



Maurice Garnier in front of his portrait, painted by Bernard Buffet in 1949 at the Galerie Visconti, Paris
© Galerie Maurice Garnier

**PRESS RELEASE - MAURICE GARNIER COLLECTION, IDA GARNIER ESTATE
SALES - 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2020, PARIS**

On 8 and 9 December, Artcurial will sell the personal collection of Maurice Garnier, a dealer in paintings from the second half of the 20th century, who represented many artists including Bernard Buffet. This tribute sale comprises over 60 works of art bought privately by the couple Maurice and Ida Garnier. Collected over 70 years, this body of work by the artists he represented illustrates his career as a dealer in Paris. Notable highlights of the collection include works by Marcel Gromaire, Jean Fautrier, Edgar Degas, Edouard Goerg, Kees Van Dongen and, of course, Bernard Buffet.



PARIS - On Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December, as part of its major Modern & Impressionist Art sales, Artcurial will present the «Maurice Garnier Collection, Ida Garnier Estate» sale. Over 60 works from the personal collection of Maurice and Ida Garnier, coming from their apartment on Quai d'Orsay in Paris, will be offered for sale. This group of works was assembled by Maurice Garnier throughout a professional career that spanned almost 70 years. He acquired this work privately, wanting to keep paintings by the artists he represented in his home.

A renowned art dealer from the second half of the 20th century, Maurice Garnier (1920 - 2014), who opened his first gallery in Paris in 1946, represented some fifteen major 20th century artists. He took the decision in 1977 to dedicate himself exclusively to just one of these artists, Bernard Buffet, continuing to represent his work after the artist died in 1999. In 2009 he set up the Bernard Buffet Endowment Fund to establish a museum in France. This was a unique "artist-dealer" relationship that was remarkable for its loyalty and duration, lasting over 50 years. Talking about Bernard Buffet in an interview for Les Echos Week-End in 2011, Maurice Garnier said : « I met a genius. Why would you want me to look elsewhere? » The Maurice Garnier gallery, in Avenue Matignon, continues to represent the work of Bernard Buffet today, under the direction of Céline Lévy, Ida and Maurice Garnier's granddaughter.

Artcurial will offer work by some 26 artists in this special sale, which features four canvases by Bernard Buffet including *Deux clowns trompette* from 1989, estimated at 400 000 - 600 000 €. There will also be an important group of work by Jean Fautrier, from the 1930s (still lifes and nudes) and an oil on canvas by Kees Von Dongen, *La femme au miroir*, circa 1925, estimated at 1 - 1,5 M€. In addition, there will be paintings by Marcel Gromaire, Edouard Goerg, André Marchand, Jean Carzou, Jean Jansem, Pierre-Yves Trémois, André Minaux, Jean Commère, Michel de Gallard and the magnificent *Cheval au pas levé* by Edgar Degas (estimate : 100 000 - 150 000 €).

« Maurice Garnier was a discreet yet highly influential dealer. Through this sale, we discover the secret garden of someone passionate about their era. »

Bruno Jaubert,
Director of the Impressionist & Modern Art department, Artcurial



Maurice and Ida Garnier at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, April 1991 © Galerie Maurice Garnier



BERNARD BUFFET
Deux clowns trompette - 1989
Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 162 x 130 cm
Maurice Garnier Collection,
Ida Garnier estate
Estimate: 400 000 - 600 000 €

KEES VAN DONGEN
La femme au miroir - circa 1925
Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 130 x 89 cm
Maurice Garnier Collection,
Ida Garnier estate
Estimate: 1 000 000 - 1 500 000 €

Maurice Garnier (1920- 2014), art dealer

Maurice Garnier owed his vocation to a meeting with Emmanuel David, the galeriste at 52, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris, at the end of the war in 1945. Inspired by what he saw, Maurice Garnier decided to become an 'art dealer' himself (he hated the term "galeriste"). And so a year later, at the age of 26, Garnier opened his first gallery, Galerie Visconti, at 35, rue de Seine. He applied himself wholeheartedly to discovering young talent as well as selling renowned artists' paintings.

His life as a dealer began in 1948. While attending the *Prix de la Jeune Peinture* at the Galerie Drouant-David, Maurice Garnier came across the painting *Le Buveur* by Bernard Buffet (1928 - 1999). It was the first time he had seen work by this 19-year old artist, and it made an immediate impression. « What struck me was his work. It was so different to all the other artists. Much stronger and more distinctive. », he explained in an interview with Christophe Berteaux in 2002. Emmanuel David and Maurice Garnier signed a contract to represent Bernard Buffet jointly.

In 1956, the two dealers opened Galerie David et Garnier and exhibited work by artists such as Jean Fautrier, Marcel Gromaire as well as younger artists, Michel de Gallard, Jean Jansem, Jean Carzou and André Minaux. In 1968, Maurice Garnier took sole charge of the gallery, re-naming it Galerie Maurice Garnier and devoting himself exclusively to Bernard Buffet from 1977. In 2009, he set up the Bernard Buffet Endowment fund which today holds 350 works by the artist for the creation of a museum in France.

A personal collection, reflecting his work as a dealer

Throughout his life, Maurice Garnier privately acquired works of art by the artists he represented. The sale will present some sixty works by over twenty-five 20th century artists. There will be four oil paintings by Bernard Buffet, including *Deux clowns trompette* from 1989, estimated at 400 000 - 600 000 € and *Clown guitariste* - 1999, estimated at 250 000 - 350 000 €.

The collection highlights the work of artists who were pioneers in their field. Kees van Dongen is represented by an oil on canvas *La femme au miroir*, painted around 1925, estimated at 1 - 1,5 M€. There is also a selection of works by Jean Fautrier, considered to be the major precursor of the *art informel* movement and an important figure in the revival of modern art after cubism. The pieces in the sale comprise still lifes and a nude painted in 1927, *La jolie fille*, estimated at 60 000 - 80 000 €.

Marcel Gromaire whose highly personal art has a style influenced by cubism and Flemish expressionism, also appears in the sale, with two oils, including *Nu doré sur rouge* from 1951 (estimate: 50 000 - 80 000 €).



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JEAN FAUTRIER
Fleurs orange, le bouquet
Oil on canvas
Maurice Garnier Collection,
Ida Garnier estate
Estimate: 60 000 - 80 000 €



FRANCIS GRUBER
A un jeune poète - 1942
Oil on hardboard panel
Maurice Garnier Collection,
Ida Garnier estate
Estimate: 8 000 - 12 000 €



Other highlights include a group of works by Edouard Goerg, a major figure in the expressionist movement, and by Jean Carzou, whose illustrations interpreted novels by great authors, with a unique style set apart from the major movements of the day.

The items of sculpture in the Maurice and Ida Garnier Collection include César's *Insecte ou Insecte Rosine* in black patinated bronze, created between 1955 and 1979, *Kamakura* -1987, a bronze by Georges Jeanclos, Antonucci Volti's *Nu accroupi* in bronze with a blue-green black patina and two pieces by Robert Moninot.

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USEFUL INFORMATION

Sales Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 2 pm

Artcurial - 7, rond-point des Champs-Élysées - 75008 Paris

High resolution images available on request
Catalogues available on line at www.artcurial.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARTCURIAL

8 and 9 December 2020, auctions *Impressionist & Modern Art I & II*
Post-War & Contemporary Art I & II

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.

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