

ARTCURIAL

Press release



Dora Maar, unpublished photographic archive

Sale on 27 and 28 June 2022, Paris

On 27 and 28 June, Artcurial will pay tribute to the photographic work of Dora Maar with some 750 photos presented in 400 lots. The majority of these photographs are unpublished, personal images taken during the years she spent with Pablo Picasso. They reveal her involvement in surrealism and the avant-garde as well as her interest in portraits and everyday street scenes. This is an exceptional photographic treasure that will capture the attention of collectors the world over.

PARIS – On 27 and 28 June, Artcurial will present, for the first time, an auction sale of the photographic work of Dora Maar (1907-1997). This sale, *Dora Maar; inédits, fonds photographique*, is comprised of 400 original lots tracing the artist's career from the late 1920s to the end of the 1940s.

The entire collection of photographs on offer comes from the estate of Dora Maar having been conserved since she died. They will be put on public display for the very first time.

Each lot comprises an original negative, its period contact proof and a modern print sized 40 x 30 cm, printed specially for the sale.

Through her photographs, Dora Maar explored themes that were important to her, ranging from surrealism to

nude snapshots as well as still life images that she used to create her surrealist collages.

This collection also illustrates her admiration for Pablo Picasso, through portraits of the artist that have remained largely unknown until now.

« While Dora Maar spent nine years of her life alongside Picasso, she also succeeded superbly in creating her own independent and personal work, using a medium that Picasso never embraced – photography. As such, Dora Maar can be seen as one of the most original photographers of her day, a true pioneer of the mid 20th century. »

- Bruno Jaubert,
Director of the Impressionist & Modern Art department
Artcurial

« The discovery of such a substantial collection of negatives and period contact prints adds considerably to our knowledge of Dora Maar's photographic work. Certain new subjects allow us to fill in the gaps and add in new parts of the puzzle, through the study of this photographic body of work. »

- Antoine Romand,
Expert



Dora MAAR (1907-1997)
Pablo Picasso in an armchair made from the trunk of an olive tree
Mougins, c. 1936
Period silver print, obtained by contact, accompanied by its original negative
Contact : 5,30 x 5,30 cm - Negative : 6,80 x 6,10 cm
Estimate : 2 500 - 3 500 €



Dora MAAR (1907-1997)
Guernica in progress in the studio at Rue des Grands Augustins, Paris, May-June 1937
Period silver print, obtained by contact, accompanied by its original negative
Contact : 5,70 x 5,50 cm - Negative : 6,70 x 6 cm
Estimate : 2 000 - 3 000 €

Dora MAAR (1907-1997)

Compositions with miniature chair and curtain, c. 1935
Two period silver prints, obtained by contact, accompanied by their original negatives
Contacts : 5,80 x 5,50 cm - Negative : 6 x 6 cm
Estimate : 1 500 - 2 000 €



Dora MAAR (1907-1997) or Lee Miller (1907-1977)

Dora Maar against a leafy background, c. 1936
Period silver print, accompanied by its original negative
Contact : 5,70 x 5,50 cm - Negative : 6 x 6 cm
Estimate : 2 500 - 3 500 €



Dora Maar (1907–1997)

Henriette Theodora Markovitch was born in 1907 in Paris but grew up in Buenos Aires. At the end of the 1920s she returned to the French capital to study art and photography. It was at this period that she took on the pseudonym Dora Maar. She studied at the Union Centrales des Arts Decoratifs, the École de Photographie, the Académie Julian and the École des Beaux-Arts.

It was in André Lhote's studio that she became involved with the surrealist movement. She met Henri Cartier-Bresson, Emmanuel Sougez and Brassäi there, and became a close friend of André Breton. Becoming a prominent figure in avant-garde artistic circles, she enjoyed great success with her surrealist peers and took part in several exhibitions as part of the movement.

In the mid 1930s, at the *brasserie des Deux Magots* in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paul Éluard introduced her to Pablo Picasso. In fact, they had already met during the filming of Jean Renoir's *Crime de Monsieur Lange*. She became his muse. From the start of the Spanish civil war to the end of the Second World War, they remained close and influenced each other's work. Picasso never stopped painting the one he called *La femme qui pleure*. (The Weeping Woman).

Her work has been exhibited all over the world : Paris, New York, Barcelona, Chicago...

Settling in the Luberon, she devoted more time to painting, reserving the pieces she created for her inner circle. 1997 marked the end of the life of a woman who documented the various upheavals of the 20th century as she passed through it.



Dora MAAR (1907-1997)

Bookseller. Paris, c. 1935
Period silver print, obtained by contact, accompanied by its original negative
Contact : 5,70 x 5,50 cm - Negative : 6,30 x 6,10 cm
Estimate : 1 000 - 1 500 €

USEFUL INFORMATION

Public exhibition :
From Tuesday 21 June to Sunday 26 June

Sales :
27 June 2022 - 6pm
28 June 2022 - 2pm

Artcurial
7 Rond-Point
des Champs-Élysées
75008 Paris

PRESS MATERIAL

High resolution images available on
request

Full catalogue 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 Bensaid
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
dbensaid@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.

artcurial.com

ARTCURIAL