vividly demonstrates the artist's mastery of line, color, and composition. It captures Condo's fascination with the undefinable fluidity between figuration and abstraction, a creative space he terms 'psychological Cubism.' Condo explains that 'Picasso wanted to show multiple sides of an object simultaneously. That was a kind of perspectival Cubism: not being limited to a single view in one view where you can see all four sides of a box. But what if you could see all four sides of human nature? That's what I call psychological Cubism.'

Highlighting the beauty, conceptual gravitas, and unparalleled technical finesse that characterize the very best of George Condo's celebrated oeuvre, the present work balances brilliant coloration with graphically delineated form to stunning effect. The dense and complex configurations in this work represent a brilliant fusion characteristic of 'psychological Cubism' and Condo's commitment to constantly pushing the boundaries that separate figurative and abstract painting. Art critic Wilfried Dickhoff described Condo's paintings as "figurative abstraction," reflecting the artist's obsession with the tension between these two ideas.

*Reclining figure* defies the static nature of its medium to present a dynamic figure expressing movement through shifting, precariously balanced forms against an enigmatic, architectonic background. While the subject's body is suggestively fragmented, and overlapping forms create an illusion of perspectival recession, ultimately the flat, planar surface is never violated.

Holland Cotter notes in his review of *George Condo: Mental States* at the New Museum in 2011: "Mr. Condo is not a producer of single precious items consistent in style and long in the making. If that's what you want from painting, he'll disappoint you. He's an artist of variety, plentitude, and multiformity. He needs to be seen in an environment that presents him not as a virtuoso soloist

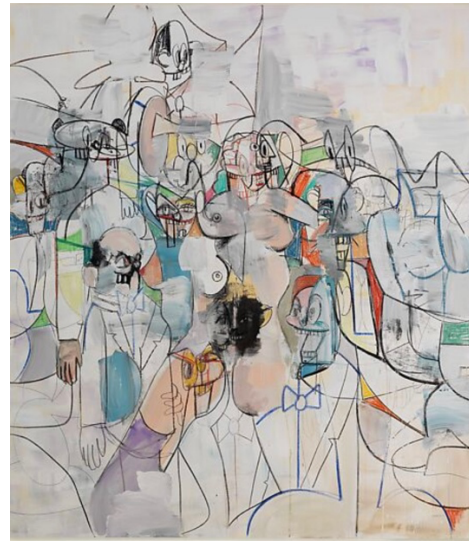
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but as the master of the massed chorale." (Holland Carter, "A Mind Where Picasso Meets Looney Tunes," *The New York Times*, January 27, 2011).

Works by George Condo can be found in museum collections around the world, including *Rush Hour*, 2010 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and *The Fallen Butler*, 2009 at the Museum of Modern Art.



George Condo, *The Fallen Butler*, 2009, The Museum of Modern Art, New York



George Condo, *Rush Hour*, 2010, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York