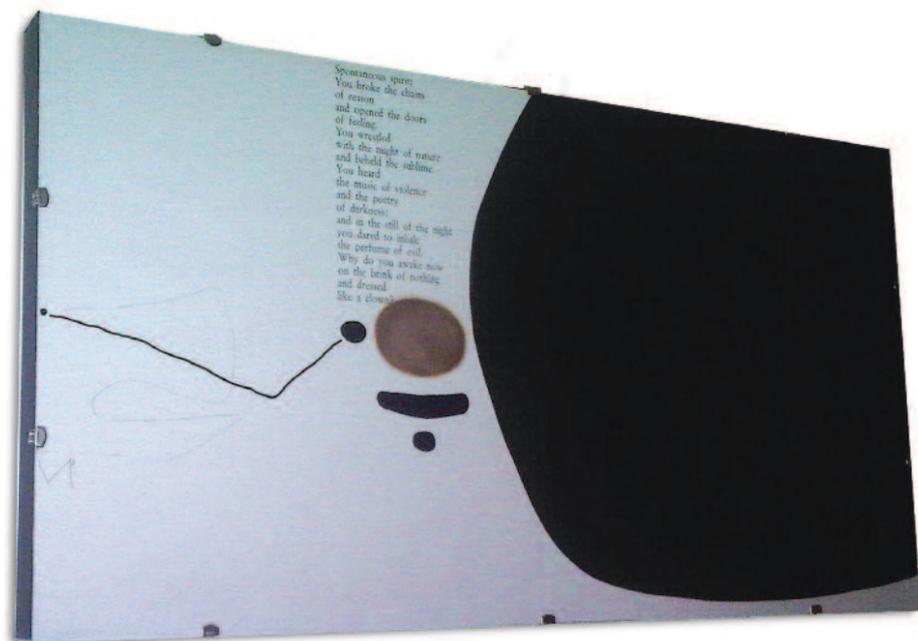


Auction



A watercolour painting of the Grand Harbour by John Schranz.



A limited edition print by Victor Pasmore.

Old Master paintings under the hammer

Duncan Barry

Old Master paintings are among the items that will go under the hammer later this month.

A spokesman for Pierre Grech Pillow of Obelisk Auctions said among the works that would go on sale are two watercolours of the Grand Harbour by John Schranz, apart from works by Victor Pasmore, drawings by Antoine Camilleri, Pawl Car-

bonaro, Luciano Micallef, Anton Agius, Mario Caffaro Rore, Giacomo de Pass, E. Frimmel, Lazzaro Pisani, Bryan Organ and Kenneth Holmes.

A Bryan Organ painting (b.1935), *Maltese Boats in the Grand Harbour*, signed bottom right, oil on canvas, will also go under the hammer.

This painting was purchased by then Prime Minister George Borg Olivier while in London in the 1960s.



The oil on canvas Bryan Organ painting, purchased by then Prime Minister George Borg Olivier while in London during the 1960s, will also go under the hammer.

Vintage photographs on sale in Brussels

As shots of Marilyn Monroe by glam snapper Richard Avedon go on sale for tens of thousands of euros at Paris' annual photo show, a collection of lesser cash but greater historical value goes under the hammer in Brussels.

In what is billed as the first auction yet held of African photography, some 300 lots of pictures spanning more than a century are up for sale today for an estimated €340,000.

From dusty World War II battlefields in Libya, to a 1935 snap of Ethiopia's royal Negus, and shots from the 1950s of Miriam Makeba or Nelson Mandela laughing during his treason trial, the pictures freeze people and places right across the continent. Alongside dog-eared snaps dredged from dusty drawers are poster-sized contemporary works datelined from the North African countries of the Maghreb to the southern Cape of Good Hope.

"These are the beginnings of a recognition of African photography," Freddy Denaes, head of the prestigious *Editions de L'Oeil* art-book publishers and a collector of art photography, said.

"It's a very good thing for African photographers to be able at last to see how their work is valued by the market," he added.

Among works up for auction by Pierre Berge, former partner of the

late Yves Saint-Laurent, are some by the continent's most celebrated snappers - Malians Malick Sidibe and Seydou Keita, South Africans David Goldblatt, Nontsikelelo "Lolo" Veleko and Jurgen Schadeberg, and Mozambique's Ricardo Rangel.

Early works by Sidibe, now in his 70s, show picnics on the banks of the sweeping Niger, lovers, boxers and studio snaps.

"There are few photographs of the countryside, of nature," said Vincent Godeau, a specialist on the topic who gathered the pictures up for auction. "African photographers, on the other hand, love to do portraits."

A bunch of yellowing studio snaps, featuring children, couples and families all turned out in Sunday best, is the most highly-priced item for sale - an assortment of 14 smallish snapshots pinned on a board with coloured drawing-pins going for €15,000.

The vintage photos are by Central African Samuel Fosso and were originally stuck on the door of his first studio, opened as a teenager in the 1970s.

One of Africa's most celebrated portrait photographers, Sudan's Al Rashid Mahdi, who died two years ago in his late 80s, worked much like Avedon and other celebrity photographers when he began shooting in the 1950s. (AFP)



A woman looking at pictures, part of 300 lots of African photography, a day before the vintage photographs go under the hammer in Brussels. Photo: AFP