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## Picasso Lithograph Portrait Reaches \$125,000 at Swann Galleries Original Works by Dalí, Feininger, Klee & Rivera Find Buyers



**New York—Swann Auction Galleries** opened the fall season with a marathon sale of **19th & 20th Century Prints & Drawings**, breaking multiple records and earning more than \$2.6M. The **Tuesday, September 19** auction offered 635 examples of fine and museum-quality works, many of them originals, to a crowded hall of bidders.

The top lot of the sale was a large black-and-white lithograph by Pablo Picasso of Françoise Gilot, titled *Françoise sur fond gris*, 1950, which sold after breakneck bidding to a buyer on the phone for \$125,000. Of the 49 works by the master offered in the sale, 75% found buyers, for a total of \$389,590. Additional highlights included the color linoleum cut *Les Banderilles*, 1959, and the aquatint *Femme au fauteuil II: Dora Maar*, 1939, each of which sold for \$27,500. A run of Madoura ceramics by Picasso also performed well, led by the platter *Mat Owl*, 1955, at \$11,250.

The sale featured a cavalcade of original and unique works by marquee artists, led by *Elephant Spatiaux*, a 1965 watercolor by Salvador Dalí in his signature style, at \$60,000. Lyonel Feininger's atmospheric watercolor *Space*, 1954, reached \$47,500. A portrait in pencil by Diego Rivera of his friend Ralph Stackpole, probably based on an earlier photograph, exceeded its high estimate to sell for \$40,000, while Paul Klee's pencil-and-ink *Durch Poseidon*, 1940, reached \$30,000.



The sale broke several long-standing auction records for works by important artists. Henri Matisse's etching *Jeune femme à la coiffure hollandaise, regardant des poissons*, 1929, exceeded its previous record by nearly \$15,000, selling at Swann for \$22,500. A late cubistic color aquatint and etching by Georges Braque, *Hommage à J.S. Bach*, 1950, more than doubled its previous record at \$11,875. Three records were set for works by Thomas Hart Benton, with additional records achieved for works by Yves Tanguy and Jacques Villon.

Todd Weyman, Director of Prints & Drawings at Swann Galleries, said of the sale, "The market continues to grow for both blue chip and niche works on paper, seen in yesterday's bidding across the board. We are pleased that some of the most unique and important works, such as Picasso's *Françoise sur fond gris* and Feininger's *Space* found new homes with enthusiastic bidders."

Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world's largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world's only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries' two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit [swanngalleries.com](http://swanngalleries.com) for more information.