

ARTCURIAL

3,7 M€ / 4,1 M\$ FOR THE REDISCOVERED RODIN MARBLE SCULPTURE

Results from the auction of 30th May 2017, in Paris



Lot 6 : Auguste Rodin, *Andromède*, 1887, marble, 28,1 x 30,7 x 18,5 cm, from the Morla Vicuña family, sold for €3 670 600 / \$4 111 072 including premium (estimate : €800 000 - 1 200 000)

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Paris – On Tuesday, 30th May 2017 Artcurial hosted an extraordinary event for the art market, international collectors and lovers of the work of Auguste Rodin. Shortly after 7pm, in front of a packed room where the energy was palpable, the auction House presented Andromeda, a white marble sculpture executed in 1887, signed the Master. During the past months, it had been the subject of an international exhibition in the various Artcurial offices across Europe.

This exceptional exhibit of remarkable provenance reached €3,670,600 / \$4,111,072 including fees, or more than 4.5 times its estimate. It was won by a European collector, who bid over the phone. While the world is celebrating the centennial anniversary of the artist's death, the bidder fought hard against a dozen competitors, under the gavel of Francis Briest.

The sculpture had been kept by the same family since its creation in 1887, but art historians had lost all trace of it over the generations. 130 after its creation, two associate directors, Stéphane Aubert, Director of the inventories and collections Department, and Bruno Jaubert, Director of the impressionist art and modern Department, found the masterpiece in Spain!

In 1888, Chilean diplomat Carlos Lynch of Morla, stationed in Paris, asks his friend Auguste Rodin to produce the portrait of his young wife, Luisa. The sculptor immortalises the young woman's beauty in a marble bust. The bust was exposed at the Salon National des Beaux-Arts, the same year. The acclaim was of such magnitude that the French State expressed the desire to acquire the piece. As a patron of the arts and a friend of France, Carlos Lynch de Morla agrees to relinquish the bust; it integrates the French public collections (it can be seen today at the Musée d'Orsay). As a gesture of appreciation to his Chilean friends, Auguste Rodin gives a white marble sculpture representing a naked young woman draped over a rock, *Andromède*. This sculpture is one of the most beautiful examples of a modern and sensual transposition of an ancient myth in Rodin's work.

Three of the other five examples of the sculpture are currently exhibited in important museum institutions. The fourth example was incorporated into a private collection after a public sale, a decade ago. The Morla copy is the most accomplished in its naturalist transcription.

The complete modern and contemporary art auction results will be published on Wednesday 31st May 2017.

« This is an outstanding record achieved by a marble sculpture of this nature in Rodin's work. The result bears witness to the exceptional quality and history of Andromède. »

Bruno Jaubert, Associate Director of the Impressionist and Modern art department.

« Tonight's success illustrates Artcurial's competence to discover masterpieces and to promote them worldwide.

130 years after its creation by Auguste Rodin, Andromède surpassed our greatest expectations! »

Stéphane Aubert, Associate Director Auctioneer, Artcurial

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 2016.

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.



Estimates in dollars provided for information purposes only
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