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Sotheby's Contemporary Art Sales Total €94 million (\$104.4 million) in Paris in 2019

+ 15% year to date



December's Contemporary Art Sales Achieve An Exceptional Total of €43.5 million

11 lots sold over €1 Million

Auction Record For The Artist

Sam Szafran – €876,500

Auction Record For A Work On Paper By Jean Dubuffet - €4,322,500

Second Highest Price For Kazuo Shiraga - €7.8 million

Paris, 5 December 2019 – The final contemporary art sale of the year ended with an exceptional total of €43.5 million, taking the overall total for 2019 in this field to €94 million at Sotheby's France: a record result, up to 15% compared with 2018. This last sale, which saw 11 lots sold over a million euro, achieved several auction records, including for Sam Szafran and Jean Dubuffet, and some remarkable prices for works by Kazuo Shiraga and Pierre Soulages.

Guillaume Mallécot, Head of Evening Sales, said: *"This year, Sotheby's France has once again consolidated its pole position in contemporary art, showing that Paris is a key stronghold for this market, especially for post-war treasures, at the crossroads between the US and Asia."*

AUCTION RECORDS AND STRONG PRICES

Monumental painting by Kazuo Shiraga, *Tentaisei Soushiko*, 1960 – €7,796,300

After the auction record achieved in 2018 at Sotheby's in Paris, the auction house has confirmed its leading position in this artist's market by registering Shiraga's second highest price with his 1960 *Tentaisei Soushiko*.

Jean Dubuffet, *Rue Boissy d'Anglas (au Boudin Mystique)*, 1962 – €4,322,350: auction record for a work on paper by the artist

This work, part of the iconic *Paris Circus* series, garnered the auction record for a work on paper by Jean Dubuffet. It illustrates the artist's unique vision of the capital in the early 1960s.

Pierre Soulages, *Peinture 97 x 147 cm, février 1954* - €3,980,650

This historic museum-quality piece, which fetched nearly €4 million, is now one of the ten most important works by the artist ever sold at auction. A remarkable price that confirms the rise of Pierre Soulages, shortly to be celebrated in a major retrospective by the Musée du Louvre.

Sam Francis, *Coming of the violet*, 1989 – €1,116,500

This painting, which had remained in the same collection since 1993 and was making its first appearance at auction, multiplied its high estimate by six after a lengthy bidding battle: a record for a post-1970 work by Sam Francis.

About Sotheby's

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby's Wine, Sotheby's Diamonds, and Sotheby's Home, the online marketplace for interior design.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

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