

ARTCURIAL

Press release



The Isabelle & Hervé Poulain Collection A homage to Native Americans

The Native Americans as seen by Europeans, 1800-1960
Sale on 17 May 2022, Paris

On 17 May 2022, Artcurial will sell pieces from a collection belonging to Isabelle and Hervé Poulain.

Auctioneer, racing driver behind the Art Cars concept and Artcurial's Honorary Chairman, Hervé Poulain and his wife have shared an erudite interest in the Native Americans for many years.

PARIS – Over 150 items from the collection of Artcurial's Honorary Chairman Hervé Poulain and his wife will come under the hammer on 17 May. Entitled "The Native Americans as seen by Europeans 1800-1960", the selection of work includes sculptures, paintings, photographs, comic strips and folk art.

Among items dating from the end of the 18th century, the 19th and early 20th centuries, are pieces that pay tribute to the creativity of Native Americans, notably the Navajo rugs so admired by Andy Warhol.

Originally started by the couple with the simple objective of decorating their house in Sologne, as time went by the collection of furnishings took a particular and original direction, focusing on how European artists have represented the Native Americans.

Notable highlights of this diverse selection of works includes a gouache by Guy Arnoux entitled *Le général Lafayette et les chefs regroupés dans la Confédération des Six Tribus* estimated at 50 000 - 60 000 €. The oil on canvas by Edmont Tapissier *Les Indiens d'Amérique, exhibited in Seattle in 1902* has an estimate of 30 000 - 40 000 €. The multicoloured wooden sculpture, 1.94m in height, *Couple d'Amérindiens* is another key lot in the sale, offered with an estimate of 40 000 - 60 000 €.



GUY ARNOUX 1886-1951
Le général Lafayette et les chefs regroupés dans la Confédération des Six Tribus
Gouache on paper laid on canvas
206 x 204 cm
Estimate : 50 000 - 60 000 €

ROMANTIC SCHOOL END 18TH EARLY 19TH CENTURY
A couple of Native Americans
Exceptional polychrome wood sculpture
194 cm
Estimate : 40 000 - 60 000 €



« This unassuming body of work should be seen as a fraternal gesture towards these people, their practices and their hopes. »

- Hervé Poulain,
Author, auctioneer and racing driver
Honorary Chairman of the Artcurial Group
Co-founder of Artcurial

“ Coming from the imagination of painters and sculptors who had not been to America, or had travelled there very little, using diverse and often unreliable sources to illustrate their works, these ‘*Petits-Maitres*’ gave free rein to fantastic and stereotypical creations, far removed from the ethnographic, historical and political concerns of their colleagues in the New World.

Removed from the propagandist influences of the painters of the Frontier assigned to promote the Legend of the West, these artists, following writers such as Baudelaire, Georges Sand and Chateaubriand, expressed a sincere empathy, tinged with a certain

fantasy, for these hardy and brave souls of ancient times, distanced from the onslaught of civilisation, as imagined by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, before experiencing, very late, the ethnocide and ravages of the conquest of the West.

In this context, it was the Plains Indians, with their feathered headdresses, their spotted horses and buffalos, as well as the indigenous people of British Columbia who fired their imagination and lent themselves to allegory.”



GEORGES GARREAU (1885 - Circa 1973)
Chef indien
Pink marble block
Signed on the base, circa 1925
H : 68 cm
Estimate : 20 000 - 30 000 €

« *It is hard to imagine an American equivalent to Mr Poulain* »

The New York Times

15 March 2009

Hervé Poulain, l'homme accéléré

Hervé Poulain is an emblematic figure in the art world who has orchestrated sales in all specialities with aplomb since 1969.

In the specialist field of collectors' cars, he has played a major role in raising this to the level of the Fine Arts.

Wanting to combine his passions of Contemporary Art and Speed, Poulain invented the concept of the Art Car. Taking part eleven times in the Le Mans 24 Hour Race, he commissioned renowned artists such as Calder, Lichtenstein, Stella, Arman, Warhol César and Wolinski, to paint the cars he raced.

He established auctions of collectors' cars and automobilia in 1974.

In 2010, keen to sustain this speciality within the auction house Artcurial, he convinced Matthieu Lamoure and Pierre Novikoff to take over the department, to his great satisfaction and honour. More than a trio, they formed a triumvirate! The three accomplices bring a unique ambiance to their sales, thanks to their knowledge, authority and enthusiasm.

Hervé Poulain is the author of six art books: *L'Art et l'Automobile* (1973), *Un Siècle de peinture française* (1976), *Une Collection d'Avance* (1986), *L'Art, la Femme et l'Automobile* (1989), *Mes Pop Cars* (2006), *Le marteau et son maître* (2010).

Hervé Poulain is the founding president of SYMEV (Syndicat National des Maisons de Ventes aux Enchères) and the founding president of CNMA (Conseil National du Marché de l'Art). He is also the Honorary Chairman of Artcurial.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Sale :
Tuesday 17 May 2022

7 Rond-Point
des Champs-Élysées
75008 Paris

PRESS MATERIAL

High resolution images
available on request

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on artcurial.com

PRESS CONTACTS

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

Press Officer
Déborah Bensaïd
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
dbensaïd@artcurial.com



About Artcurial

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house Artcurial confirmed its leading position on the international art market scene in 2021.

With three sale venues in Paris, Monaco and Marrakech, the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 169 million euros in 2021. Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields including Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Jewellery, Watches, Fine Wines and Spirits...

With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich, Vienna and Spain. In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

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