



Jean-François MILLET, *Barque de pêche*, Oil on canvas, (32,50 x 41 cm)
Estimate : 400 000 - 600 000 €

PRESS RELEASE - OLD MASTER & 19TH CENTURY ART
SALE - ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020, À PARIS

On 18 November the Old Master & 19th Century Art department will hold its prestigious bi-annual sale. Comprising more than 180 lots, this auction sale will present a masterpiece with exceptional provenance, *Barque de pêche* by Jean- François Millet, alongside a German Renaissance painting attributed to Melchior Feselen: *Judith carrying the head of Holoferne*, and a rediscovered oil on canvas by Jean-François de Troy: *Apollon et les muses*.



PRESS RELEASE - OLD MASTER & 19TH CENTURY ART

PARIS - On Wednesday 18 November, Artcurial will hold its major sale of Old Master & 19th Century Art, which takes place twice a year. There will be over 180 works of art on offer, with paintings, drawings and sculptures ranging from a rare German Renaissance panel depicting the story of Judith and Holofernes to an important selection of 19th century works of art. Other highlights to be offered by the auction house include an extraordinary selection of monumental paintings as well as pieces from the Donon-Maigret Collection that highlights a predilection for French 18th century art inherited from Dormeuil. The second part of this collection will be offered in the Furniture & Works of Art sale on 9 December.

« *Judith and Holofernes* » and other Renaissance masterpieces

A highlight of the sale on 18 November will be a magnificent example of the enigmatic production of German Renaissance painters : an oil on board depicting *Judith carrying the head of Holofernes*, attributed to Melchior Feselen (est: 400 000 - 600 000 €).

While the subject of this small painting is well known – the biblical heroine Judith, who slaughtered the tyrant Holofernes – the manner in which it has been executed, employing a portrait format tightly framed around the bust of the characters, is more unusual and striking. The date it was painted is shown on the fortified door: 1535.

This is a particularly rare and early German Renaissance piece that is highly original for the way it combines an elegant and refined style with a harsh realist approach.

The stunning *Deposition from the cross* by Ambrosius Benson and his workshop (est: 150 000 - 250 000 €), the portrait of Antoine de Bourbon, father of King Henri IV, by Corneille de Lyon (est: 50 000 - 70 000 €), the portrait of Margherita Gonzaga by Frans Pourbus the Younger (est: 70 000 - 100 000 €) and a village fair by Marten van Cleve complete the artistic panorama of the 16th and early 17th century.

A major discovery in the history of art will be unveiled during this special event session: a Penitent Magdalene by Gian Giacomo Caprotti, known as Salaì, an original work by Leonardo da Vinci's closest collaborator. Identified by art historians, this oil on panel is one of the very few works perfectly recognized as being made by him, impregnated as closely as possible with the technique of the master Leonardo da Vinci with whom he worked (is: 100 000 - 150 000 €).

« In the field of Old Masters, it is rare for Artcurial to have such a large number of masterpieces on offer. This will be an important event with many discoveries to be made! »

Matthieu Fournier,
Auctioneer, Associate Director, Artcurial



Marten van CLEVE
Village en fête
Oil on oak panel - 77 x 132,50 cm
Estimate : 120 000 - 180 000 €



Attributed to Melchior FESELEN
Judith apportant la tête d'Holoferne
Oil on limewood panel, two boards
51 x 39 cm
Estimate : 400 000 - 600 000 €



The « collection Donon-Maigret,
le goût Dormeuil en héritage »

Jean HENRY known as Henry d'ARLES
Scène de tempête sur la côte méditerranéenne
Oil on canvas - 300 x 235 cm
Estimate : 40 000 - 60 000 €

The Donon-Maigret Collection, legacy of the Dormeuil taste

Also starring in the sale will be some twenty paintings and drawings from the Donon-Maigret collection. Descended from the Dormeuil family, the preferences of these collectors build on the legacy of the great fashion designer with a strong leaning towards French 18th century art. Artcurial is proud to reveal a vibrant oil on canvas representing *Apollon et les muses* by Jean-François de Troy, the finest painting to be rediscovered in recent years by this artist, estimated at 100 000 - 150 000 €. There will also be works by Joseph-Marie Vien, Jean-Baptiste Huet, Jean-Baptiste Le Prince and Hubert Robert.

Coming from a different collection is a representation of *L'évanouissement d'Esther*, also by Jean-François de Troy and once owned by Karl Lagerfeld (estimate : 80 000 - 120 000 €), as well as a stunning oil on canvas by Jean-Baptiste Oudry, *Comédiens italiens dans un parc*. This is a rare work by this French artist who is better known for his still life paintings with dead animals and also depictions of exotic animals. It is estimated to fetch between 100 000 - 150 000 €.

A selection of monumental paintings

Far from being the prerogative of modern and contemporary artists, it was common for artists to work on a large-scale before the 19th century, whether for tapestry projects or decorative paintings destined to hang in large residences.

An interesting selection of ambitious paintings, measuring between 1.5m to 3m in width or height, will complete the sale, with pieces principally coming from the French school. These include *La diseuse de bonne aventure* from the studio of François Boucher (estimate: 50 000 - 70 000 €) and *Scène de tempête sur la côte méditerranéenne* by Henry d'Arles (estimate : 40 000 - 60 000 €).

Italian painting will also be represented with a painting from the Florentine school from circa 1630, *Lucrece*, created by the circle of Artemisia Gentileschi (estimate : 60 000 - 80 000 €) as well as the representation of Renaud and Armide by Pietro Liberi (estimate : 30 000 - 40 000 €). There will also be paintings from the Flemish school such as *Garland of flowers, fruits and vegetable framing a landscape* by Frans Ykens (estimate : 50 000 - 70 000 €).



The grand masters of the 19th century

The masters of 19th century French painting will be in the spotlight, highlighted by the oil on canvas *Barque de pêche* by Jean-François Millet, a fascinating and light-filled painting that is a rare example of his seascapes. It is estimated at 400 000 to 600 000 €. The back of the painting with numerous labels attest to its rich history. Coming from Millet's studio at the hôtel Marcel Dassault, this painting has been hung on prestigious picture rails alongside timeless masterpieces. Duncan, Desfossés, the Cognacqs are the successive owners of Millet's *Barque de pêche*, all known for eclectic tastes that favour the 19th century and the painters active in France who embraced modernism at the turn of the 20th century .

Another highlight in the sale will be a painting by Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux « *Why born a slave?* » (estimate : 60 000 – 80 000 €). This striking piece bears witness to the artist's committed approach towards the end of the 19th century at a time when France had abolished slavery for the second time just 20 years earlier. Painted with expressive brushstrokes typical of the style employed by Carpeaux when working on canvas, this recently rediscovered version of « *Why born a slave?* » can now be added to the body of paintings made by the sculptor depicting his own works. Three sculptures and another painting by the artist will also be presented in the sale.

Other major 19th century pieces in the section include *La nuit et le jour* by Hugues Merle (estimate : 25 000 – 35 000 €) and *Portrait de Jules Watelet enfant au bilboquet* by Jules Bastien-Lepage (estimate : 120 000 – 180 000 €). A pen and ink study of a cavalier by Eugène Delacroix (estimate : 10 000 - 15 000 €) is one of a set of six drawings by the master of Romanticism.

Sculptures in the sale include *Volubilis* in white marble by Alfred Boucher, a piece paying tribute to the work of his friend Auguste Rodin and also to Michelangelo (estimate: 20 000 - 30 000 €). Another piece, *Salambô*, by Théodore Rivière in bronze and ivory coming from the Château de Gourdon collection is estimated at 20 000 - 30 000 €.



Jean-Baptiste CARPEAUX
« *Why born a slave?* »
Oil on canvas (original canvas)
65,50 x 54 cm
Estimate : 60 000 - 80 000 €



THEODORE RIVIERE
Salambô
Bronze and ivory
Provenance: Château de Gourdon Collection
Estimate : 20 000 - 30 000 €

PRESS CONTACTS

Head of PR
Anne-Laure Guérin
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 86
alguerin@artcurial.com

Press assistant
Aurélia Adloff
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
aadloff@artcurial.com

USEFUL INFORMATION

Auction on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 2:30 pm

Viewing in Paris on Sunday 14, Monday 16 et Tuesday 17 November 2020
Artcurial - 7, rond-point des Champs-Élysées - 75008 Paris

High resolution images available on request
Catalogue available online at www.artcurial.com

UPCOMING AT ARTCURIAL

1 & 2 December 2020 : *Modern & Contemporary Art* auctions

8 & 9 December 2020 : *Furniture & Works of Art* auction

ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house, Artcurial confirmed its leading position in 2019 on the international art market scene. With three sale venues (Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong Kong), Artcurial achieved an overall sales total of 203,1 M€ in 2019. Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields: From Beaux-Arts to Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, jewellery and watches, Fine wine and spirits. With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Milan, Vienna and Brussels, Monte-Carlo and Munich and representatives in Beijing and Tel Aviv, as well as twice-yearly exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

www.artcurial.com

ARTCURIAL