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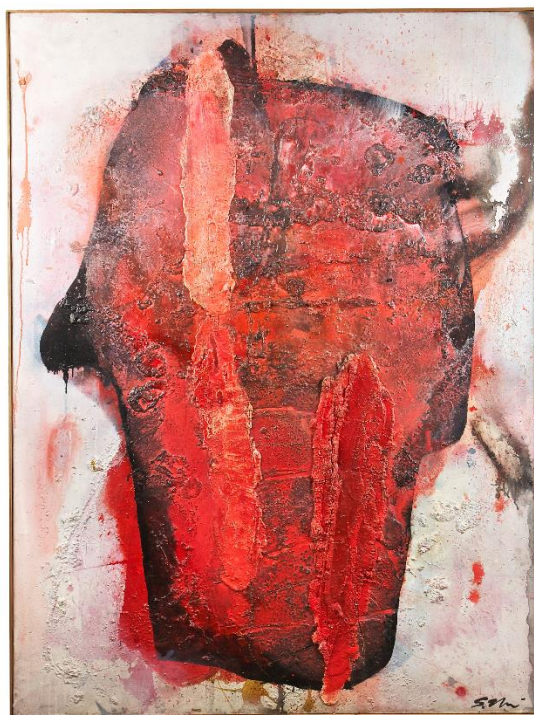
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SHOZO SHIMAMOTO: LA POÉSIE DU GESTE
FIRST RETROSPECTIVE IN FRANCE AT BONHAMS

A unique exhibition of unseen works by a member of the Gutai group
On view from 11 to 17 October

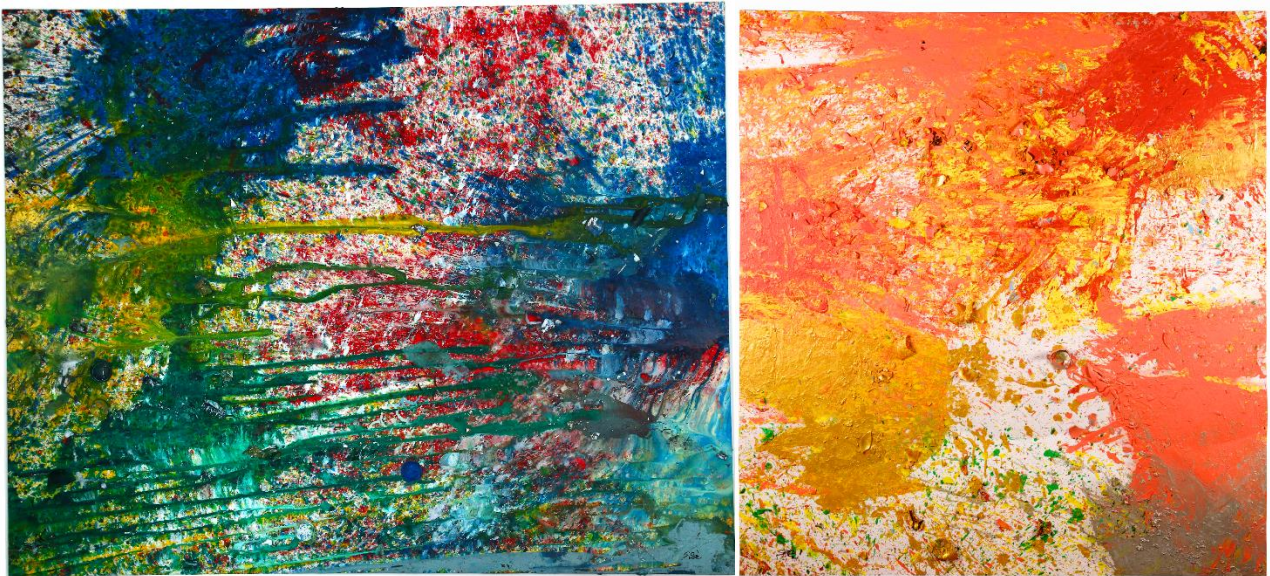


Shōzō Shimamoto (1928-2013), Untitled, 1960 183x138 cm (estimate on request)

Paris - Bonhams Cornette de Saint Cyr will be exhibiting a selection of works by Gutai group member **Shōzō Shimamoto (1928-2013)**, during the week of Art Basel Paris this year. Entitled ***Shōzō Shimamoto : La poésie du geste***, this selling exhibition will be the **first retrospective dedicated to the artist to take place in France** and will be featuring works from 1950 (the pre-Gutai period), through the famous Gutai period (1954-1972), to the artist's last performances in Italy from 2008 to 2011. Some of these works will be exhibited for the first time. The Gutai group was founded in Japan in the 1950s and was best known for a broad range of experimental art forms, often combining painting with

performance. The pair of shoes used by the artist during one of his last performances will also be on view.

The exhibition will feature a particularly strong selection of works, including a standout oil and plaster on canvas by **Shōzō Shimamoto (1928-2013)**, *Untitled* from 1960 (estimate on request). Additional highlights include *Punta Campanella 44*, 2008 (estimate on request) and *Bottle Crash*, 2011 (200 x 185 cm), acrylic on fabric and glass (estimate on request).



Left: Shōzō Shimamoto (1928-2013), *Punta Campanella 44*, 2008 (226 x 286 cm), acrylic on canvas and glass (estimate on request) – Right: Shōzō Shimamoto (1928-2013), *Bottle Crash*, 2011 (200 x 185 cm), acrylic on fabric and glass (estimate on request)

During the 1950s and 60s, Shozo Shimamoto explored the boundaries of painting by throwing bottles onto large-scale canvasses, applying layers of thick matter on them, and perforating the paper canvas, giving way to his *Ana* (Holes) series.

The hole works that he began prior to his participation and membership in the influential Japanese avant-garde group, Gutai Art Association, are particularly significant. At approximately the same time, Italian artist Lucio Fontana began making perforations in the canvas to restore the picture plane to three dimensions, or create a new spatial depth. Shimamoto conceived his painting as holes, breaking through layers of glued newspapers to achieve this effect.

A few years later, following his encounter with French art critic Michel Tapié and his growing interest in art informel, Shimamoto created several works in this style. These became some of his most pivotal pieces, marking a transition to a Tapié-inspired approach that emphasized materiality and rough surfaces, while still referencing his earlier *Ana* experiments with punched newspaper.



Shimamoto's live performance at the 2nd Gutai Exhibition, Ohara Kaikan, Tokyo, October 1956 © Osaka City Museum of Modern Art GA1707

“Embody the fact that our spirit is free. The thing that is most important to us is that contemporary art acts as a free space providing maximum release for people to survive the trying conditions of contemporary life. It is our deep-seated belief that creativity in a free space will truly contribute to the development of the human race.”

First Gutai Journal, January 1955

-ENDS-

Exhibition : SHOZO SHIMAMOTO: LA POÉSIE DU GESTE
Address: 6 avenue Hoche, Paris
Date: 11 to 17 October 2024

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About The Bonhams Network

Bonhams is a global network of auction houses, with the largest number of international salerooms, offering the widest range of collecting categories and selling at all price points. Bonhams is recognised for its bespoke service, and a dedication to local market

relationships, enhanced by a global platform. With 14 salerooms, Bonhams presents over 1,000 sales annually, across more than 60 specialist categories, including fine art, collectables, luxury, wine & spirits, and collector cars.

Founded in 1793, Bonhams has representatives in more than 30 countries and operates flagship salerooms in London, New York, Paris, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong. In 2022, Bonhams added four international auction houses to its network: Bukowskis, Stockholm; Bruun Rasmussen, Copenhagen; Cornette de Saint Cyr, Paris and Brussels; and Skinner, Massachusetts. The success of Bonhams' global strategy is a result of recognising the shift in growing intercontinental buying and increased digital engagement.

Recent important auctions and landmark single-owner collections, include the white glove sales of Sir Michael Caine: The Personal Collection, Alain Delon: Sixty Years of Passion; Sir Roger Moore: The Personal Collection; Personal Property of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and The Robert & Jean-Pierre Rousset Collection of Asian Art: A Century of Collecting. Other notable single-owner sales included The Estate of Barbara Walters: American Icon; The Alan and Simone Hartman Collection; The Crown Auction: Props and Costumes and The Claude de Marteau Collection.

Top lots for 2023 include 1967 Ferrari 412P Berlinetta, Sold at Quail Lodge, US for US\$30,255,000. Tipu Sultan's Bedchamber Sword (sold in London for £14m – a world record for both an Islamic and an Indian object); Paul Signac (1863-1935), *Sisteron*, 1902. Sold for US\$8,580,000 (estimate US\$4-6 million), and Claude Monet (1840-1926), *La Seine près de Giverny*, 1888. Sold for US\$6,352,500 (estimate US\$4-6m), both from the Alan and Simone Hartman Collection; A Gilt Copper Alloy figure of Virupaksha, Central Tibet, Densatil Monastery, Early 15th century. Sold for HK\$37.9m (£4,060,326) in Hong Kong. Yoshitomo Nara (born 1959) *Three Stars*. Sold for HK\$36,754,000 (£3,930,914), also in Hong Kong.

More information and highlights can be found [here](#).

For a full list of forthcoming auctions, plus details of Bonhams specialist departments, please visit [bonhams.com](https://www.bonhams.com)