

# GERHARD RICHTER

Hammer  
Price

\$40M

\$30M

\$20M

\$10M

\$5M

\$10M

\$15M

\$20M

\$25M

\$30M

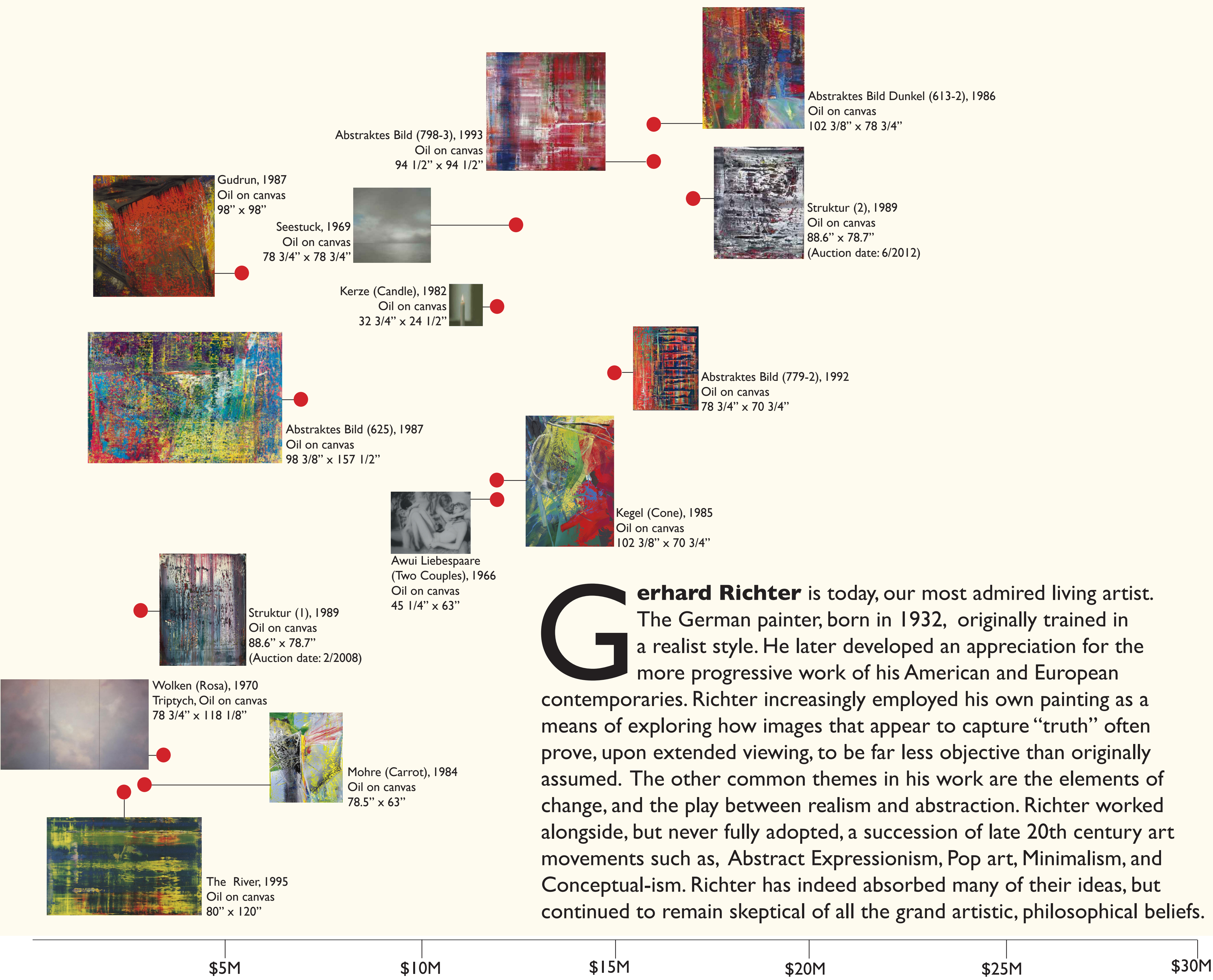
Expected Price

## Paint by Numbers: A Look at Richter's Most Lucrative Sales at Auction

Who is the greatest living artist? This provocative, perhaps unanswerable question is worth asking for what it reveals about the cultural arena in which money and fame often seem to be paramount obsessions. Surveying the results from Vanity Fair's December 2013 poll of top artists, academics, and curators, VF was able to develop a portrait of



the art world today and identify the values that really preoccupy the best and the brightest. To conduct this straw poll, VF asked 100 art-world professionals, artists and professors of art (but not art dealers), to name who they would consider to be the most important living artists. Drum roll please..... German painter, Gerhard Richter, who received 24 votes, has been dubbed the most important living artist. As such, an interesting dialogue is revealed when looking into trends between the expected price and the hammer price of Richter's most lucrative painting sales, at auction.



**Gerhard Richter** is today, our most admired living artist. The German painter, born in 1932, originally trained in a realist style. He later developed an appreciation for the more progressive work of his American and European contemporaries. Richter increasingly employed his own painting as a means of exploring how images that appear to capture "truth" often prove, upon extended viewing, to be far less objective than originally assumed. The other common themes in his work are the elements of change, and the play between realism and abstraction. Richter worked alongside, but never fully adopted, a succession of late 20th century art movements such as, Abstract Expressionism, Pop art, Minimalism, and Conceptual-ism. Richter has indeed absorbed many of their ideas, but continued to remain skeptical of all the grand artistic, philosophical beliefs.

## The Votes:

