

CHRISTIE'S

THE MATTHYS-COLLE COLLECTION

ON PREVIEW IN BRUSSELS DURING GALLERY WEEKEND
OFFERED DURING AUTUMN 2019



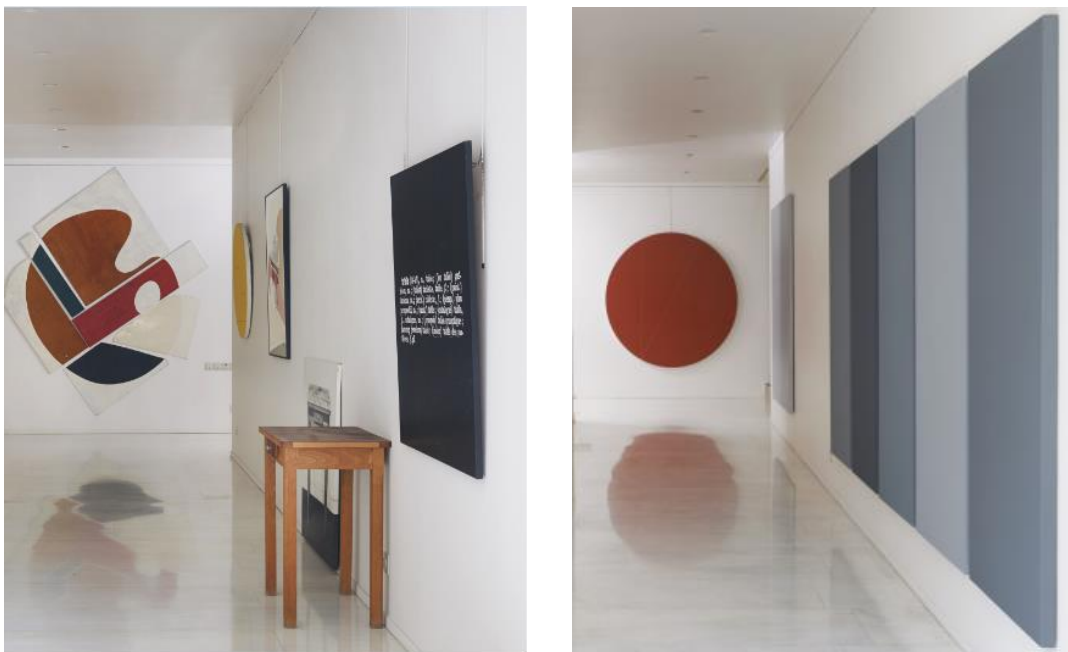
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Brussels - The renowned Belgian Collection of Post-War and Contemporary art compiled by Roger and Hilda Matthys-Colle will be sold at Christie's this Autumn. A total of 41 works will be offered in a series of auctions across three sale rooms: 4 and 5 October in London, followed by Amsterdam on 25 and 26 November, and finally Paris on 4 and 5 December. 36 out of the 41 works will be part of a public preview exhibition during Brussels Gallery Weekend, taking place on 6-7 September at the Huberty & Breyne Gallery in Brussels. Many of these works have yet to be discovered by the public, with limited loans to exhibitions having been made in the past.

When Hilda and Roger were first married, their house was already filled with works of art, as both came from families with an art collecting background, while Roger's father was a picture framer and many artists paid for his services with their works.

In 1957 Roger co-founded the Friends of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent, whose acquisitions would later form the basis of the Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.). The Friends transformed the Belgian cultural scene, championing living artists, many of whom were not receiving attention from the more established institutions or from the public at that time.

In 1959 Roger bought his first painting, a work by Jan Burssens and this was the moment their personal dedication and passion for collecting truly began. Through the *Jeune Peinture Belge* movement the couple was introduced to abstract art and bought their first Karel Appel. Shortly after came acquisitions of Arte Povera, Nouveau Réalisme, Surrealism, Abstract Art, Conceptualism, Pop Art as well as some monumental sculptures, and within a short period of time an international collection reflecting the newest movements of the day was established. Their home, designed around their collection by talented architect Ivan van Mosselvelde, became a living museum, while they befriended many artists who visited on a regular basis. On one of these very early visits, at the time their house was still under construction, Sol LeWitt created an in-situ wall drawing.



All images: The Interior of the Matthys-Colle home, built by Ivan van Mosselvelde

The selection for sale at Christie's is highlighted with two works by **Robert Mangold**, *Triangle Within a Circle* dating from 1974, and acquired that year by the Matthys-Colle in New York (estimate: £350,000-450,000, London 4 October auction – illustrated above right) and *Four Squares Within a Circle* from 1974, bought the following year in Brussels (estimate: £120,000-180,000, London 4 October auction – illustrated above on the left). Both works are to be found in the catalogue raisonné for the artist, which was edited in 1982.

The interior view of the house on the first page of this announcement illustrates in the foreground **Carl Andre's Copper-Steel Alloy Square**, realised in 1969 and which entered the Matthys-Colle Collection in

1971 purchased from a gallery in Antwerp (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000, London 4 October auction). From the background of the picture shines **Dan Flavin's** pink fluorescent light installation *The Diagonal of May 25 1963*, one from an edition of 3. Number one was bought by Matthys-Colle in 1972 from a gallery in Munich (estimate: £500,000-700,000, London 4 October auction). The third work shown is by **Haim Steinbach** *Delightfully Reproduced*, a wood shelf, ceramic vases and wave machine installation from 1986 (estimate: £18,000-25,0000, London 5 October auction).

Tony Cragg confirmed in a letter dated 11.8.88 to the Matthys-Colle that he executed the work *Palette* - to be seen on the above left interior picture - in 1983 in Wuppertal, and which entered the Matthys-Colle Collection in 1984 (estimate €18,000-25,000, Amsterdam 25 November auction).

"With visionary insights Roger and Hilde Matthys-Colle dared to look beyond the boundaries of cultural conventions in Post War Flanders. Although collecting has always been strongly rooted in Belgian culture, their open mindedness and international outlook makes the Matthys-Colle Collection one of the trailblazers for the Belgian art environment. They didn't restrict themselves to any stylistic movement, the only criterion was quality." explained Peter van der Graaf, Senior Specialist Post War and Contemporary Art, based in the Christie's Brussels office.

Exhibition

Brussels: 6 and 7 September
Galerie Huberty & Breyne – 33 Place du Chatelain – 1050 Brussels

Auctions

London:	4 and 5 October 2019	Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and day sales
Amsterdam:	25 and 26 November 2019	Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and day sales
Paris:	4 and 5 December 2019	Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and day sales

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

About Galerie Huberty & Breyne

25 years ago, Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne opened their first gallery in Brussels, specializing in comics. Since 2009 they have an additional gallery space in Paris and are regular participants of many fairs, such as BRAFA in Brussels, Art Paris or Drawing Now taking place annually in Paris. Earlier in 2019 Christie's and Huberty & Breyne have announced their collaboration regarding the auction house's next comic sale to take place on 20 November in Paris.