

PRESS RELEASE
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COLLECTION OF 125 PHOTOS BY ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ FOR PARIS PHOTO MONTH AT ARTCURIAL

- SALE 14 NOVEMBER 2014 -



André Kertész, *Gipsy children kissing, Esztergom*, 27 June 1917, silver print, 24,6 x 19,6 cm (estimate 1 000 – 2 000 € / 1 300 – 2 600 \$)



André Kertész, *Jardins des Tuileries*, 1927, silver print, 24,2 x 17,6 cm (estimate 2 000 – 3 000 € / 2 600 – 3 900 \$)



André Kertész, *Washington Square, New York*, 5 November 1961, silver print, 24 x 19,1 cm (estimate 1 000 – 2 000 € / 1 300 – 2 600 \$)

« Each time Kertész's shutter clicks, I feel my heart beating »

Henry Cartier-Bresson

Paris – To mark Paris Photo month, Artcurial will present its second *Photography* sale. Following the inaugural sale in May 2013 that offered a range of photography from the 20th and 21st centuries, this second auction is set to attract a crowd of exacting, international collectors.

On 14 November 2014 Artcurial will sell a collection of some 125 photographs by André Kertész. This exceptional group of work, assembled by a close relation of the artist, has remained in private hands until now. It retraces the creative journey taken by d'André Kertész : from Hungary, his country of birth, through Paris where he was one of the key figures in avant-garde photography, to New York where he lived for nearly fifty years. Part of this collection was shown fifteen years ago in a solo exhibition of the photographer's work at the Jacquemart-André museum in Paris.

One of the first to exploit the freedom offered by the Leica camera from 1928 onwards, André Kertész created numerous images throughout his career that became iconic. These poetic documents reveal a sensitive relationship with the subject. Kertész's work shows us the sweetness of life, the free and childlike enjoyment of his view, sometimes with a hint of irony, in which he always sees himself as 'an amateur', despite being the spiritual father of many great photographers including Brassai and Henri Cartier-Bresson, and being one of the founders of modern photography.

The selection offered in the sale covers the three key periods of his work :

- Hungary, Budapest : 1894-1925
- France, Paris : 1925-1936
- The United States, New York : 1936-1985

HUNGARY, BUDAPEST (1894 – 1925)

From a middle-class family from Budapest, André Kertész bought his first camera in 1913, at the age of 19 years. He made his first reportages in 1917 when he was in the Austro-Hungarian army, taking photos that documented military life. He first achieved recognition by winning a competition organised by a Hungarian magazine. His work soon gained recognition : in 1919, André Kertész's images were used to illustrate an article defending the status of photography as art in the magazine *L'Art vivant*.



André Kertész, *La partie de cartes*

30 mars 1915

Silver print on cartoline

19 x 24,6 cm

Estimate : 1 000 – 1 500 € / 1 300 – 2 000 \$



André Kertész, *Hungarian village, Budafok*

1919

Silver print on cartoline

18,2 x 24,5 cm

Estimate : 1 500 – 2 500 € / 2 000 – 3 300 \$

FRANCE, PARIS (1925 – 1936)

At the end of the First World War, André Kertész knew he wanted to make his living as a photographer. He arrived in Paris in 1923, and soon became part of the artistic scene. He mixed with the key Parisian personalities : Marc Chagall, Colette, Piet Mondrian... The young photographer offered his services to various magazines, notably *Bifur* and *VU*. He was the first photographer to have a one-man show at the *Sacre du printemps* in 1927.



André Kertész, *Chez Mondrian*

Silver print on cartoline

24,8 x 18,8 cm

Estimate : 5 000 – 7 000 € / 6 500 – 9 000 \$



André Kertész, *Café du Dôme, winter morning, Paris* 1928

Silver print on glossy single layer

16,3 x 24 cm

Estimate : 1 000 – 2 000 € / 1 300 – 2 600 \$

UNITED STATES, NEW YORK (1936-1985)

Although he exhibited in New York, at the Julien Levy gallery, in 1932, he didn't move to America until 1936. He had only planned to stay for a project for Keystone, but with the Second World War looming, he decided to stay in the United States. He collaborated with many well-known American names, however his artistic intransigence prevented him from working with certain publications. André Kertész fell ill in 1963 and decided to break his contract with Condé Nast publications. He was then free to work as he wanted and dedicate himself to his art. International recognition came quickly and he was the subject of a solo show at MoMA in 1964. He died in 1985.



André Kertész, *The two friends, New York*
22 February 1966
Silver print on cartoline
22,6 x 19,4 cm
Estimate : 1 500 – 2 500 € / 2 000 – 3 300 \$



André Kertész, *Building in New York*
Silver print on cartoline
20,5 x 16,5 cm
Estimate : 1 500 – 2 500 € / 2 000 – 3 300 \$

High-resolution images available on request
Catalogues available online at www.artcurial.com

About Artcurial – Founded in 2002, Artcurial confirmed its position as the leading French auction house in 2013 with 123 sales organised across 20 specialist departments. In 2013 the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 178.1-million euros, representing an increase of 24% on 2012, and notably achieved the third highest auction price of the year in France with the sculpture *La Rivière*, by Aristide Maillol, that sold for over 6.1-million euros. It has also confirmed its position as market leader for Comic Strips in Europe, Collectors' Cars in continental Europe, jewellery and watches in France and Monaco and Old Master Paintings in Paris. In 2014 Artcurial has continued its development and strengthened 20th Century fields with the new Photography, Limited Editions and Tribal Art departments. With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Milan and Brussels, and travelling exhibitions in the United States and Asia.

From its earliest days, Artcurial has been able to offer a wonderful selection of photographs, obtaining significant prices in this field, including :

- **The album of Gustave Le Gray, *Souvenirs du camp de Châlons au Lt d'Eggs*, 1857** (comprising 62 albumen prints mounted on card), in November 2007, for **696 730 €**, **triple world record**
- ***Le Baiser de l'Hôtel de Ville*, by Robert Doisneau**, in April 2005, for **184 000 €**
- **The Daniel and Florence Guerlain Collection**, in October 2009, for **508 499 €**

This strengthened Photography department is resolved to gain the immediate recognition of both French and international collectors. With this objective, Artcurial will draw on the expertise of two key figures in the market :



Christophe Lunn is the co-founder of the Photo Vivienne gallery, specialising in both old and new photographs. He also contributes to l'Œil de la Photographie and is a member of the *Syndicat des professionnels de la photographie ancienne*. Christophe Lunn became involved in this field from a very young age, as his father, Harry H. Lunn Jr., was a renowned US photographic art dealer who played a major part in creating the market for photographic prints and in building some of the largest private and public collections of fine art photographs.

Arnaud Adida began his career in Paris before moving to the United States for six years to work for photographic press agencies. He then returned to Paris to run Corbis-Outline, the portrait department of the agency Corbis. At the same time, Arnaud Adida set up his first gallery, Acte2, leaving it in 2008 to create a new space dedicated to contemporary photography : « A.Galerie ». Throughout his career, Arnaud has worked with such distinguished photographers as Mark Seliger, Nick Brandt and Peter Lindbergh.

Sale date :

Friday 14 November 2014 at 20.00

Viewing dates :

From Tuesday 12 November 2014

To Friday 14 November 2014

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