

# ORIENTALISM AND AFRICANISM

Auction on 22nd May 2017 at 7pm, Paris



Rudolf Ernst, *La partie de cartes*, huile sur panneau, 72 x 92 cm, estimate :  
€170 000 - 230 000 / \$187 000 - 253 000

## *Exhibition*

From Friday 19th May to Monday 22nd May 2017

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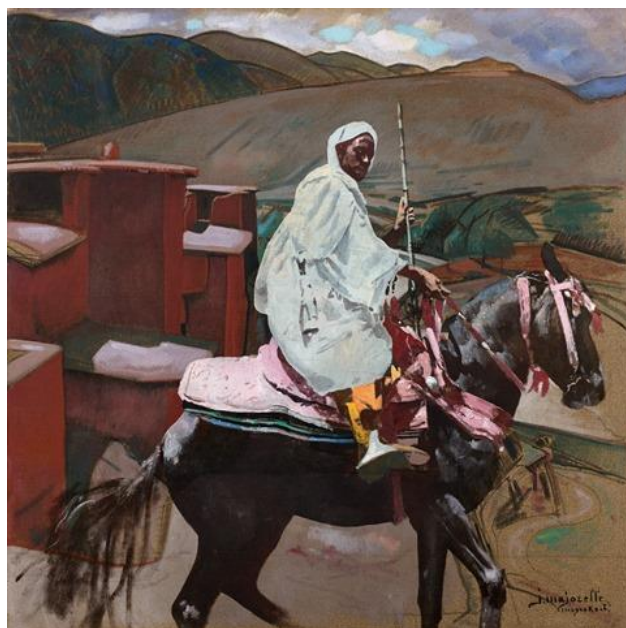
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**Paris** – On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Artcurial will host its customary auction entirely dedicated to Orientalism. It follows the *Paris#Marrakech* event, hosted in duplex between Paris and Marrakech last 29<sup>th</sup> December, resulting in sales totalling €2,250,550/ \$2,340,572.

For this new edition, the department has chosen to honour 19th century orientalist painters. Two Rudolf Ernst works will be up for auction including *La partie de cartes* which figures among the most important pieces to appear on the market in the last twenty years (estimate: €170,000 – 230,000 / \$187,000 – 253,000). 20th century Orientalist paintings will also be represented by the works of Jacques Majorelle or Louis-Auguste Girardot. A final chapter will be devoted to Africanism with a set of Anna Quinquaud bronzes, including a rare bust entitled *Dico*, representing a woman from the city of Djenné in Mali.

***«We are pleased to present this oil on canvas by Rudolf Ernst titled *La partie de cartes*. By its universal subject, its aesthetic quality and large size, it represents a major work of this speciality and one of the artist's most unusual examples.»***

Olivier Berman, Associate director,  
Orientalism department, Artcurial



Jacques Majorelle, *Le Mokhazni*, on the back: *Villa Majorelle de Marrakech*, oil on canvas, 80 x 80 cm, estimate: €100,000 - 150,000 / \$110,000 - 165,000

## ***Rudolf Ernst, master of the Orientalist movement***

As the cover of the catalogue, *La partie de cartes* by Austrian painter Rudolf Ernst (1854-1932), is one of the most important works of the Orientalist movement (estimate: €170,000 – 230,000 / \$187,000 – 253,000).

A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna Rudolf Ernst moves to Paris in 1876 and develops an interest for the orient during trips to Spain, Morocco and Turkey in the end of the 1880's. He then reproduces the scenes that he has memorised or photographed during his travels.

The piece presented by Artcurial represents two people playing cards, a subject rarely executed by the artist. A carpet, a mother-of-pearl inlaid box, a blue ceramic vase, a teapot placed on a copper tray and a narghile establish the decor. These objects are a reference to the large collection of memories brought back from Rudolf Ernst's trips to the Orient, and kept in his studio. The artist's passion of colours and textures is reflected by the use of wood panel rather than a canvas, giving the colours a radiant look. The finely engraved lines confer texture to the painting and add a feeling of realism to which is in fact, an scene imagined by the master.



Georges Bretegnier, *Marocaine*, 1890, oil on canvas, estimate: €15,000 - 20,000 / \$16,500 - 22,000

## ***Orientalist painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century***

Several 19<sup>th</sup> century artists will also be honoured, such as landscape painter Théodore Frère, with two oil on panel *Vue du Caire* and *Coucher du soleil au bord du Nil*, each carrying an estimate of €12,000 – 15,000 / \$13,200 – 16,500 or Georges Bretegnier with *Marocaine*, created in 1890 (estimate: €15,000 – 20,000 / \$16,500 – 22,000). Works by Eugène Girardet, Jules-Charles-Clément Taupin, Jean-Léon Gérôme and Félix-Joseph Barrias will complete this selection.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century section, two paintings by Jacques Majorelle, without a doubt the most prominent Orientalist painter, will be up for auction. The first, *Kasbah Tagoundaft*, created in 1922 illustrates one of the travelling artist's favourite subjects: the Kasbah, the ancient Moroccan villages immortalised during his visits to the Atlas (estimate: €25,000 – 35,000 / \$27,500 – 38,500). The second, *Le Mokhazni*, is an even more sought after painting, as it depicts a horse guard in the foreground, in the middle of the Kasbah (estimate: €100,000 – 150,000 / \$110,000 – 165,000).

## ***Anna Quinquaud bronzes***

A last section will be devoted to Africanism, with a beautiful set of Anna Quinquaud bronzes, including a rare bust entitled *Dico*, representing a woman of the city of Djenné in Mali (estimate: €30,000 – 40,000 / \$33,000 – 44,000). Awarded the second grand prize of Rome in 1924, Anna Quinquaud leaves the Villa Medici for French East Africa. From 1925 to 1926, she explores Senegal, the Sudan and Mauritania. After a brief homecoming to Paris, she returns, meeting the mountain peoples of Fouta-Djallon in French Guinea. She then fulfils several commissions, including four monumental angels for the Cathedral of Dakar in 1936.



Théodore Frère, *Coucher de soleil au bord du Nil*, oil on panel, estimate: €12,000 - 15,000 / \$13,200 - 16,500



Anna Quinquaud, *Dico*, bronze with dark patina, estimate: €30,000 - 40,000 / \$33,000 - 44,000



## ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, Artcurial, a multidisciplinary auction house based in Paris, reinforcing its leading position in the market of the international art in 2015.

With 3 sale venues in Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong Kong, the House totals 210.1 million euros in sales volume in 2016, doubling its turnover in 5 years (+10% compared to 2015).

It covers the whole spectrum of major specialties: Beaux-Arts to decorative arts, collector automobiles, jewellery, collector timepieces, fine wines and spirits...

Resolutely turned toward the international market, Artcurial asserts its network abroad with representation offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich and Vienna as well as a presence in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and biannual exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial organised its first sale in Hong Kong and in Morocco.



HD visuals available upon request

Estimates in dollars provided for information purposes only

Catalogues available online at [www.artcurial.com](http://www.artcurial.com)

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