

ARTCURIAL

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Fondation Jardin Majorelle



ES SAADI
GARDENS & RESORT
MARRAKECH

PRESS RELEASE
10.09.2015

« A MOROCCAN PASSION » PIERRE BERGÉ - YVES SAINT LAURENT

SALE IN AID OF THE JARDIN MAJORELLE FOUNDATION

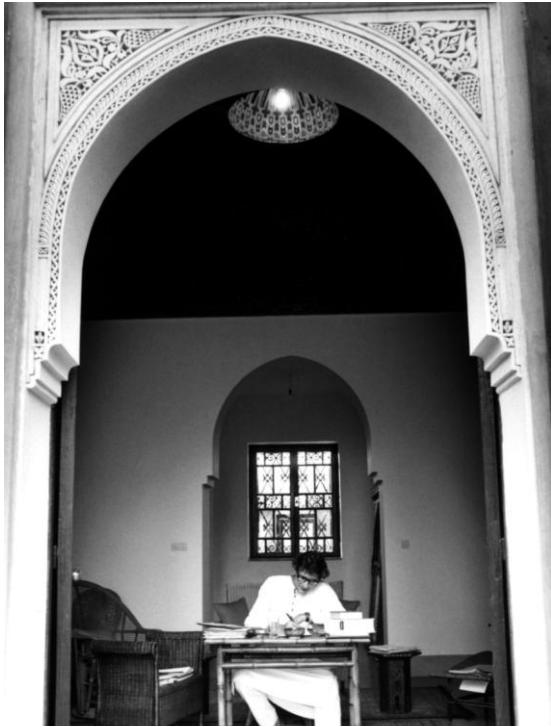
- 31 OCTOBER 2015, AT THE PALACE ES SAADI IN MARRAKECH -



Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent at the garden entrance © Didier Fèvre

Marrakech – Artcurial will be selling the Islamic art collection of Pierre Bergé - Yves Saint Laurent, on 31 October in the salons of the Palace Es Saadi in Marrakech. The sale « A Moroccan Passion » will be held in aid of the Jardin Majorelle Foundation.

« As soon as we arrived in Morocco, both Yves Saint Laurent and I were fascinated by Islamic art and so decided to collect it. (...) The Jardin Majorelle Foundation, which I chair, will be selling all these carefully chosen pieces. The proceeds from this sale will enable us to continue improving the garden and to welcome, in the best possible fashion, the numerous visitors which last year amounted to almost 800,000. They will also help finance the Yves Saint Laurent museum that will open in 2017, in the new cultural centre near the garden and to pursue the various cultural, educational and social activities that the Jardin Majorelle Foundation has been supporting in Morocco since its creation in 2011 » explained Pierre Bergé in the preface to the sale catalogue.



Yves Saint Laurent in his house in Marrakech
© Pierre Boulat

The collection will bring together almost 180 items of Moroccan art – **weapons, embroidery, cloth, ceramics, jewellery, carpets, architectural components** – which were exhibited in the **Jardin Majorelle Museum**, before its focus turned exclusively to Berber art during its renovation in 2011. The sale will also include all the furniture by **Bill Willis**, star architect of the Marrakech jet set, designed for the museum by Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent. The couple will add more than 50 pieces of furniture and paintings from their own personal collection to the 180 lots from the museum.

«As well as being a great tribute to Morocco, this sale is, significantly, a perfect combination of beautiful things, with legendary provenance, and a wise and generous use of the proceeds. We couldn't have wished for more from our first sale in Morocco.» **said François Tajan, Artcurial Co-Chairman and auctioneer.**

«We are pleased to organise this first Moroccan sale in the Palace Es Saadi, run by Elisabeth Bauchet-Bouhlal, artist and woman of letters, and the person behind numerous cultural events. The forty or so Orientalist works and the twenty pieces of furniture from the personal collection of Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent, to be added to the museum pieces, reveal not only something of their keen and avant-garde tastes but also their passion for Morocco, which so inspired the fashion designer.» **added Olivier Berman, Associate Director of Artcurial, in charge of the Orientalist department.**

Artcurial's sale in Morocco will take place at the same time as an exhibition of works from the African Spirit collection, which will be auctioned on 9 November 2015 in Paris.

THE COLLECTION

The collection reflects the personal taste of Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent for Islamic art and Oriental civilisation. Across all departments, the chosen pieces have been carefully selected and, with estimates of 300 to 30 000 €, should appeal to a great many amateurs.

All the **museum furniture, created by the designer architect Bill Willis**, will also be auctioned. This aesthete, fascinated by Islamic art and the Spanish Moorish style, who inspired bohemian chic in the late 60s, designed windows, libraries and decorative elements for museums. These will appear in the auction catalogue. Similarly, some fifty pieces of furniture and paintings from the personal collection of Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent will also be sold.



Pair of armchairs in natural wood and plaited rope, Francis Jourdain, 20th century (estimate : 1 500 – 2 000 €), Chest-high bamboo cabinet, 20th century (estimate : 1 000 – 1 500 €).



From left to right : Zlafa bowl on pedestal, Fez, 17th century (estimate : 2 000 – 3 000 €) ; Mokhfa dish, Fez, 18th century (estimate : 3 000 – 4 000 €) ; Betta dezzit oil bottle, Fez, late 18th/early 19th century (estimate : 2 000 – 3 000 €) ; Jobbana pot with lid, Fez, 18th century (estimate : 3 000 – 4 000 €)

A particularly interesting set of ceramics includes some very rare, 17th and 18th century pieces from Fez, such as this conical mokhfa dish, Fez, late 17th century, used for serving couscous (estimate 5 000 – 6 000 €). Dating from the 19th century, also from Fez, is a pair of fine ceramic khabia jars with lids, for keeping preserved meats, estimated at 5 000 – 7 000 €.

Wooden and architectural components which were part of the decor of the Jardin Majorelle Museum, will also be much in demand. Among them is an exceptional 17th century double door from a mosque, estimated at 20 000 – 30 000 €.

Among the embroidery and cloth, about twenty belts from Fez, more than 2 metres long and made from silk lampas and gold thread, are estimated between 700 and 4 000 € ; a realistic price for a belt dating from the late 17th century.



Mokhfa dish, Fez, early 18th century (estimate : 5 000 – 7 000 €)

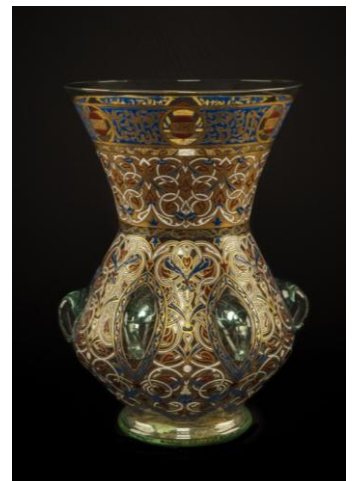
Jewellery from India, Turkestan, Tibet and Morocco will feature in the collection. Among them, a gold bird tiara, set with diamonds and emeralds (Fez 20th century), estimated at 8 000 – 10 000 €.

Several manuscripts complete this collection, including a Koran, an incomplete manuscript of 27 pages on paper dating from the 14th/15th centuries, estimated at 6 000 – 8 000 €.

Among the glassware, a mosque lamp, Austrian School, Lobmeyer, late 19th century, worth between 8 000 and 10 000 €.



Large doorway from a mosque or medersa, composed of two wooden doors, Marrakech, early 17th century (estimate : 20 000 – 30 000 €)



From left to right : Tâj Bird tiara, Fez, 20th century, gold, precious and synthetic stones (estimate : 8 000 – 10 000 €) ; Mosque lamp in enameled glass, Austrian school, Lobmeyer, late 19th century (estimate : 8 000 – 10 000 €)



Koran, Morocco, 14 – 15th century (estimate : 6 000 – 8 000 €)



From left to right : Woman's hzâm belt, Fez, early 19th century (estimate : 700 – 800 €) ; Woman's hzâm belt, Fez, late 17th/early 18th century (estimate : 3 000 – 4 000 €); Woman's hzâm / belt, Fez, early 19th century (estimate : 700 – 800 €).

ABOUT THE JARDIN MAJORELLE FOUNDATION

The Jardin Majorelle Foundation, a state approved association under Moroccan law, uses its own resources to maintain the up-keep and smooth running of the garden. All profits are fully reinvested in Morocco to finance cultural, educational and social activities. They also enabled the opening of the Berber Museum in December 2011 and will go towards funding the inauguration of a new cultural centre, close to the garden, in 2017.

In 1980 Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé bought the Jardin Majorelle to save it from being turned into a hotel complex which would have resulted in its complete disappearance.

The French painter Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962), based in Marrakech in 1919, had a villa built for him in 1922, later bought and renamed Villa Oasis by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé, as well as an art deco style workshop which now houses the Berber Museum.

Passionate about botany, the artist had created a garden around his workshop made up of exotic plants and rare species. In 1937 he developed an intense, clear ultramarine blue, Majorelle blue. He used this to paint the walls of his workshop and then the entire garden which he opened to the public in 1947. Following his death in 1962 the garden was left to ruin until saved by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé. After the death of Yves Saint Laurent in 2008, Pierre Bergé decided to donate the Jardin Majorelle to the Pierre Bergé –Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, Paris.

The Jardin Majorelle, which currently employs 90 people, receives 768,000 visitors including 136,000 for the Berber Museum.



Berber Museum in the Jardin Majorelle, former workshop of Jacques Majorelle Fondation © Jardin Majorelle

High-resolution images available on request
Catalogue available online at www.artcurial.com
Estimates in dollars provided as a guide

About Artcurial – Founded in 2002, Artcurial confirmed its position as the leading French auction house in 2014. It covers all the major specialist fields, from the Fine and Decorative Arts to Collectibles. With two sale venues (Paris and Monte-Carlo), the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 192 M€ in 2014, representing an increase of 50% in 3 years. It has 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. With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Milan, Vienna and Brussels, representatives in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and twice-yearly exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial will hold its first sale in Hong Kong.

Sale date :

Saturday 31 October 2015 at 18h00

PALACE ES SAADI
Rue Ibrahim El Mazini
Hivernage
Marrakech - Maroc

Viewing dates :

Marrakech

From Thursday 29 October 2015
To Saturday 31 October 2015

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