

Sotheby's

Press release Paris

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Photographs & Important European Collection of Photographs

**SOTHEBY'S ORGANISES TWO EVENTS DEDICATED TO PHOTOGRAPHY
DURING PARIS PHOTO**



**One of the earliest views of Notre-Dame de Paris:
a daguerreotype by Vincent Chevalier**

**Remarkable prints by major names in American photography:
Robert Frank, Richard Avedon, William Klein, Robert Mapplethorpe**

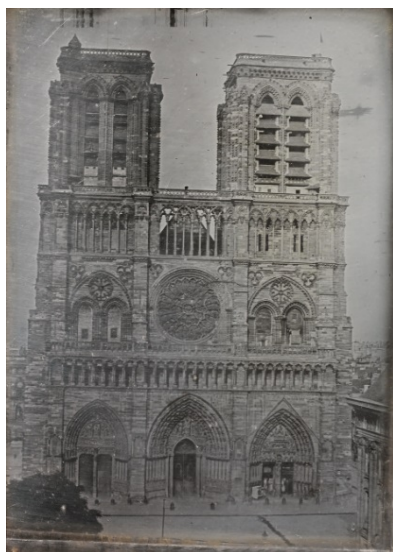
**Exceptional group of photographs by Irving Penn
as the Grand Palais celebrates the centenary of his birth**

Paris, October 2017: On 10 November, during the Paris Photo fair, Sotheby's will offer at auction two exceptional photography sales in Paris.

The first auction will be devoted to a major European collection, with around 100 lots, including several remarkable prints by famous fashion photographer **Irving Penn**, currently featuring in an exhibition at the Grand Palais. The collection also includes iconic works by leading photographers of their times, like **Horst P Horst**, **Robert Mapplethorpe**, **Helmut Newton** and **Araki**. Also worth noting is a splendid selection of American photographs, including by **Ansel Adams**, **Walker Evans**, **Robert Frank** and **William Eggleston**.

The second sale, now a yearly event in Paris every autumn, provides a rich overview of photography from the 19th century to the present day. Sotheby's will be offering some rare 19th century works, where key pieces include **one of the earliest views of Notre-Dame de Paris**, some magnificent shots by **Gustave Le Gray**, and a large selection of contemporary photographs by **Thomas Struth**, **Hiroshi Sugimoto** and **Robert Mapplethorpe**.

19th century photographs for the first time at auction



Sotheby's is proud to be presenting a group of daguerreotypes including a rare illustration of early photography: one of the first known views of the façade of **Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris**, attributed to **Vincent Chevalier (Estimate: €100,000-150,000)**.

This is a remarkable opportunity for collectors of photographs from this period looking for rare items to acquire this daguerreotype, which has remained in the same collection for over twenty years.

There are two other versions of this daguerrotype. One, probably taken during the same day and now in private hands, was listed as a Historic Monument in 1988. The second is now in the Museum of History of Science, Oxford.

Three magnificent prints by **Gustave Le Gray** is also one of the highlights of Sotheby's November sale. They come from an album compiled by a Swedish general during a tour of Europe between 1857 and 1859. These photographs, like this light-filled ***Mer Méditerranée* (Estimate: €30,000-50,000)**, have never seen the light of day, and have come down to us in extraordinary condition.

Irving Penn



Mainly famous for his fashion photographs, **Irving Penn** is represented here in a completely different light with this astonishing still life, ***Frozen Foods*** (Estimate: €70,000-90,000). Here the artist has transformed the frozen blocks of fruit and vegetables into a colourful composition, setting it against a neutral background to create an effect of monumentality. This simultaneously minimalist, colourful layout makes it one of Irving Penn's most spectacular pictures. The sale also includes some striking and almost pictorial photographs, including ***Still Life with Watermelon*** (Estimate: €60,000-80,000) and ***Potatoes and Baltic Herring*** (Estimate: €12,000-18,000).

Another artist well known for his extraordinarily sensible photographs of flowers is **Robert Mapplethorpe**: the sale includes a fine series of flowers, like ***Calla Lily*** (Estimate: €50,000-70,000).

On The Road



Several photographers whose works feature in the two sales crisscrossed the roads of Europe and the US. These long journeys were a pretext for some remarkable photographs.

Robert Frank travelled across America, casting himself as a witness of the *Beat Generation*. With ***Highway 40*** (Estimate: €30,000-50,000), the photographer captures a stage on his long tour through the wet windscreen of a car, in which he was travelling with Jack Kerouac.

Meanwhile, **Richard Avedon** temporarily deserted the fashion world in 1979 to travel across the western states of America. This trip gave rise to the historical series entitled 'In The American West', which includes this picture: ***Danny Lane, fourteen years old, Christine Coil, seventeen years old*** (Estimate: €60,000-80,000). Avedon's genius finds full expression in these portraits, which raised photographs of totally ordinary people to an iconic status.





William Klein drew inspiration from the streets of New York. In 1955, he spent several months taking numerous photos, which he then assembled in his book *Life is Good and Good for You in New York: Trance Witness Revels*. The book ends with an apocalyptic view of the city, ***Atom Bomb Sky*** (Estimate: €30,000- 50,000). This particular print is a unique enlargement, commissioned directly from the artist.

The same streets inspired the German photographer **Thomas Struth** in 1978. When the Kunstakademie awarded him a grant enabling him to live and work in New York, he focused entirely on its streets for six months, taking some extraordinary photographs like ***58th Street/5th Ave. (Grand Army Plaza)***, estimated at €30,000-50,000.



Several works by **Bernd and Hilla Becher** feature in this sale, including these iconic pictures of ***Water Tower Typology*** (Estimate: €90,000-120,000), making their first appearance at public auction. The Bechers marked the history of photography by dedicating their work to industrial building typologies, photographed face on. Dating from 1977 to 1990, this series of six photographs was produced by the couple during their travels in Europe and the USA.

Photographs

Auction in Paris on 10 November at 5:00 p.m.

Exhibition: 4 November and 6 to 9 November

Major European Collection of Photographs

Auction in Paris on 10 November at 7:00 p.m.

Exhibition: 4 November and 6 to 9 November

**Estimates do not include the buyer's premium, and prices consist of the hammer price and the buyer's premium*

