

ARTCURIAL

Press release



24,4 M€ / 26,8 M\$ for an exceptional work by Jean-Siméon Chardin

Old Master & 19th Century Art
Sale results for 23 March 2022

On Wednesday 23rd March, Artcurial and Cabinet Turquin presented a masterpiece of Western art, *Le panier de fraises des bois* by Jean-Siméon Chardin from the Eudoxe Marcille collection.

Under the hammer of Matthieu Fournier, the highly coveted still life sold for an impressive €24,381,400 / \$26,830,512 including premium. After some great bidding battles in the auction room, the work broke all records: the world record for a work by the artist sold at auction, the world record for an 18th century French painting sold at auction and finally, the record for the House department.

PARIS - On Wednesday 23rd March 2022, the Old Master & 19th Century Art department at Artcurial and the Cabinet Turquin caused a stir with the sale of an exceptional painting, *Panier de fraises des bois* by Jean-Siméon Chardin. This masterpiece enthralled collectors and changed hands for €24,381,400/\$26,830,512 including premium.

Some very fine records were broken this evening: the world record for the artist at auction, the world record for an 18th century French painting sold at auction and finally the record for the House's Old Masters and 19th Century Art department.

Exhibited by the artist at the Salon in 1761, rediscovered by François-André or Eudoxe Marcille a century later, before disappearing from public view until the 20th century retrospectives in Paris, this small canvas has become an icon of Western painting, combining a composition of great geometric simplicity with an exceptional quality of creation. Passed by unnoticed at the time it was painted, *Le panier de fraises des bois* has, over time, become one of the most famous and

emblematic images of the French 18th century, regularly reproduced on the cover of catalogues dedicated to the artist.

The painting presented here is directly comparable to *Panier de prunes* (Paris, the Louvre) and *Verre d'eau et cafetière* (Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Art), dating from the same period and both considered to be absolute masterpieces. Chardin was at the height of his career as an artist. The painter's virtuosity is apparent in the incredible transparency of the water in the glass, the representation of the fruit that is both precise and fluid, as a whole form, thrown into relief by the white marks of the two carnations whose stems break up the regularity. The modernity of Chardin's still lives found an important echo at the time of Impressionism, notably with Fantin-Latour, Monet, Renoir ... And the rigour of his geometric compositions was seen again in the 20th Century in the work of Cézanne, Morandi, right through to Wayne Thiebaud.

« In 2022 our teams have enjoyed a magical encounter with one of the greatest masterpieces of French painting. Beyond the personal and private emotion aroused by this treasure, it is a source of great pride that Artcurial has been offered the opportunity to sell the first painting in its history for over €24 million on the occasion of the first French auction house's 20th anniversary. »

- Matthieu Fournier,
Auctioneer
Director of the Old Master & 19th Century department at Artcurial



Jean-Siméon CHARDIN (1699-1779)
Le panier de fraises des bois
Oil on canvas
Signed 'Chardin' lower left
38 x 46 cm
Sold : €24,381,400 - \$26,830,512 inc. premium

WORLD RECORD FOR A WORK BY THE ARTIST SOLD AT AUCTION

WORLD RECORD FOR AN 18TH CENTURY FRENCH PAINTING SOLD AT AUCTION



Jean-Siméon CHARDIN (1699-1779)
Le panier de fraises des bois
Oil on canvas
Signed 'Chardin' lower left
38 x 46 cm
Sold : €24,381,400 - \$26,830,512 inc. premium

WORLD RECORD FOR A WORK BY THE ARTIST SOLD
AT AUCTION

WORLD RECORD FOR AN 18TH CENTURY FRENCH
PAINTING SOLD AT AUCTION

One of the masterpieces from the Marcille collection

François Marcille (1790-1856) rediscovered 18th century painting which, during the first half of the 19th century, had been forgotten. He scoured flea markets with another great enthusiast, Louis La Caze, and they each built up their own collections. The Marcille Collection, comprising nearly 4,500 paintings, including 40 canvases by Boucher, 30 by Chardin and 25 by Fragonard, was divided by drawing lots and shared between his two sons Eudoxe (1814 -1890) and Camille (1816-1875).

The older brother demonstrated the same appetite for acquisitions and discoveries. Every Monday he welcomed enthusiasts such as the Goncourt brothers and the young Edgar Degas as well as associates of Doctor Louis La Caze. In March 1861 he became a member of the Museums Advisory Commission and was a member of the jury at the Great London Exposition. In 1865, he joined the jury for the annual Salons, first for engraving and then for painting. In 1870 he became director of the Musée d'Orléans where he made a dynamic impact on the existing collection.

This painting has remained in the hands of Eudoxe Marcille's descendants until today.

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

TURQUIN
EXPERTS EN TABLEAUX



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.

artcurial.com

ARTCURIAL