

Rare Pair Of Edouard Cortès Paintings Surface And Sell

NEW YORK CITY — Rehs Galleries, a New York gallery specializing in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century works of art, said it has discovered and sold a rare pair of paintings by Edouard Cortès.

Born in Lagny, France, on August 6, 1882, into a family of artists, Cortès followed the family tradition and started training with his father at an early age. In 1899, at the age of 16, he made his debut at the Paris Salon with "Le Labour," a painting that clearly owed a debt to both Realist and Naturalist painters as well as his father and brother. The work's acceptance by the Salon jury signaled that the artist showed great promise. The critics agreed. Le Figaro proclaimed: "His style and his color have greatly impressed the jury. Young Cortès did, of course, attend a good school: we all know what a talented artist his father is." The newspaper Le Matin commented that Cortès was "A little chap, only so high, who by rights should still be wearing out the seat of his trousers on his school bench, but who, nonetheless, with his light touch, has already entered canvases for the Salon..." Over the next few years, the young painter continued to study with his father, living with his parents in Lagny and sending several paintings each year for consideration by the Salon jury.

Throughout his career, Cortès participated in numerous Paris Salon exhibitions, as well as exhibitions in Lagny,



Edouard Léon Cortès (French, 1882-1969), "Moulin Rouge," oil on canvas, 15 by 24 inches.

Toulouse, Bordeaux, Dijon, Le Havre, Douai, Troyes, Calais, Caen and Nevers. By the 1920s the artist's works achieved international recognition and were included in group and solo shows throughout the world, with his first international solo show in 1928 at the T. Eaton Galleries, Montreal, Canada.

In 1956, Samuel E. Johnson (Johnson Galleries, Chicago), traveled to France and met with Cortès. In a letter dated August 20, 1956, Johnson offered the artist a solo show; however, he was forced to decline the offer due to other commitments. By 1957, the artist began sending paintings to Johnson on a regular basis and among some of the earlier works he received were a pair of 15-by-24-inch canvases depicting the Moulin Rouge and Avenue de l'Opera.

While "Avenue de l'Opera" is a more common scene for Cortès, depictions of the Moulin Rouge are extremely rare — only a handful are known to exist. Howard Rehs commented that "over the years our gallery has bought and sold hundreds of paintings by Cortès. During that time, we have seen approximately five paintings featuring the Moulin Rouge — two of which were studies. This is the first painting of that location that the gallery has handled. In addition, the artist's typical sizes were 13 by 18 inches and 18 by 21 inches, these are the only 15-by-24-inch works we have seen."

The pair of paintings came from a private collection and were originally purchased from the Johnson Gallery in the late 1950s. This is the first time in more than 60 years



Edouard Léon Cortès (French, 1882-1969), "Avenue de l'Opera," oil on canvas, 15 by 24 inches.

that they have been on the market. Rehs also noted, "You never know what you will find when you open up an email, and to find these fresh-to-the-market works is an art dealer's dream. Also, knowing that they have not been touched since they were painted, usually ensures that their condition is as close to perfect as possible. All they needed was a light cleaning and new frames." Rehs went on to point out that "we did not even have an opportunity to exhibit the works. We sent an email to one of our important collec-

tors and they were sold!"

For additional information, www.rehs.com or 212-355-5710.

Westport Auction Moves Into Expanded Storefront

NORWALK, CONN. — One small step for an auction house, one giant leap in square footage. Owners Travis and Kate Worrell are breathing easier as their firm, Westport Auction, moved into a new 8,000-square-foot location on Route 1 in Norwalk.

The new venue will offer a comfortable and expanded location for Westport Auction's monthly sales, in addition to a retail design gallery of antiques, furniture, fine art and objects available for immediate purchase.

Westport Auction celebrated with a grand reopening party on Saturday, June 29, complete with food, wine and music. Harry Rilling, the mayor of Norwalk, was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The grand reopening of our new location is another major milestone in the history of Westport Auction," said auctioneer and owner Travis



Worrell. "The ability to provide more auction merchandise as well as retail merchandise all in one location is what we have been working toward for the last few years."

The firm's previous location was a 2,400-square-foot store-

front located about a mile away in Saugatuck near the Metro-North station.

Westport Auction's new home is at 250 Westport Avenue. For further information, www.westportauction.com or 203-222-3448.

Learn To Paint With Wax At Woodlawn July 20

ELLSWORTH, MAINE — Carol Michaud will teach students how to paint with melted wax during a workshop titled Encaustic Painting Techniques. The workshop will be held on Saturday, July 20, from 10 am to 4 pm, in Woodlawn Museum, Garden and Park's Sleigh Barn. The cost is \$85 for Woodlawn members and \$95 for nonmem-

bers. In addition, students will learn coloring, incising, embellishing and high-lighting. Wax, oil sticks, brushes and tools and a selection of animals from fables and embellishments will be provided by the instructor. Students will work at their own pace and comfort zone and are encouraged to bring a bag lunch.

overlap. (Usually the end product may have 5-20 layers of wax and other media.) The Greek word "Enkaicn" means "to burn in." The medium can be polished to a high gloss, curved, scraped, layered, collaged, dipped, cast, modeled, sculpted, textured and combined with oil paints. No solvents are involved, and the wax is considered archival.

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