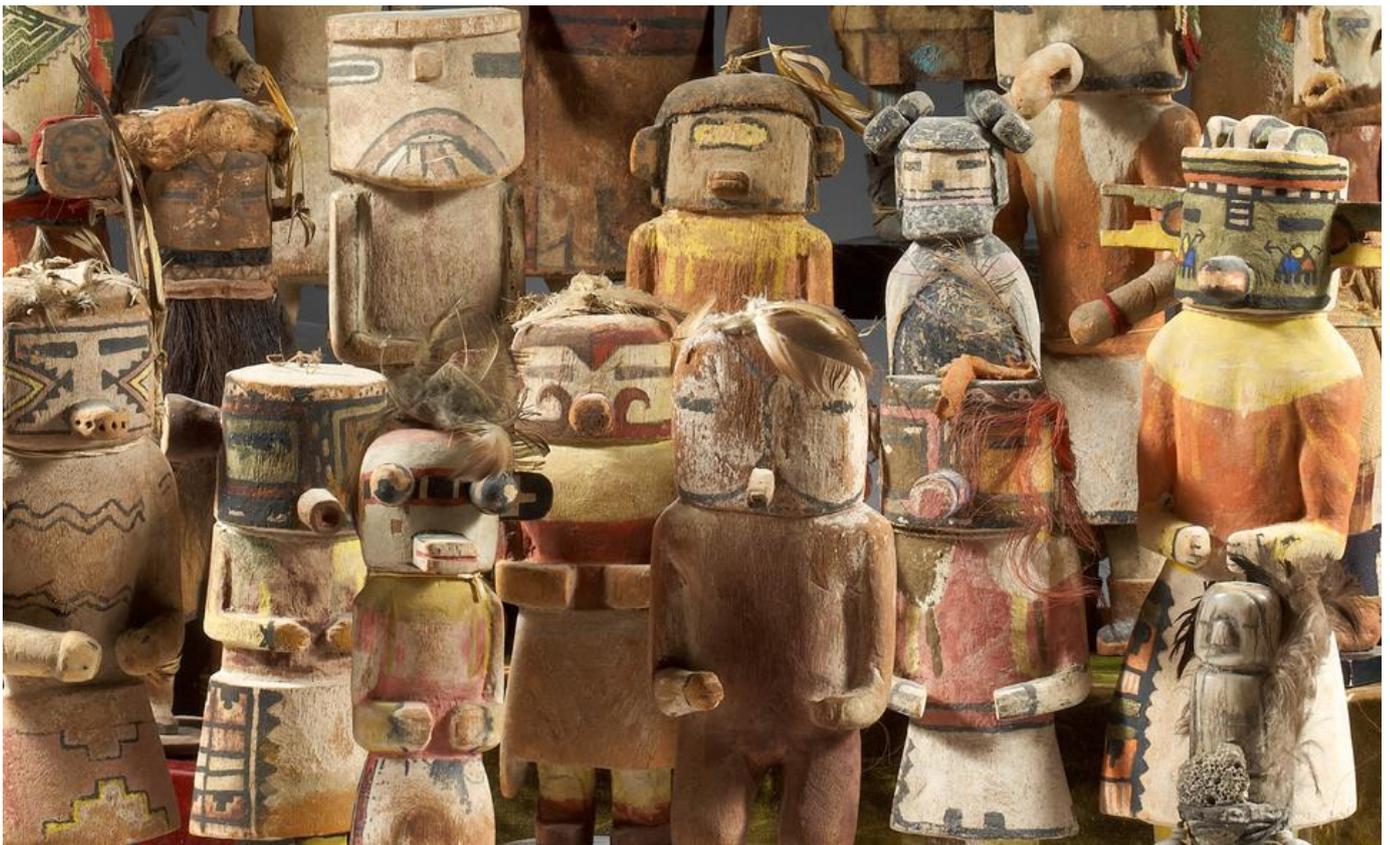


## The Kachinas of the Yves Berger collection

Monday 25 March 2013 at 2:15 - Drouot Richelieu Room 7

Public exhibition at the auction house Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March from 11 AM to 6 PM and on  
the morning of the sale from 11 AM to 12 PM



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# The Kachinas of the Yves Berger collection

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If there was ever a collection connoisseurs have been waiting for decades to see in an auction house, it is Yves Berger's famous Kachina collection.

Nearly 10 years after the death of Yves Berger, a famous French writer and editor (1931-2004), Alain Leroy, who has opened a **Native American and Pre-Columbian arts department** within the **EVE auction house**, will disperse the 19 Kachina dolls of a man whose books spread his passion for the New World and Native American cultures.

A major figure in the French publishing world, Yves Berger was the literary director of **Grasset** from 1960 to 2000. He won the **1962 Prix Fémina** for *Le Sud* and the **1994 Prix Médicis** for *Immobile dans le courant du fleuve*. In 2003 he won the **Prix Renaudot** for non-fiction for his *Dictionnaire amoureux de l'Amérique* (Plon), written in response to anti-Americanism.

**His overwhelming passion for the Native American people** led him to make regular stays in the USA, where he rekindled childhood dreams inspired by Fenimore Cooper and Jack London. This passion also expressed itself through the purchase of over 8000 books and a collection of objects he dispersed at Drouot before his death on 15 April 2002.

*"The Red Indian is not the only component of the American dream. Nature (which I have been seeking out for a long time in Monument Valley, Yosemite or Yellowstone park... the most beautiful in the world), the pioneer adventure, the civilization of the South, the Secession war, the conquest of the West, suffused it with images each more powerful than the other. Nevertheless, the Red Indian is its most flamboyant element"*, Yves Berger wrote in the preface to the sale catalogue.

The collection of Kachina dolls he patiently put together over the course of his many trips was undoubtedly his greatest pride. Along with the Expressionist painter **Emil Nolde**, the Surrealists **Max Ernst** and **André Breton**, and the writer **André Malraux**, **Yves Berger** was among the artists deeply touched by the fragile, naïve and stylized aspect of these objects, so evocative of the poetic world of American Indians.



# The Kachinas of the Yves Berger collection



*KACHINA PAHI ALA (Three horned) Circa 1890 Ht 36 cm  
(Estimation 18.000/25.000€)*



*KACHINA MONGWA (Kachina owl) Circa 1880 Ht 22,5 cm  
(estimation 15.000/18.000€)*



*From left to right :  
SHALAKO MANA, Ht 26.5cm (estimation 6.000/8.000€)  
SIO HEMIS (Zuni), Ht 31cm (estimation 6.000/8.000€)  
MUZRIBI BEAN, Ht 21cm (4.000/6.000€)*



*PROUD KACHINA Circa 1890 Ht 25 cm  
(estimation 12.000/15.000€)*