

# CHRISTIE'S

POST-SALE RELEASE – PARIS 5 JULY 2019 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SUCCESS FOR THE BIBLIOTHEQUE DES AVANT- GARDES:

### PAUL DESTRIBATS PART I

REALISED €8,1 MILLION

*-14 Preemptions*

*-Buyers coming from 20 countries*



Paul Eluard et Pablo Picasso

*La Barre d'appui*

Paris, Éditions "Cahiers d'Art", 1936

Estimate: €100,000-150,000

**Sold: € 532,000**

Paul Destribats : Bibliothèque des Avant-Gardes – part I

Paris, 3, 4 and 5 July 2019

**TOTAL: €8,116,813/£7,299,292/\$9,167,911**

**90% by lot and 91% by value**

The top lot of the sale was *La barre d'appui* by Paul Eluard and Pablo Picasso, which sold for €532,000 against a presale estimate of €100,000-150,000 (lot 428).

Christie's Books department is extremely pleased with the success achieved for the first part of Paul Destribats's collection (607 lots dating from the 1910s to 1945) which realised a total of €8,116,813, far beyond its presale global estimate of €5-7 million. International interest with buyers coming from 20 countries confirms the exceptional and unique character of this collection in the history of art. The emblematic texts about Surrealism attracted institutions and bibliophiles, aware of this rare opportunity to acquire iconic books, such as the *Second Manifeste du Surréalisme* by André Breton,

enriched with a superb photographic binding executed by Paul Bonnet which was preempted by the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* for €442,000, four times its presale estimate.

Further highlights included the *Prose du Transsibérien* by Blaise Cendrars and Sonia Delaunay which sold for €334,000 while a remarkable set of one of the most important texts signed by Cendrars, *J'ai tué* with a beautiful binding by Georges Leroux, realised €218,750 (estimate €60,000-80,000). One of the two only known sets of Man Ray's *Champs délicieux* with all the photographic plates signed by the artist was acquired for €346,000.

**Adrien Legendre, Director of the books department:** "It was such an honor and a pleasure to organize the first sale of this extraordinary collection gathered by Paul Destribats who dedicated part of his life to the 20<sup>th</sup> century Avant-Gardes, sometimes to the point of obsession. This collection is the most important in this field and our team is pleased to have been part of ensuring that these precious books and manuscripts are now in the hands of passionate private collectors or entering prestigious French and international institutions. This recognition celebrates the knowledge, the passion and the flair of Paul Destribats, who now enters the pantheon of the most brilliant collectors."

**Jean-Baptiste de Proyart, expert of the sale:** "The first three sessions of the *Bibliothèque des avant-gardes*, a collection formed over half a century by Paul Destribats, resulted in a resounding success as demonstrated by the triumph of *La Barre d'appui* by Paul Eluard, illustrated by Pablo Picasso which sold for €532,000. This success highlights Paul Destribats's genius as a collector. Further confirmation of this was the success of the *Second manifeste du Surréalisme* (Paris, Editions Kra, 1934) at the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*. This iconic binding, embodying the avant-garde's innovations, is part of the 8-photographic binding-corpus by Paul Bonet exhibited at the *Salon d'automne* in 1934. Until yesterday, the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* did not possess any of them. It is such a joy for the literary world and for all of us, Christie's France, Claude Oterelo and myself, to see this gap now fulfilled".

## PREEMPTIONS

### CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU

Lot 60 : ALBERT-BIROT, Pierre, *Larountala*, Paris, Éditions Sic, 1919, sold for €125.

Lot 103 : VAN HECKE, Paul-Gustave, et Géo NAVEZ, *Miousic. Sept poèmes à la louange de la musique baroque*. Bruxelles, Éditions « Sélection », 1921, sold for €625.

Lot 185 : SEIFERT, Jaroslav, *Na vlnách* TSF, Prague, Petr, 1925, sold for €625.

Lot 186 : [AVANT-GARDE ROUMAINE] PILLAT, Ion et PERPECISSIUS, *Antologia poetilor de azi. S.I., Cartea romaneasca*, 1925 et 1928, sold for €250.

Lot 398 : MAN RAY, *L'Écriture automatique*, Tirage argentique d'époque, circa 1935-1937, sold for €15,000.

### BIBLIOTHÈQUE KANDINSKY, CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU

Lot 481 : BRETON, André, *L'Art de Kandinsky*. Manuscrit autographe signé, daté du 2 février 1938, sold for €2,625.

### BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Lot 211 : NADJA, [Dossier : dessins originaux et fragments autographes], 1926, sold for €50,000.

Lot 212 : NADJA (Léona-Camille-Ghislaine Delcourt, dite), *Portrait d'André Breton*, fin 1926 - début 1927, sold for €27,500.

Lot 213 : NADJA (Léona-Camille-Ghislaine Delcourt, dite), *La symbolique trace*, fin 1926 - début 1927, sold for €27,500.

Lot 250 : PICABIA, Francis, *La Loi d'accommodation chez les Borgnes "sursum corda"*, Paris, Briant, [1928], sold for €9,375.

Lot 284 : *Second Manifeste du Surréalisme*. Frontispice De Salvador Dali, Breton, André, Paris, Editions Kra, 1930, sold for €442,000.

Lot 556 : LELY, Gilbert, et Max ERNST, *Ma Civilisation (1938-1939)*, Paris [Marseille], [1942], sold for €11,250.

### BIBLIOTHÈQUE MUNICIPALE DE NANTES

Lot 479 : PÉRET, Benjamin, *Lettre autographe signée*, à René Magritte, 11 mai [1938], sold for €500.

Lot 602 : PÉRET, Benjamin, *Le Déshonneur des poètes*, Mexico (Paris), *Poésie et révolution* (K éditeur), 1945, sold for €6,875.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SALE

	<p>Lot 284</p> <p><i>SECOND MANIFESTE DU SURRÉALISME.</i> FRONTISPICE DE SALVADOR DALI BRETON, André</p> <p>Paris, Editions Kra, 1930</p> <p>Estimate: €80,000-120,000 Sold: €442,000</p> <p>Preempted by the Bibliothèque nationale de France</p>
	<p>Lot 113</p> <p><i>CHAMPS DÉLICIEUX</i> RAY, Man</p> <p>Paris, 1922</p> <p>Estimate: €200,000-300,000 Sold: €346,000</p>
	<p>Lot 16</p> <p><i>LA PROSE DU TRANSSIBÉRIEN ET DE LA PETITE JEHANNE DE France</i> CENDRARS, Blaise, et Sonia DELAUNAY</p> <p>Paris, Éditions des Hommes nouveaux, 1913</p> <p>Estimate: €200,000 – 300,000 Sold: €334,000</p>

	<p>Lot 541</p> <p><i>Divers poèmes du livre ouvert (2e série)</i> ÉLUARD, Paul, et Pablo PICASSO</p> <p>Paris, 20 avril 1941</p> <p>Estimate : €100,000-150,000 Sold : €262,000</p>
	<p>Lot 34</p> <p><i>J'ai tué</i> CENDRARS, Blaise</p> <p>Paris, 25 juin 1918</p> <p>Estimate : €60,000 – 80,000 Sold: €218,750</p>

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**About Christie's**

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Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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