

# CARAVAGGIO

Judith et Holopherne

PRESS RELEASE

25 JUNE 2019

The auction house of Marc Labarbe and Cabinet Turquin announce the private treaty sale of the painting by Caravaggio « Judith and Holofernes », estimated at 100-150 Million Euros.



*Michelangelo Merisi, da Caravaggio (1571-1610)*

*Judith and Holofernes (circa 1607)*

*On canvas 144x173.5 cm, @copyright : Cabinet Turquin*

The painting by Caravaggio (1571-1610), Judith and Holofernes, painted circa 1607, discovered in an attic in Toulouse five years ago by the French auctioneer Marc Labarbe and which was to be sold at public auction this next 27 June in the Halle aux Grains in collaboration with the experts of Cabinet Turquin, has been sold privately to a foreign buyer. The painting will consequently be leaving French soil.

This transaction is covered by a confidentiality clause regarding the price of purchase and the identity of the buyer.

« We received an offer that could not be ignored and which we communicated to the owners of the painting. The fact that the offer came from someone close to an important museum convinced the sellers to accept »

Eric Turquin, expert in Old Master paintings

« We had everything organized to make the auction a grand event open to the public but our responsibility is to accept the decision of the sellers, our clients. We thank them for the trust they placed in us over these past 5 years and the support they gave to the research undertaken by our teams»

Marc Labarbe, auctioneer in Toulouse

Estimated at 100-150 million euros, this work by Caravaggio, known from several documents dating from the early 17th century and lost since 1617, is in an exceptional state of conservation for an artist whose paintings in museum collections are often very worn by successive restoration and cleaning. This painting by Caravaggio, an artist for whom only 65 works are known in the world, was the subject of numerous analyses: technical, stylistic and historical, undertaken by Cabinet Turquin over the course of 5 years. The attribution to Caravaggio was supported by the most important American, English, French, and Italian specialists for the artist. The

painting was exhibited in Milan, London, Paris, New York and Toulouse; over 20,000 people came to admire the work in person these past months.

The story of this Caravaggio, perfect illustration of the courage and determination of Judith, the great biblical heroine, has just begun; it will soon be exhibited in an important museum. Having been forgotten in an attic for 150 years, Judith and Holofernes will finally come into the light for all to see, which is what compelled the vendors to accept this sale.

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