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**Georges Rouault's Livres d'Artiste Lead
Swann Galleries' Fine Illustrated Books & Graphics Sale**



FINE ILLUSTRATED BOOKS & GRAPHICS

Sale 2497; January 29, 2019

New York—**Swann Galleries** opened the 2019 season with **Fine Illustrated Books & Graphics** on **January 29**, boasting numerous auction records and several new buyers.

Leading the sale was *Cirque de l'Étoile Filante*, 1938, by **Georges Rouault**. The publication, depicting circus performers in 17 color aquatints by Rouault and 82 wood engravings by George Aubert in characteristic Fauvist style, sold for \$35,000. Rouault's final work, *Passion*, 1939, also found success, selling for \$21,250. Additional livres d'artiste included *Klänge*, 1912-13, Wassily Kandinsky's masterpiece of expressionism and one of the earliest artist's books to contain nonrepresentational art, which reached \$31,200; and a first English translation of Marcel Duchamp's *The Bride Stripped bare by Her Bachelors, Even*, 1960, a typographic version by Richard Hamilton, brought \$1,500, a record for the signed trade edition.

An array of Art Deco material was led by a run of works by George Barbier and François-Louis Schmied: *Personnages de Comédie*, 1922, (\$9,375), *Vies Imaginaires*, 1929, one of 120 copies created for members of the French bibliophile group, Le Livre Contemporain (\$8,750), and *Les Chansons de Bilitis*, 1922, (\$8,125). Solo works by Schmied featured *Le Cantique des Cantiques*, 1925, which brought \$12,500. **Sonia Delaunay's** *Ses Peintures, Ses Objects, Ses Tissus Simultanés, Ses Modes*, 1925, a tour de force of Simultaneous Contrast design theory, set a record for the work with \$13,750, and 20 color pochoir plates of butterflies by Emile-Alain Seguy from 1925, realized \$9,100.

Alphonse Mucha's *Ilseé, Princesse de Tripoli*, 1897, brought a record price for a copy of the publication in the original folder at \$13,000. A rich Art Nouveau selection continued with Eugène Grasset's *La Plante et ses applications Ornamentales*, 1895, 72 richly colored and intricately designed plates, that brought \$7,250.

Works from the Cheloniidae Press found buyers with *The Birds and Beasts of Shakespeare*, 1990, which brought \$6,500, a record for the work; and the artist's proof copy of *Tortoises*, 1983, which featured sculptural leather binding evoking a turtle shell and garnered \$5,750.

Additional highlights include *Strickland's Lithographic Drawing of the Ancient Painted Ceiling in the Nave of Peterborough Cathedral* returning to auction after over 30 years (\$1,500), and Richard Diebenkorn's etchings for *Poems* by W.B. Yeats (\$11,050). Records were set by *Diptera: A Book of Flies & Other Insects*, 1983, by Leonard Baskin with \$9,750, *Die Buecher der Chronika der drei Schwestern*, 1900, by Heinrich Lefler and Josef Urban with \$2,250; and *Wiener Mode 1914*, a portfolio of fashion designs by Viennese publication, *Werkstätte*, with \$2,375.

Christine von der Linn, Senior Specialist, noted that, "collectors enthusiastically received this smaller, thoughtfully curated fine books auction. What struck me most was the global participation in this sale, and the growing number of bidders on our recently launched Swann Galleries app, which reflects how people are becoming increasingly comfortable with this type of digital platform and appreciate the convenience it offers."

The next auction of Books at Swann Galleries will be held on March 7 with Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Books. Visit www.swanngalleries.com or download the Swann Galleries app for catalogues, bidding and inquiries.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

[**Lot 169**](#): Georges Rouault, *Cirque de l'Étoile Filante*, with 17 color aquatints and 82 wood engravings, Paris, 1938. Sold for \$35,000.

[**Lot 122**](#): Sonia Delaunay, *Ses Peintures, Ses Objects, Ses Tissus Simultanés, Ses Modes*, with 20 pochoir plates, Paris, 1925. Sold for \$13,750.

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