

Two-fold record pertaining to Sanyu



115 – Sanyu, adjudgé 4 080 000 €



116 – Sanyu, adjudgé 4 080 000 €

This auction brought in a gross total of €11.45 million, in credit of Claude Aguttes' expert event orchestration. Focused upon 19th and 20th century art and produced through the department directed by Charlotte Reynier-Aguttes, this auction on June 1st & 2nd 2015 encompassed 209 lots, two of which bore the particularly sought-after signatures of Franco-Chinese painter Sanyu (1901-1966), in the form of two still lifes, and Bernard Buffet (1928-1999) with an exceptional ensemble of paintings made between 1950 and 1991.

This auction's true star, **Sanyu** (1901-1966) set a French double record:

- Having opened with a low-price estimate of 1.5 million euros, *Flowers in an Inscribed Vase*, dated 1930s, gave rise to an intense bidding battle that reached 4 million euros (€ 4.08 million). This signed oil painting on canvas bears the monogram of Henri-Pierre Roché on its verso, in addition to his collection's label. Provenance: Henri-Pierre Roché collection, Paris; Jean-Claude Riedel collection, Paris; private collection from 1979, Paris. (Lot 115)
- A closing price of 4 million euros was also brought in by *Two Large Hydrangea Roses in a White Vase* (€4.08 million), thus multiplying its low estimate eight-fold. This oil on canvas, which is signed, located, and dated February 1931, belongs to Sanyu's overall

ensemble of work. This Chinese artist arrived in Montparnasse, Paris, in 1920, at the beginning of his creative maturation period. The work is an embodiment of Sanyu's characteristic palette, and its pedigree is exceptional. Having belonged to the collection of Henri-Pierre Roché (1879-1959), whose monogram it bears, this painting had been kept in a private collection since 1971. Sanyu was one of the collector/art dealer's protégés whom he had met at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière. Roché systematically acquired Sanyu's works - amounting to more than a hundred paintings and six hundred drawings - until 1932, the year in which their contractual agreements ceased. Provenance: Henri-Pierre Roché collection; Thérèse Thomas collection. (Lot 116)



127 – Bernard Buffet, adjugé 331 500 €



133 – Bernard Buffet, adjugé 127 680 €



128 – Bernard Buffet, adjugé 206 150 €



1 – Zao Wou-Ki, adjugé 535 500 €



2- Chu The-Chun, adjugé 280 500 €

Bernard Buffet (1928-1999), the other auction vanquisher, fetched a total of €1,139,000 with nine oil on canvas paintings. Acquired by several collectors mainly throughout the 1970s, and having since been in storage, they incorporate a range of subjects - the sea, boats, still lifes, urban and rural landscapes - all rather significant to this sharp-willed and forceful artist, whose work was praised by Jean Cocteau as «incredible praying mantis writing».

Notable winning bids included:

- €331,500 for *Rouen. Trade Vessels and Barges*, 1972. Oil on canvas, signed, dated and titled. Provenance: Maurice Garnier Gallery; private collection. (Lot 127)
- *Pornic, Fishing Boats at Low Tide* (Loire-Atlantique), 1972 also caused considerable bidding up to €206,150 for this oil on canvas, signed, dated and titled painting. Provenance: private collection since 1975 (Lot 128)
- *The Seine, Montereau Surroundings*, 1973, fetched €127,680. Oil on canvas, signed, dated and titled. Provenance: Maurice Garnier gallery; private collection since 1975 (Lot 133)
- *Waves at the Forefront of Foals*, 1991 brought in €121,125. Oil on canvas, signed and dated. Provenance: private collection of Maurice Garnier; private collection (Lot 136)⁽¹⁾



173 – Bronze Daumier, adjugé 61 200 €

There was significant participation of foreign bidders in the room, as well as by telephone and on Drouot Live. Auctions were completed back to back, in line with this auction's international nature, for an oil of Zao Wou-Ki (Lot 1, €535,500), Chu Teh-Chun (Lot 2, €280,500 and €140,250), Valerio Adami (€25,500), Arman (*Cello*, €26,775) or, for example Jonone (*Ephemeral Hospital*, €42,560). Another noteworthy mention can be made of the €61,200 fetched by a bronze self-portrait of Honoré Daumier.

Winning bids were generally made by Asian or Western buyers.

Among the photographs, presented by Diane de Karajan, specialist, the contemporary artists Yves Badyh Al-Dahdah and Jonathan Bermuda continued their way into the hearts of amateurs. Urban architectural dreams of the former fetched €6,248 and €7,650, while, for the latter's *Lonesome Cowboy Blue*, the gavel struck € 8,925.

Auctions are being prepared for September and October at Drouot, Paris, and in Lyon, France. Further information, photos, or appraisals by appointment:
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* Results provided inclusive of all taxes.
 (1) Drouot press release extract