

DROUOT
CHRISTOPHE JORON-DEREM
COMMISSAIRE-PRISEUR



PIERRE MOLINIER ARCHIVES

Monday, 14 November 2016

CATALOGUE:
Introduction by Frédéric Beigbeder
Presentation by Simon Libérati

Expert: Antoine Romand

The "Pierre Molinier Archives" sale offers an original perspective on the artist.

Exhibitions and public sales tend to present the classic works of Pierre Molinier (1900-1976), particularly the magnificent photomontages of *Le Chaman et ses créatures* (William Blake. Bordeaux - 1995).

The "Pierre Molinier Archives" sale marks a radical break with this frequently contemplated landscape.

Unlike its predecessors, this sale presents unknown chapters of the work and the world of Pierre Molinier. For the first and last time, it brings together all the materials, all the accessories of this fetishistic world, all the elements of the "evocative sorcery" which gave rise to "this aesthetic of gender confusion".

The Maison Européenne de la Photographie partners with this major sale and will exhibit, from 7 to 13 November 2016 and as part of the 19th edition of Paris Photo, all the pieces which will subsequently be sold at the Drouot auction house.

Public auction

Drouot - Hôtel Drouot - Room 9
9 rue Drouot - 75009
Monday, 14 November: 7 p.m.

Public exhibitions

MAISON EUROPEENNE
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

As part of the 19th edition of
Paris Photo
9, 10, 12 and 13 November:
11 a.m. - 7.15 p.m.

DROUOT - Room 7
Monday, 14 November: 11 a.m. -
6 p.m.



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Le Chaman - Circa 1967
Final photomontage
Vintage silver print



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
La Stryge amoureuse - 1972
Finalised original collage

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PIERRE MOLINIER ARCHIVES - ORIGINAL

In particular, this sale features the studies that the daughter of the painter and photographer had jealously guarded in the secrecy of his studio: photographic collages and preparatory drawings; but also objects staged in his photographic work, evoking the symbolism of the artist's world.

Unique pieces will therefore be on offer:

- 28 unpublished collages. These collages, which when photographed are dubbed "photomontages", represent genuinely original works.
- 15 cut-outs, some accented with charcoal
- 20 paintings and preparatory drawings for paintings known under the name of *Suzinella*, *Fleurs du Paradis*, *L'Angoisse révoltée*.

Among this ensemble it is worth noting the presence of *Comtesse Midralgar*, a painting given by Pierre Molinier to André Breton in thanks for the exhibition project at the *Etoile Scellée* gallery in May 1955. With this work, the artist felt he had conjured up a Mona Lisa who was as mysterious as she was coquettish.

- 10 prints "manipulated" for the sake of illusion, Molinier cultivated his taste for ambiguity regarding gender.

- 30 photomontages some of which were printed in 3 numbered copies signed by the artist, with his fingerprints appearing on the back of the image

- 17 portraits or self-portraits, proof prints and photomontages retouched in pencil and pen, sometimes featuring incredibly refined make-up (including his portrait at 18 years old, *Hanel 1*, *Les Bottes*, etc.)

- A set of poetic objects of surrealist inspiration such as *Hommage à la Marguerite*, *Jambe-bouquet*, *Reliquaire*... and personal effects like his shoes, his eyemasks, facemasks, whips or riding crops will supplement this programme.

- His correspondence with Ernest, a well-known shoemaker in Pigalle, pioneer of the stiletto and the inspiration for stiletto designers, will enhance this sale.

Finally the two celebrated dolls by Molinier with their famous plaster legs, some of his paintings from the 1930-50s or furniture in his studio including the easel, the full-length mirror, the stool, the screen in *toile de jouy* fabric and the printing frame and view camera, complete this historic sale.



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Gog et Magog - 1968
Original collage



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Grande Poupée - Circa 1958
Sculpture-modelling



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Autoportrait avec la Poupée
Circa 1968
Silver print

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PIERRE MOLINIER ARCHIVES - ORIGINAL

Between 1955 and 1976, Pierre Molinier invented the canons of a style which would influence two generations of artists, from Luciano Castelli to Breyer P-Orridge.

Through photography, Molinier created customised myths, dreamt of being a lesbian and embodied his wildest fantasies to even imagine an incestuous relationship with himself.

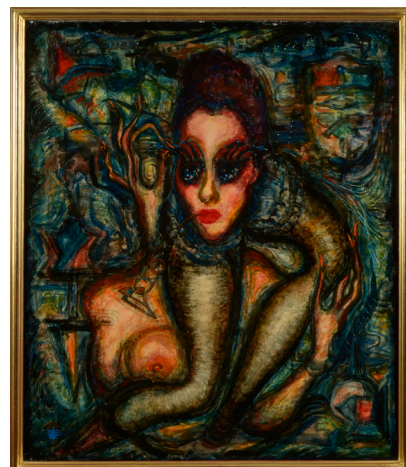
Under his gaze, men become women, women become dolls, the living is reified, the inanimate comes to life, beings and objects tie the knot to blend into a unique being, a new incarnation of the new Ideal Beauty.

Pierre Molinier is hailed today as the Great Pioneer, the undisputed master of an essential movement in our time.

For Molinier was indeed the inventor of a genre and one might even say a gender.

To conclude, it is worth quoting a specialist of his work:

"Molinier knew he was ahead of his time and that his work would 'survive' him. But he had not anticipated the extent of the posthumous recognition. How could this pariah have imagined that one day a square would be named after him in Bordeaux? Or that his work would arouse the admiration of his peers around the world? For instance, Arroyo prefaced the Molinier catalogue of the Córdoba Biennial while Cindy Sherman dedicated a wall to him in her Encyclopedic Palace at the Venice Biennial. From Robert Combas to Anish Kapoor and Richard Prince, the Le Chaman work created the same fervour. He who erected his "Tombe prématurée" and liked to photograph himself on his "deathbed" twenty years before his suicide has become this Lazarus who, much to our delight, never ceases to rise from the grave". J-L M



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Comtesse Midralgar - 1950
Oil and mixed technique - 80 x 66 cm
Former collection of André Breton.



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Le Podex d'Amour - 1969
Original collage



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Grande Mêlée - 1968
Photomontage
Vintage
silver print



Pierre Molinier (1900-1976)
Tête avec masque et haut de forme
Sculpture
Mixed technique