

Sotheby's to Offer Masterworks from
One of the World's Finest Private Collections of
Fauve, Expressionist & Modern Art
This November in New York

THE TRIUMPH OF COLOR: IMPORTANT WORKS FROM A PRIVATE EUROPEAN COLLECTION

LED BY:

Three Masterworks by Wassily Kandinsky

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Major Fauve-Period Works by Maurice de Vlaminck

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Rare German Expressionist Paintings



Wassily Kandinsky
Improvisation auf Mahagoni
Painted in 1910.
Estimate \$15/20 million



Wassily Kandinsky
Zum Thema Jüngstes Gericht
Painted in 1913.
Estimate \$22/35 million



Wassily Kandinsky
Le rond rouge
Painted in 1939.
Estimate \$18/25 million

Highlighting Sotheby's Marquee Auctions of IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART This November in New York

NEW YORK, 3 October 2018 - Sotheby's is honored to announce the sale of *The Triumph of Color: Important Works from a Private European Collection* in our marquee auctions of Impressionist & Modern Art this November in New York.

Put together primarily in the 1970s and '80s, the collection today represents one of the finest assemblages of post-Impressionist and Modern Art in private hands. The collection is defined by three superb masterworks by Wassily Kandinsky and rare works by the key protagonists of Fauvism and German Expressionism. Several of the paintings were loaned to the Courtauld Institute of Art in London for over fifteen years, where they provided a unique display of works from the Fauve movement, the Expressionists and the route to Abstraction in the early-20th century.



Maurice de Vlaminck
Paysage au bois mort
Painted in 1906.
Estimate \$12/18 million

Helena Newman, Head of Sotheby's Worldwide Impressionist & Modern Art Department, commented: "Infused with an intensity of color and expression, this collection of works provides a rare and exciting opportunity to acquire several exceptional examples of early-20th Century Art. It is unprecedented for three major paintings by Kandinsky, each from a key moment in the artist's creativity, to appear at auction together, and complemented by stunning examples by the Fauves and the German Expressionists, the collection encapsulates the triumph of color in art at the start of the 20th century."

The three major paintings by Wassily Kandinsky chart the artist's development across four decades from the earliest successes to his greatest achievements. The group is led by one of the last 1913 oil paintings left in private hands, **Zum Thema Jüngstes Gericht**, a unique composition from this prime year of Kandinsky's career, during which he reached the summit of his path to Abstraction (estimate \$22/35 million). An early abstract masterpiece, **Improvisation auf Mahagoni**, was painted at the end of the artist's Murnau period (estimate \$15/20 million). A stunning composition from the artist's

Paris period, painted in 1939, **Le rond rouge** is an exceptional large-format oil on canvas dating from the exhilarating years he spent in France (estimate \$18/25 million).



Maurice de Vlaminck
Pêcheur à Chatou
Painted in 1906.
Estimate \$9/14 million

The core of the collection has always been works by the Fauves, including three outstanding canvases by Maurice de Vlaminck. **Paysage au bois mort** (estimate \$12/18 million), **Pêcheur à Chatou** (estimate \$9/14 million) and **Nu couché** (estimate \$2/3 million) represent the full spectrum of Vlaminck's greatest achievements. Executed in 1905 and 1906 at the height of the Fauve movement, the three works boast remarkable, thickly-painted surfaces and vivid palettes.

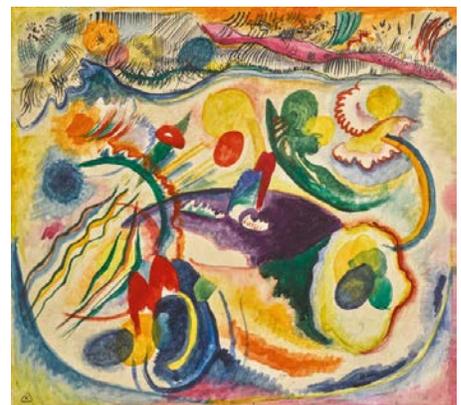
Further highlights include exceptional works by some of the key artists of the German Expressionist movement, including Alexej von Jawlensky, Max Pechstein, August Macke and Heinrich Campendonk.

Sotheby's will offer 33 works in total from the collection across our Evening and Day Sales of Impressionist & Modern Art in New York on 12 & 13 November, together estimated to sell for in excess of \$90 million. Highlights are now on view in our London galleries as part of our Frieze week exhibitions, and will travel to Hong Kong this fall, before returning to New York for the full viewing of Sotheby's Impressionist & Modern and Contemporary Art auctions beginning 2 November.

IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART EVENING SALE

12 November 2018

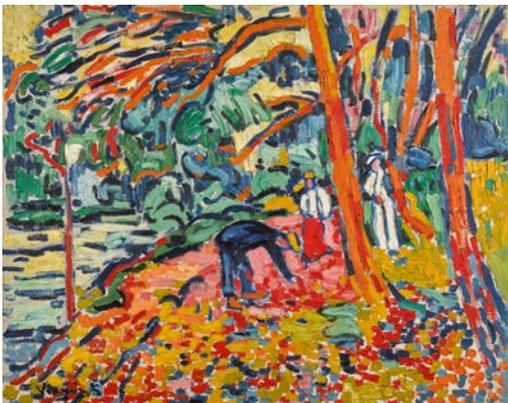
Zum Thema Jüngstes Gericht (On the Theme of the Last Judgement) is a unique composition executed at the end of 1913, probably the most important year in the artist's career (estimate \$22/35 million). Kandinsky completed 31 works in 1913, of those works, one of which is presumed destroyed, 27 are in major museum collections. *Zum Thema Jüngstes Gericht* is therefore one of only 3 remaining in private hands. It is in excellent condition, with the original translucent areas of paint



rich in saturated color.

An exceptional large format oil on canvas from Kandinsky's Paris period, **Le rond rouge** boasts a bold, bright palette and a geometric composition that gives the work a strikingly modern appearance (estimate \$18/25 million). In the artist's final years in Paris he developed a new and compelling style of abstraction - in recent years this period has undergone a critical and commercial re-evaluation, with the best works achieving some of Kandinsky's highest auction results.

Improvisation auf Mahagoni (Improvisation on Mahogany) is one of the largest and most impressive oils by Kandinsky from 1910 left in private hands, painted at the end of the artist's Murnau period when he realized his full potential through the use of bold colors and dynamic brushwork, combined with a growing confidence in using abstract motifs to create a highly original style (estimate \$15/20 million). *Improvisation auf Mahagoni* is one of a small number of early works to remain in the artist's possession, and subsequently descended to his wife Nina.



An impressively-sized and exuberantly-painted work from Maurice de Vlaminck's celebrated Fauve period, **Paysage au bois mort** is a remarkably well-preserved canvas from 1906 that has an extraordinarily richly textured paint surface (estimate \$12/18 million). Few works of this importance by Vlaminck have appeared at auction since, and the November auction therefore marks a rare offering.

The collection boasts another striking work from Vlaminck's Fauve period: **Pêcheur à Chatou**, a depiction of the river Seine that was a major source of inspiration for the artist (estimate \$9/14 million). The view rendered in the present work shows the arches and piers of the bridge that crossed the river at Chatou.

This selection of works to be offered in the Evening Sale also includes paintings and sculpture by Modern masters, such as the important still life of *Irises* by Picasso, painted in 1901 at the outset of his extraordinary career and Alexander Archipenko's innovative Cubist sculpture conceived in Paris in 1912.

IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART DAY SALE

13 November 2018



Albert Marquet

Quai de Louvre

1905

Oil on canvas

Estimate \$700,000/1 million



Émile Bernard

Nature morte

1890

Oil on canvas

Estimate \$400/600,000



André Derain

Paysage de l'Île-de-France

1904-05

Oil on canvas

Estimate \$350/450,000

SOTHEBY'S PRESENTS:
THE BEAUTIFUL & DAMNED

This November, as the world pauses to remember the events of the First World War on the centenary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 that drew it to a close, Sotheby's will bring together a group of works that illustrates the tremendous and varied impact of the War on the artistic production of those whose lives it transformed.

Incorporated into Sotheby's Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale in New York on 12 November 2018, the offering will assemble works that capture the period from immediately prior to the outbreak of the war through to its aftermath, together telling the artistic history of that momentous period. The works will be presented under the moniker *The Beautiful and Damned*, in reference to the 1922 novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald – the title of which alone captures the vicissitudes of the time.

Select works from *The Triumph of Color*, including *Zum Thema Jüngstes Gericht* from 1913 and *Improvisation auf Mahagoni* from 1910, will be incorporated into this themed group and contextualized in greater depth within the larger historical moment in which they were produced.

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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 presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. 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 advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

*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.

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