



PRESS RELEASE - **PARIS#MARRAKECH III**
AUCTION - **DECEMBER 30TH 2018, IN DUPLEX WITH MARRAKECH**

Artcurial pays tribute to contemporary African art with the *African Spirit* auction which will take place on 30th December 2018, during the latest edition of *Paris#Marrakech*, a week-long auction hosted by the house in duplex with Marrakech.

Increasingly exhibited and celebrated, contemporary African artists are more and more recognised on the international art market.



MARRAKECH - Artcurial will resume residency at the Es Saadi Palace in Marrakech on 30th December 2018, for the third edition of its *Paris#Marrakech* auction.

This year, the event will be held during the new *Marrakech Art Week*, initiated by Artcurial, gathering 12 key players in the Red City's artistic scene for a week of cultural events from 26th December to 5th January.

Alongside Orientalist pieces, including the dispersion of an important private Italian collection, one of the auctions, entitled *African spirit*, will be exclusively dedicated to contemporary African art. This is the second instance that Artcurial will host an auction on this speciality in Africa. Last year it obtained 6 world records at auction in Marrakech for works by artists Omar Victor Diop, Malick Sidibé, Bodys Isek Kingelez, Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Steve Bandoma and Pierre Bodo.

« Morocco, Africa's cultural hubb, is the essential venue to honour African contemporary art. The Dynamism felt in Marrakech attracts more and more local, European, American and Middle Eastern collectors. Alongside other cultural players, Artcurial contributes to the art market development in Africa, and to the defence of African contemporary art on the international scene. »

Olivier Berman,
Associate director, Artcurial

A selection of works from the collection will be presented in Artcurial's Brussels office from 27th to 29th November 2018.



SEYDOU KEÏTA
Sans titre (Odalisque) - 1956-1957
Tirage argentique (1998)
127 x 180 cm
Estimate : 50 000 - 70 000 €



BODYS ISEK KINGELEZ
Pacific Art - 1989
 Cardboard, Wood, paper, collage
 and plastic
 100x 69 x 56 cm
 Estimate : 60 000 - 80 000 €

CHÉRI SAMBA
J'aime la couleur - 2004
 Acrylic and glitter on canvas
 128 x 193 cm
 Estimate : 70 000 - 100 000 €



The *African spirit* auction will include forty pieces from the greatest figures of African contemporary art: Seydou Keita, Cheri Samba, Frédéric Bruly Bouaré, Omar Victor Diop, Moke... Particularly exhibited in France, they work with a great diversity of supports and are as much inspired by the continent's traditions as they are by Africa's contemporary urban realities.

Seydou Keïta, for example, is currently considered one of photography's great figures of the latter half of the 20th century. With his black and white snapshots, he documents the evolution of his native Mali. Inventive, he works framing and light with great innovativeness, without denying references to the great masters, such as in *Odalisque*, 1956-57, an exceptionally large piece (127 x 180 cm) (estimate: €50,000 - 70,000). This photograph has been kept in the same private collection for over 20 years and was acquired from the agnès b. gallery, one of the first French defenders of continental African art.

Born in the Belgian Congo, Bodys Isek Kingelez, for whom Artcurial achieved a world record for a piece sold at auction, is an architect, carver and sculptor. In Kinshasa, where he settled in 1970, he creates utopian miniature buildings out of cardboard, a response to the rampant urbanization of the African capital. His colourful buildings have been exhibited in France as early as 1989 at the reference exhibition *Les Magiciens de la terre*, at the Centre Pompidou and then more recently in the exhibition *Art/Afrique, le nouvel atelier* at the Louis Vuitton foundation. He is also the subject of a retrospective at the MoMA in New York. Artcurial will host the auction *Pacific art*, a 1989 model of 1989, estimate €60,000 - 80,000.

Chéri Samba is one of Africa's most eminent artists. His happy and colourful paintings were hung on the walls of the greatest institutions, the Georges Pompidou Centre and at the MoMA. The self-taught artist lives between Paris and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We recognise in his pictorial style the influences of the advertising painters with whom he started his craft, but also the impact of the comic strip with textual presence in French, English or Lingala, in the images he envisions. We find this artistic blend in *J'aime la couleur*, a 2004 self-portrait (estimate : €70,000 - 100,000), reminiscent of the



OUSMANE SOW
La danseuse aux cheveux courts
Nouba - 2002
190 x 150 x 115 cm
bronze with dark brown patina
Estimate : 80 000 - 120 000 €



large murals decorating the streets of the Congolese capital. He enjoys taking possession of popular image codes, playing on false genuine naivety.

Senegalese sculptor Ousmane Sow spends a lot of time in France, but never intends to work elsewhere than in Senegal. At the age of 56, he adopts bronze as his material of choice. His first casts revisit his earlier work, such as the famous *Danceuse aux cheveux courts*, from the *Nouba* series (estimate: €80,000 - 120,000). It is incredibly rare to find them in public auctions. The Parisian public is familiar with his work: he caused quite a stir with his *Colossi Maasai*, *Nuba* and *Native Americans*, exhibited in 1999 on Le Pont Des Arts, in the heart of Paris.

Ibrahim Mahama lives and works in Ghana. At the heart of the urban jungle, he retrieves materials (cardboard, textiles...) diverting them to create composite mural pieces. Such was the case of the burlap bags used in *N°53*, a large format from 2014 (estimate: €38,000 - 50,000).

3rd edition of Paris#Marrakech

Artcurial strengthens its presence in Morocco in the cultural sector: exhibition organisation, cultural engineering services via the Artcurial Cultural Agency for the Mohammed VI museum of Rabat, annual auctions in Marrakech, in duplex in Paris... This dynamism reflects that of the kingdom which has become in a few years a central hub for the art market between Africa, Europe and the Middle East, in the image of the growing importance of the 1-54 fair in





IBRAHIM MAHAMA
N°53, 2014
Sacs de charbon et technique mixte
180 x 300 cm
Estimate: 38 000 - 50 000 euros

Marrakech or the new biennial of Rabat.

After €3.5 M / \$4.2 M in December 2017 (an increase of 50% compared to 2016), and establishing 6 new world records, Artcurial will organize 4 auctions in December 2018: *From Constantinople to Tangier, a Private Italian collection, Majorelle and his contemporaries, African spirit and Made in Morocco.*

1st edition of the Marrakech Art Week

For the first time, initiated by Artcurial and Olivier Berman, 12 key cultural players of the Red City have joined forces to create a new addition to the art calendar: Marrakech Art Week.

The first edition will take place from 26th December 2018 to 5th January 2019, and will bring together institutions (Dar El Bacha district, Dar If Saïd, Yves Saint Laurent Museum, Macaal, Farid Belkahlia Foundation, Montresso Art Foundation), galleries (Voice gallery, Gallery 127, David Bloch Gallery, Khalid Art Gallery, Gallery Bennis) and one auction house (Artcurial).

Each of the participants will create a specific program for the event (vernissages, exhibitions, conferences...).

The complete program will be revealed on www.marrakechartweek.com



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INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Paris#Marrakech III
*From Constantinople to Tangier, a collection of an Italian enthusiast,
African spirit (African contemporary art)
Majorelle and his contemporaries (orientalism),
Made in Morocco*

Exhibition from 27th to 29th November 2018,
Artcurial Brussels - Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 5 - 1050 Brussels

Exhibition from 14th to 16th December 2018,
Artcurial - 7, Rond-point of the Champs Elysees - 75008 Paris

Exhibition from 27th to 30th December 2018,
at Palace Es Saadi, Marrakech

Auction sale on 30th December 2018,
in Paris, in duplex with the Palace Es Saadi, Marrakech

HD visuals available upon request
Catalogues available online at www.artcurial.com

ABOUT ARTCURIAL

Founded in 2002, Artcurial, a multidisciplinary auction house based in Paris, reinforces its leading position on the international art market in 2017. With 3 sale venues in Paris, Monte-Carlo and Hong-Kong, the House totals 191.1 million euros in sales volume in 2017.

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

www.artcurial.com

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