

LÉVY GORVY WILL EXHIBIT EARLY MASTERPIECE BY
PIERRE SOULAGES IN HONG KONG

Soulages 1953
蘇拉吉 | 1953年

7 July–10 September 2020

Lévy Gorvy
Ground Floor, 2 Ice House Street
Central, Hong Kong



Pierre Soulages. *Peinture 195 x 130 cm, 28 juillet 1953, 1953*. Oil on canvas, 76 3/4 x 51 3/16 inches (195 x 130 cm). © Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. Photo: Tom Powel Imaging

Hong Kong—This summer, Lévy Gorvy inaugurates its new global initiative REVEAL, an ongoing series of single-work focus exhibitions devoted to postwar and contemporary masterpieces, accompanied by in-depth contextual materials and educational programming both in its spaces and online. Opening 7 July 2020 at Lévy Gorvy Hong Kong, *Soulages 1953* presents a seminal painting by France’s greatest living artist, Pierre Soulages. Offering viewers a historical perspective on Soulages’s oeuvre, this defining early work will be presented for the first time in nearly sixty years and will be placed in dialogue with an exhibition of his recent *Outrenoir* paintings, highlighting a period during which Soulages developed his mature style and gained international recognition.

Peinture 195 x 130 cm, 28 juillet 1953 was painted by Soulages as he entered his stylistic maturity. One of a group of canvases in a grand two-meter format from 1953, this painting represented a breakthrough moment for the artist. In it, he introduced a sense of vigorous movement that is anchored by a powerfully structured composition and

permeated by a compelling sense of inner light. Employing gestural brushstrokes in subtly layered hues of black, white, gray, and brown, Soulages created a dramatic luminosity, underscoring his lifelong exploration of darkness and radiance.

Last exhibited in 1962, *Peinture 195 x 130 cm, 28 juillet 1953* exemplifies Soulages’s experimental approach to defining pictorial space and the poetic sensibility that he brought to his art. As an artist who is still actively painting at age 100, Soulages—a figure that philosopher Alain Badiou has described as “a perennial contemporary”—has offered an extraordinary continuity across his oeuvre.

Also at Lévy Gorvy Hong Kong this summer will be *Jean-Michel Basquiat: Royalty, Heroism, and the Streets*, a second REVEAL exhibition featuring an exceptional painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat from his breakthrough year of 1982.

About Lévy Gorvy

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of modern, postwar, and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York, in Mayfair, London, and in Central, Hong Kong. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates that it represents and offers a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. The gallery also produces ongoing art-historical research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications. The Zürich office, Lévy Gorvy with Rumbler, offers bespoke private advisory services to collectors and institutions around the globe.

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