

LA GAZETTE DROUOT

INTERNATIONAL



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EDITORIAL



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Three bids of over a million closed the season at Drouot. The first, with Millon, went to a rare insignia of the Order of the White Eagle, a remnant of Tsarist Russia, thus ratifying the creation of a brand-new department dedicated to Russian art. The others, through two late 15th century Books of Hours, rewarded the mediaeval manuscript sector: one still untouched by speculation. These made a fine showing today at the dispersion of the Aristophil company's assets, whose second session ended with the highly honourable sum of €17.6 M, including fourteen preemptions and seven bids of over €500,000. A remarkable occurrence in a month usually dominated by the modern and contemporary sphere, and which in the end saw the breakthrough of Old Master painting, with a Le Nain (making its first appearance at auction) knocked down for nearly €3.6 M by Rouillac in Val de Loire, and a still life by Jan van de Velde III fetching nearly €850,000 at Drouot. Further splendid surprises came with a cello by the great Guadagnini to the tune of €930,000 in Vichy, and a "firework display" by the American artist Norman Bluhm: the highest European price for one of his works. It's now time for a well-deserved holiday – so if anyone fancies the idea of a few exhibitions, we can help!

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PRICES INCLUDE BUYER'S PREMIUM



The background is a rich, historical painting. It depicts a bustling harbor filled with numerous three-masted sailing ships. A coastal town with red-roofed buildings and a prominent church is nestled on a hillside overlooking the water. In the foreground, two figures in period clothing stand on a rocky outcrop, looking out over the scene. The overall color palette is warm, with golden light suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

AUCTION RESULTS

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W

HD

€3,596,000

Le Nain brothers, "Jésus enfant en adoration
de la Croix", oil on canvas, between 1642
and 1648, 72 x 59 cm.



€5,089,000

China, Qianlong period, (1736-1795), baoyueping moon flask vase with a celadon-glazed belly and blue underglaze sides and neck. On the underside of the base, the six-character mark of Qianlong in zhuan-shu script in blue underglaze, h. 49 cm.



Two world records for museum-quality pieces

For nearly three decades, the Rouillac auction house has been staging its celebrated Garden Party, which returns each year with its share of dramatic turns. The 2018 vintage certainly kept up the tradition, with a total of over €10,300,000 for 10 June alone. A large porcelain moon vase with the famous square mark of the Qianlong Emperor (1736-1795) was knocked down for €5,089,000 to a French buyer, who battled with nine groups of bidders from China and its diaspora. A world record for this type of artefact was merited because "there are only two moon vases like this in the world, so it is priceless," says Maître Rouillac. (The other was sold for €1,801,00 in April 2016 at Sotheby's Hong Kong.) The vase was probably brought back from China by an ancestor of the family,

a general staff officer in the French royal navy, between 1842 and 1847. The other star of the show, "Christ enfant méditant sur les instruments de la Passion", fetched €3,596,000. This masterpiece by the Le Nain brothers was unknown until recently, when it was discovered by Maître Rouillac at a house in the Vendée. This posted a world record for a work by the artist brothers, despite being forbidden to leave the territory, as a national treasure, by the Ministry of Culture. It fired the enthusiasm of three French collectors, one of whom carried it off without interference from the Musées Nationaux, which unexpectedly did not invoke their right to pre-empt. **Philippe Dufour**

I Montbazou, 10 June, Rouillac auction house.





B

A €60,000

Gustave Courbet (1819-1877), "Le Saut du Doubs", oil on canvas, signed, c. 1839-1840, 35.5 x 27 cm.
Besançon, 10 June, Hôtel des Ventes de Besançon.

B €70,000

Hopi civilisation, Arizona (U.S.A.), lot of 18 kachina dolls including this "Yung'a Kachina" or Kachina cactus, c. 1940, arms held close to the body, green boots, h. 24,5 cm.
Montbazou, 11 June, Rouillac auction house.

C €93,750

Alicia Penalba (1913-1982), "Envol", "Formes Volantes" series, c. 1968, mural sculpture in eight pieces in bronze-effect patinated resin, unique work, size of each piece between 45 x 55 x 22 cm and 130 x 76 x 40 cm.
Paris, Drouot, 1 June, Ader-Nordmann auction house.



C



D

D €70,530

Cornelis Saftleven (1607-1681), "Temptation of Saint Anthony", oak panel, one board, uncradled, 46 x 75 cm, signed on the back in the centre.
Roubaix, 11 June, May & Associés auction house.

E €75,962

François Grégoire (cited in 1690), "Rennes, 1712-1713", silver baluster-shaped caster on piedouche with gadroon border, h. 24 cm, 507.40 g.
Paris, Drouot, 5 June, Fraysse & Associés auction house.

E



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