

# Sotheby's

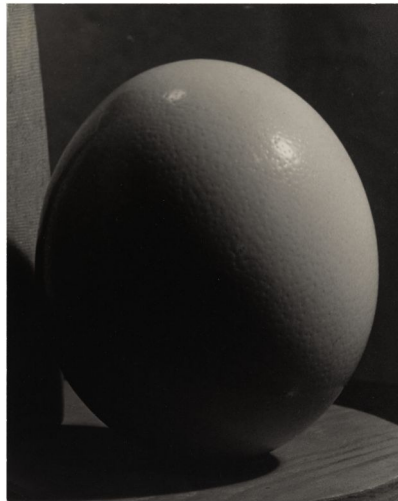
Press release Paris

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# Man Ray

**Sotheby's Paris To Present The Largest and Most  
Important Sale of Works by Man Ray in 20 Years,  
directly from The Artist's Estate**



**Auction To Include Photographs, Paintings, Drawings, Objects,  
Films and Jewellery**

**Paris, September 8, 2014** – Sotheby's is honoured to announce the sale of 400 works presented in nearly 300 lots by Dada and Surrealist icon Man Ray on November 15 in Paris. The collection, property of the Man Ray Trust, includes works in all media: Photographs, Paintings,

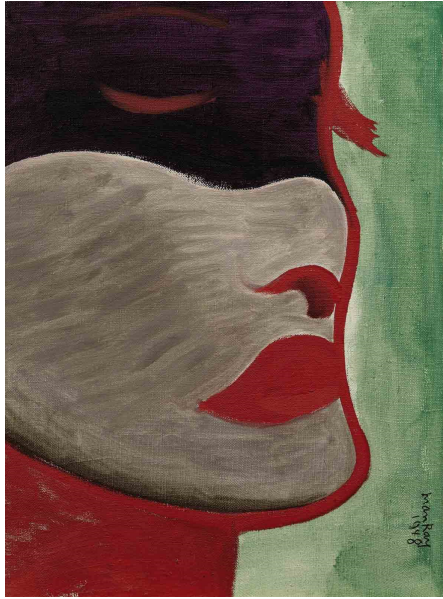
Drawings, Objects, Jewellery, Chess and Film. This will be the very last opportunity to acquire works by Man Ray coming directly from the studio of the artist, the artist's estate. Following the first sale of works by Man Ray, coming from the studio of the artist held at Sotheby's London in 1995\*, the auction will be the largest and most important sale of works by the ground-breaking artist in nearly 20 years.

As observed by Andrew Strauss\*, Vice-president of Sotheby's France and leading authority on Man Ray: *"Today's auction presents a selection of the remaining significant works from the artist's estate, many of which have never been seen previously. This is likely the very last estate of a Dada or Surrealist artist to come directly to auction, nearly 40 years after the Man Ray's death. The extraordinary diversity of subjects and innovative concepts expressed by experimentation and his skilful mastery of techniques reveals how Man Ray truly was a multi-media artist"*.

Simone Klein, Head of Sotheby's European Photographs Department commented: *"The photographs from the Man Ray collection are like a time-capsule, reflecting the era and the creativity of one of the most prolific artists of the twentieth century. This incredibly varied ensemble groups together vintage prints of some of Man Ray's most emblematic images as well as some of his least known works, ranging from Surrealist compositions to portraits of contemporary personalities, also including hitherto unseen landscapes of France and the United States. This sale will be a unique opportunity to acquire photographs with attractive estimates and the most perfect provenance: coming from the artist himself"*.

At the core of the sale is a group of over 191 lots of vintage photographs ranging from portraiture and fashion photography, including solarisation and gauze effects, to Surrealist compositions and iconic Man Ray photographs such as *Magnolia Flower* (1926), *Starfish* (1928), *Ostrich Egg* (1944) and *Mathematical Object* (1934).





Renowned for his superb photographic portraits of the key artists, composers and writers of 1920's and 1930's Paris, the auction offers portraits of Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Juan Gris, Jean Cocteau, Francis Picabia, André Derain, Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miró, Erik Satie, Paul Eluard, Henry Miller in addition to a rich offering of self-portraits, many previously unpublished. A significant number of these portraits were featured in last year's exhibition *Man Ray Portraits*, held at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The sale also includes portraits of his muses: Kiki de Montparnasse, Lee Miller, Ady Fidelin and many of his wife Juliet (photographs, drawings and a painting). Also featured are portraits of stars of stage and screen, including: Ava Garner, Paulette Goddard, Leslie Caron, Juliette Gréco, Yves Montand and Catherine Deneuve.

Among the paintings to be sold is an arresting portrait of Juliet, *Purple Mask* (1948) and *Much Ado about Nothing* (1949), from Man Ray's series of *Shakespearean Equations*.



A number of intriguing Surrealist objects are being offered, including Man Ray's legendary irrational and humorous object *Ce que manque à nous tous*, comprising a clay pipe with a glass bubble.

Also included are a number of items of Jewellery including a gold brooch of the lips of Lee Miller, inspired by the artist's celebrated painting *Observatory Time (A l'heure de l'observatoire – les amoureux)* (1932-34) and Man Ray's earrings in the form of unravelled lampshades, identical to those worn by Catherine Deneuve in Man Ray's



photograph for the cover page of *The Observer Magazine* (1975), a variant of this photograph of which is also included in the sale.

The game of Chess provided tremendous inspiration to the artist throughout his career, and the sale includes two chess sets, a large scale *Chess Painting* and numerous photographs of his chess sets and designs.

### **The Man Ray Trust**

The Man Ray Trust was formed by Juliet Man Ray (1911-1991), widow of the artist, for her benefit and later for her heirs and their descendants. The Trust's collection of works by Man Ray comes directly from the Estate of the artist.

Upon the demise of Juliet Man Ray, a significant number of works by Man Ray, including the artist's photographic archives, were donated to the French Government in lieu of taxes (*Dation*). This important collection is now housed at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

\* Andrew Strauss is co-author of the catalogue raisonné of the Man Ray's paintings and leading authority on the artist

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### **Images are available upon request**

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