

PRESS RELEASE | 30 APRIL 2024 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A Hidden Gem Unveiling an Unseen Collection

Discovered in a Paris Apartment  
it will be Auctioned at Drouot,  
Benefiting the Institut Pasteur

First Sale at Hôtel Drouot  
on 31 May 2024 at 2pm



A secret collection discovered during the valuation of a Parisian apartment will be auctioned at the Hôtel Drouot.

1,500 lots sold for the benefit of the Institut Pasteur, including an unknown painting by Jean-Léon Gerome.

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Paris, 30 April 2024 – At the Hôtel Drouot and throughout seven auctions, Daguerre will be offering at auction an exceptional collection discovered during a valuation in a Paris apartment. In keeping with the collector's wishes, all proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Institut Pasteur to support their scientific and medical research in preventing and treating infectious diseases.

This collection, assembled by an anonymous collector captivated by art and discoveries, is a truly unexpected treasure trove: 20,000 works on paper and 800 paintings divided into 1,500 lots. Though patiently assembled for decades, it has remained utterly unknown to leading specialists and its history is shrouded in mystery to this day.

The collection encompasses an exhaustive overview of fine art from the 16th century to contemporary art in paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs, as well as sculptures and works of art. Major works by renowned masters are juxtaposed with hidden gems, offering not only a remarkable artistic diversity but also a wide range of estimates.

The highlight of part I of the sale will be an unknown painting by Jean-Léon Gérôme, *Une Épave*, estimated between €80,000 and €120,000 ([lot 52](#)). This painting is surprisingly radical and unusual in appearance, far from the classical and orientalist themes most often associated with this artist. With a background of emerald green and blue and a nearly abstract composition, it depicts a shipwreck scene in which the passengers, crowded on a lifeboat, appear to be abandoned and adrift.



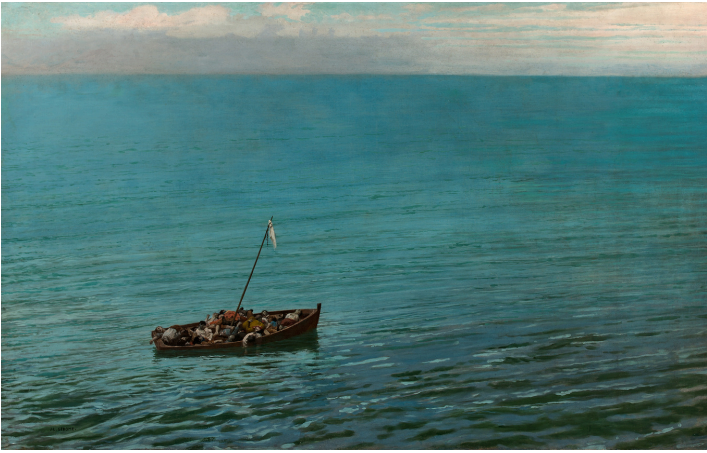


In addition to this masterpiece, the sale presents an eclectic selection ranging from fine arts to decorative arts, sculptures to works of art. Among the works on paper are a refined work Alphonse Mucha entitled Lamalou-les-Bains and characteristic of the Art Nouveau master's portraits of women ([lot 96](#) – estimate: €8,000-€12,000); a charming drawing by Paul Sérusier, L'Île de la Douane sur le Trieux (lot 100 – estimate: €5,000-€6,000); and a stunning study for a ceiling of the Louvre by Jean-Baptiste Mauzaisse ([lot 20](#) – estimate: €2,000-€3,000).

Art Nouveau lovers will also seize the opportunity to bid on the exquisite vase by Emile Gallé adorned with a woman in medieval garb ([lot 107](#) – estimate: €2,000-€3,000), while sculpture connoisseurs will have the chance to purchase a bronze by Antoine-Louis Barye representing a Turkish horse ([lot 26](#) – estimate: €2,000-€3,000).

The collection will be sold in six further auctions starting this September, featuring works from the Renaissance to contemporary era, including a striking study by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Étude de guerrier assis (estimate: €30,000-€40,000), which demonstrates his remarkable skill in capturing expression and movement; an intriguing painting by Alberto Savinio, Machine pour féconder les arbres, 1929 (estimate: €150,000-€200,000); and works by Roberto Matta, Frantisek Kupka, Alexandre Jacovleff and Giannis Gaftis offering a captivating glimpse at art's history across the 20th century

## First sale



Lot 52  
Jean-Léon Gérôme  
Une épave  
Est. 80 000 - 120 000€



Lot 20  
Jean-Baptiste Mauzaisse  
Etude pour un plafond du Louvre  
Est. 2,000 - 3,000€



Lot 96  
Alfons Mucha  
Lamalou les Bains  
Est. 8,000 - 12,000€



Lot 107  
Emile Gallé  
Large cone-shaped vase adorned  
with a woman in a medieval outfit.  
Est. 2,000 - 3,000€



## Upcoming sales



Alberto Savinio  
Machine pour féconder les arbres,  
1929  
Est. 150,000 - 200,000€



Frantisek Kupka  
Cependant le mouvement ne doit pas être difficile  
pour un artiste  
1902  
Est. 10,000 - 12,000 €



Hieronymus Vischer  
Le pouvoir temporel soumis au Christ  
1589  
Est. 8,000 - 12,000€



Alexandre Jacovlev  
Femme assise, Fort Lamy  
Est. 15,000 - 20,000€

## UNE COLLECTION INEDITE - FIRST SALE

**AUCTION AT HOTEL DROUOT**  
Saleroom 2 - Friday 31 May 2pm

### **Public Exhibition**

Wednesday 29 May : 11am - 6pm

Thursday 30 May : 11am - 8 pm

Friday 31 May : 11am - 12pm

### **UPCOMING SALES**

2nd Sale - Old Master and Modern Prints. 3rd Sale - Old Master and Modern Photographs.

4th Sale - 16th to 19th Century Drawings. 5th Sale - Modern and Contemporary Paintings.

6th and 7th auctions - Books, Drawings, Paintings, Photos, Frames, Furniture, Works of Art.

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### **About Drouot**

For over a century, Drouot has been a prominent player in the international art market with numerous affiliates. With Hôtel Drouot, the world's largest auction venue located in the heart of Paris since 1852, and Drouot.com, the leading online marketplace for Fine Art and Collectibles in continental Europe, Drouot has revolutionized the way people buy and sell art. The venue offers 15 auction rooms to over 70 auction houses, which collectively organized over 800 sales in 2023, totaling €378m. Meanwhile, The group's digital platform, Drouot.com, hosted over 3 million items from 785 auction houses, totaling €344 million. La Gazette Drouot, a leading weekly magazine published by Drouot's media branch Auctionspress, reports on auctions, culture and art market news.

