



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Artist: Damien Hirst

Nationality: English, b. 1965

Title: *Victory over Death*

Medium: Photogravure etching with hand-colouring in gouache on Arches wove paper

Dimensions: 47 x 42 in (119.4 x 106.7 cm)

Year: 2008

Edition: Signed and numbered edition of 58, plus 12 artist's proofs

Publisher: Paragon Press, London

PROVENANCE

Acquired directly from Paragon Press at Art Basel Miami Beach. Certificate of Authenticity held by the collector.

CONDITION

Mint condition. The work presents in pristine, exhibition-ready state with no visible surface defects, colour loss, or handling wear. Professionally framed in a high-quality presentation frame with UV-protective glazing. Ready to install.

Damien Hirst

Print

ARTWORK DETAILS

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Damien Hirst is widely regarded as the defining figure of the Young British Artists movement and one of the most influential artists of his generation. Born in Bristol in 1965, Hirst rose to international prominence in the late 1980s and 1990s with works that confronted mortality, science, and beauty with equal provocation. His practice spans installation, painting, sculpture, and printmaking, with recurring motifs of skulls, medicine, and natural specimens threading throughout his career.

Victory over Death belongs to Hirst's print series derived from his monumental 2007 sculpture *For the Love of God* — a platinum skull encrusted with 8,601 diamonds that became one of the most expensive contemporary artworks ever made. The print edition was published in 2008 by Paragon Press, London, and printed at Paupers Press from two plates, with hand-colouring applied to each impression to simulate the optical brilliance of the diamonds.

ARTWORK DESCRIPTION

Victory over Death is the sole etched — and largest — version of Hirst's iconic diamond skull. The composition presents the skull centered against a deep black ground, its surface rendered with fine photogravure line work and brought to life through hand-applied gouache highlights that recreate the prismatic reflections of the diamond-encrusted sculpture. Hirst hand-coloured the final proof himself; each impression in the edition was then treated to the same template by master printers Mike Taylor and Simon Marsh.

The title reframes the skull — long a symbol of death and vanitas — as a triumphant, even celebratory image. The diamonds transform the memento mori into an object of desire and spectacle, reflecting Hirst's sustained interest in the tension between mortality and beauty.

VALUATION

Estimated Gallery Value: \$38,000 – \$52,000 USD

Insured Value: \$55,000 – \$70,000 USD

CURATORIAL NOTES

Within the collection, *Victory over Death* functions as the anchor work by an internationally established blue-chip artist. Its subject — arguably the single most recognizable image in Hirst's career — gives it exceptional market legibility. The edition of 58 is among the most restricted of Hirst's print series, and acquisition directly from Paragon Press at Art Basel Miami Beach represents the most credible primary-market provenance available.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Market Context: *Victory over Death* is the sole etched version of Hirst's diamond skull and one of the most restricted print editions in his career at 58 impressions. The work is actively sought by serious Hirst collectors and institutional buyers, and gallery representation of this title at leading contemporary print dealers reflects sustained demand at significant price levels. Paragon Press provenance — the original London publisher — combined with acquisition at Art Basel Miami Beach positions this impression at the strongest end of the edition's market value.

Edition Note: *Victory over Death* should be cataloged distinctly from Hirst's spot prints, butterfly works, and skull screen prints. By virtue of its edition size, subject matter, and technique, it trades in a more restricted and premium segment of the Hirst print market.