

CHRISTIE'S PARIS HIGHLIGHTS MICHEL TAPIÉ'S OEUVRE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A UNIQUE EXHIBITION*

From 31 January to 29 February 2012

ART OF ANOTHER KIND? ARTISTS AROUND MICHEL TAPIÉ

Bluhm, Burri, Capogrossi, De Kooning, Dubuffet, Falkenstein, Fautrier, Fontana, Francis, Gribaud, Guette, Hartung, Hofmann, Imaï, Jenkins, Kanayama, Kline, Marca Relli, Masanobu, Mathieu, Michaux, Motonaga, Murakami, Ossorio, Pollock, Richier, Riopelle, Schumacher, Serpan, Shimamoto, Shiraga, Sumi, Tapiès, Tobey, Uemae, Wols, Zenderoudi

Paris – From 31 January to 29 February 2012, Christie's Contemporary Art Department is holding an exhibition to celebrate the artistic research led by critic Michel Tapié (1909-1987), honoring the 60th anniversary of his publication 'Art of another kind'. Nearly 60 works on loan from collectors and institutions will be presented to illustrate his rich career, within the premises of the 9 avenue Matignon where his offices and research had been based and exhibited twice in 1984 and 1994.

"We have decided to hold this exhibition in tribute to Michel Tapié, in order to perpetuate his memory throughout the exhibition rooms of Christie's France, which once were his workplace. The French law from 20 July 2011 allows auction houses to participate in private sales and therefore some of the works might be sold subsequently." **comments François de Ricqlès, Président of Christie's France.**

The reputation of Michel Tapié, a major international figure of the art world from the 1940's to the 1970's, was built around the Dubuffet and Fautrier exhibitions he curated for gallery-owner René Drouin. The two artists profoundly shook him and made him "feel this art of another kind" (M. Tapié, *Art of another kind*, Paris, November 1952). Refusing "crowds who only make sense for the boundaries they establish themselves", he researched artists offering another vision, an art which does not fit in the mould of established norms.

For Alexandre Carel, Director of the Contemporary Art Department in Paris:

“Michel Tapié is a true precursor. He was constantly looking for individuality. Sixty years after the publication of ‘Art of another kind’, the freedom of his unconventional aesthetic choices still stands out. Because he was one of the pioneers who after the war built a bridge between New York and Paris, Tapié managed to create cultural events with a genuine international impact.”

Michel Tapié has been behind a great number of exhibitions. He worked as an advisor for the most forward-thinking galleries and art dealers such as René Drouin, Nina Dausset, Paul Fchetti, Jean Larcade and Rodolphe Stadler. He contributed to the fame of French artists including Dubuffet, Mathieu, Fautrier, Hartung, Michaux and Wols, but also international artists like Pollock, De Kooning, Francis, Hofmann, Jenkins and Joan Mitchell. A true ‘talent-scout’, he never wanted to limit himself to the mere Parisian artistic scene. As early as 1957, he became interested in other fields of creations, particularly in Japan where he discovered the Gutai group, which radical form of expression deeply moved him. His constant research for new artists led him to explore Spain with Tapiés and Italy with Fontana, Burri or Accardi. He pushed the boundaries of ‘classic art’ in 1970’s by organising entire exhibitions about Asian and Iranian artists.

Christie’s exhibition will feature, around the arts critic figure, an array of works reflecting the diversity and richness of the artists he supported and whom he commented about, back in 1951: “Could it be that we are living in fascinating times?”

Public exhibition from 31 January until 29 February 2012, 10am-6pm at 9 avenue Matignon, Paris 75008 - Free entry.

*Scenography by Charles Zana.

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*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

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