



Highlights

The Monaco Masters Show

OPERA GALLERY



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2013 marque une étape importante dans la vie d'Opera Gallery Monaco, nous fêtons cet été le cinquième anniversaire de notre installation dans la Principauté. Nous allons également célébrer les 40 ans de la disparition du Maître de l'art du XX^{ème} siècle, Pablo Picasso. Picasso justement, qui ouvre le catalogue de l'exposition *Highlights* par cette somptueuse *Nature morte* de juillet 1945, peinte il y aura tout juste 68 ans. 1945 est une année charnière dans la vie du peintre car elle marque le début de sa relation avec Françoise Gilot et sa décision de s'installer définitivement dans le Sud. Ainsi cet hommage au Maître rejoint l'exposition *Picasso et la Côte d'Azur 1920/1946* qui aura lieu tout l'été à Monaco au Forum Grimaldi.

Depuis notre ouverture en juillet 2008, nous avons toujours eu la volonté de présenter les plus belles œuvres d'artistes choisis. *Highlights* est le résultat de cette constante recherche.

Le catalogue de l'exposition que nous avons le plaisir de vous présenter est centré autour des grands Maîtres de l'Art Moderne (Picasso, Chagall, Léger...). Cette année nous avons également voulu élargir au maximum le choix proposé et faire partager à nos collectionneurs nos "coup de cœurs".

La disparition de Georges Mathieu il y a presque un an a remis sur le devant de la scène les artistes de l'Abstraction Lyrique injustement oubliés qui aujourd'hui connaissent un retour durable, surtout auprès des nouveaux collectionneurs d'Asie.

Dans une économie incertaine où le marché de l'art est considéré comme une zone préservée, une valeur refuge, il est aussi important de savourer le bonheur que l'on peut ressentir en découvrant la toile lumineuse d'espérance *Dos à dos* d'un peintre qui a 97 ans au moment où il la peint, Marc Chagall.

Highlights, The Monaco Masters Show est organisé en partenariat avec Mission Enfance, association monégasque qui œuvre au profit de l'enfance en difficulté dans le monde et à laquelle nous reversons une partie de notre chiffre d'affaires.

Gilles Dyan
Fondateur et Président
Opera Gallery Group

Didier Viltart
Directeur
Opera Gallery Monaco



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2013 is a banner year for Opera Gallery Monaco. We are celebrating our fifth anniversary in the Principality. We will also celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pablo Picasso's demise. And it's Picasso himself who will inaugurate the *Highlights* exhibition catalogue with his sumptuous *Nature morte* (1945), painted exactly 68 years ago. 1945 was a banner year for Picasso. It marked the beginning of his relationship with Françoise Gilot and the year he decided to move to the South of France forever... This tribute to the Master 20th Century artist will join ranks with another exhibition: *Picasso and the Côte d'Azur 1920/1946*, to run all summer long at the Forum Grimaldi in Monaco.

Since our opening in July 2008, we have always strived to present the most magnificent works of carefully selected artists. *Highlights* is the fruit of this constant research.

The *Highlights* exhibition catalogue is focusing on the most famous Masters of Modern Art (Picasso, Chagall, Léger...). This year, we also wanted to throw open our artistic doors to include some of our favorites.

Georges Mathieu's departure almost one year ago has placed the artist centre stage and allowed a rebirth of interest in Lyrical Abstraction and other unfairly forgotten talents like Mathieu. They are now once again the worthy objects of ardent admiration, especially with Asian art lovers.

In such an unstable global economy, where the Art Market is considered a safe haven and Fine Art a safe investment, it is also important to savour the happiness one can feel when discovering the radiant canvas of hope *Dos à dos*, painted by a genius who was 97 years 'young' when he signed 'Marc Chagall' at the bottom of the canvas.

Highlights, The Monaco Masters Show is organized in collaboration with Mission Enfance, a charitable organization based in Monaco. Mission Enfance comes to the aid of children suffering all over the world; a portion of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the organization.

Gilles Dyan
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Didier Viltart
Director
Opera Gallery Monaco





Salvador Dalí (1904 - 1989)

Rhinocéros cosmique (Chair de poule rhinocérontique), 1956

Signed 'Dalí' (on the base); stamped with the foundry mark 'Valsuani' (on the base)
Bronze and golden sea urchins, edition of 8 + 4 EA + 2 HCM + 1 HCF
403 x 206 x 65 cm - 158.7 x 81.1 x 25.6 in.

CERTIFICATE

Nicolas R. and Robert P. Descharnes have confirmed the authenticity of this work under the reference No. o429

PUBLIC NOTES

Salvador Dalí is considered one of Surrealism's most brilliant representatives, as well as one of the most talented painters of the 20th Century. But Dalí is also famous the world over for his sculptures, such as his *Rhinocéros cosmique* dating from 1956. The rhinoceros, a formidable creature indeed, has always been the subject of artistic predilection since Prehistoric times.

Dalí liked to play with references to the granular aspect of the animal's epidermis, and titles of some of his paintings, sculptures and sketches include interesting rhino-notations such as *Chair de poule rhinocérontique*, *Rhinocéros habillé en dentelles*, or the more sober *Le Rhinocéros*.

This sculpture in bronze, inspired by Alfred Dürer's famous woodcut, shows a rhinoceros bearing a stack of sea urchins on its back. The monolith-like shape symbolizes the dread a drop of water feels of losing its beauty and purity during its first fall. Numbed with fright, this original drop experiences the first shivers of time and the first appearance of goose bumps on its surface.

A few years after its creation, during Alain Bosquet's preparation of *Interviews with Salvador Dalí* - the artist told the author that his dream was to see this monumental statue erected in Paris "precisely in the same spot where, on the Trocadero Plaza, there once stood the bronze sculpture of an effigy to a rhinoceros. And I want it to be a cosmic rhinoceros."

