

LÉVY GORVY

RARE DE KOONING MASTERPIECE FROM THE PAUL G. ALLEN FAMILY COLLECTION TO BE PRESENTED BY LÉVY GORVY AT ART BASEL HONG KONG 2018

Willem de Kooning's *Untitled XII (1975)* will be on view at Booth 1C14

Stand 1C14
Art Basel Hong Kong
Convention & Exhibition Centre
1 Harbour Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

Private View: March 27-28, 2018
Public Days: March 29-31, 2018

Lévy Gorvy is pleased to announce that the gallery's presentation at Art Basel Hong Kong 2018 will feature *Untitled XII (1975)*, an exceptionally rare masterpiece by American Abstract Expressionist titan Willem de Kooning, from the famed art collection of Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul G. Allen.

The Paul G. Allen Family Collection is among the world's finest. It has been the subject of critically acclaimed museum exhibitions, including *Seeing Nature: Landscape Masterworks from the Paul G. Allen Family Collection*, a survey spanning five centuries with exceptional paintings by Paul Cézanne, David Hockney, Edward Hopper, Gustav Klimt, Claude Monet, Thomas Moran, Georgia O'Keeffe, Gerhard Richter, and J.M.W. Turner.



Willem de Kooning, *Untitled XII*, 1975, Oil on canvas, 79 ¾ x 69 ¾ inches (202.6 x 177.2 cm). © The Willem de Kooning Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Untitled XII was painted at a remarkable moment in the evolution of de Kooning's art, in a year described by critic and curator David Sylvester as the "annus mirabilis of de Kooning's career." As Sylvester stated, the artist's works of the 1970s, "with their massively congested, luminous color, their contrasts between flowing and broken forms, attain... a total painterliness in which marks and image coalesce completely and every inch of the canvas quivers with teeming energy." The atmospheric quality of de Kooning's paintings from this period, combined with their dynamic all-encompassing compositions, led many experts to compare these works to landscapes or seascapes. Rather than viewing the subject from a classical frontal

orientation with vanishing, single-point perspective, de Kooning in this period presented a topographical view, suggesting a scene from nature captured from above. The alternately hot, cool, and fleshy palette of *Untitled XII* aligns this canvas with both of these interpretations—the magnificent bodily and environmental aspects in work made by an artist at the height of his powers.

Works from the 1970s by de Kooning are considered the most desirable of the artist's oeuvre and are coveted by collectors worldwide. In November 2016 at Christie's New York, his 1977 canvas *Untitled XXV* sold for USD\$66.3 million, a new world record price for the artist at auction.

The presentation of de Kooning's *Untitled XII* at Art Basel Hong Kong represents a continuation of Lévy Gorvy's strong relationship with the artist. In January 2017, the gallery mounted *Willem de Kooning | Zao Wou Ki*, the first-ever exhibition to pair the abstract landscapes of Chinese-French master Zao (1920-2013) with de Kooning. The exhibition spanned three floors of Lévy Gorvy's flagship location in New York, and inaugurated the new partnership of Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy. *Willem de Kooning | Zao Wou Ki* was received with broad critical acclaim, and will travel to Asia in 2019.

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 and in Mayfair, London. In September 2017, Lévy Gorvy opened an office in Shanghai. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates it represents and pursues a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. Lévy Gorvy also produces ongoing art historical research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications.

Dominique Lévy formed her eponymous gallery in 2012, establishing a rich program of historical and contemporary exhibitions, and a strong group of represented artists and estates. She was previously a partner at L&M Arts, following her tenure at Christie's as founder and International Director of Private Sales. Formerly the Chairman and International Head of Post-War and Contemporary Art at Christie's, Brett Gorvy remains one of the leading tastemakers of the twentieth-century art market.

Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces in Mayfair, London and New York's Upper East Side, and recently opened an office in Shanghai. The gallery participates in major art fairs worldwide, including Art Basel, Frieze Masters, TEFAF Spring New York, and Art Basel Miami Beach. In addition to representing numerous celebrated Asian artists, the gallery's expansion to Shanghai last September has bolstered its presence in Asia.

Lévy Gorvy proudly represents important postwar and contemporary artists, including Enrico Castellani, Gego, Senga Nengudi, Carol Rama, Karin Schneider, Pierre Soulages, Pat Steir, Frank Stella, Gunther Uecker, and Chung Sang-hwa, as well as the estates of Yves Klein, Roman Opalka, and Germaine Richier. The gallery also specializes in private sales in the secondary market, focusing on the work of Alberto Burri, Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning, Lucio Fontana, Alberto Giacometti, Pablo Picasso, Robert Ryman, Cy Twombly and Zao Wou-ki, among others. Since May of 2017, Lévy Gorvy has added four artists to its already impressive stable: Dan Colen, Martial Raysse, the estate of Terry Adkins, and the estate of Francois Morellet. Lévy Gorvy advances the legacy of important artists while embracing a new generation of artists, curators, and collectors. The gallery pursues an ambitious exhibition schedule and curates a dynamic program of multidisciplinary events, while commissioning art historical research and original scholarship for our publications. The Lévy Gorvy team devotes itself to connoisseurship and embodies expertise, depth of knowledge, and a passion for art.

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