

# PHILLIPS

PRESS RELEASE

## Monumental Jean Dubuffet Work from *Théâtres de mémoire* Series to Star in Phillips' 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale

*La féconde journée* to be offered in London on 15 April



**Jean Dubuffet**

*La féconde journée*, 16 May 1976  
acrylic on paper collaged on canvas  
204.5 x 210.5 cm (80 1/2 x 82 7/8 in.)  
Estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000

LONDON – 2 MARCH 2021 – Phillips is pleased to announce Jean Dubuffet's [\*La féconde journée\*](#), executed in 1976, as a star lot of London's 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale on 15 April. *La féconde journée* hails from Dubuffet's seminal *Théâtres de mémoire* series and has featured in the major centenary retrospective at the Centre Pompidou, Paris in 2001. *La féconde journée* will be virtually on view from 7 to 11 April before a public viewing at Phillips Berkeley Square from 12 to 15 April.

**Olivia Thornton, Head of 20th Century & Contemporary Art, Europe**, said, "*La féconde journée* is an incredibly radiant and visually immersive work that represents a significant milestone in Dubuffet's career – his *Théâtres de mémoire* series. It is a particularly exciting moment for Dubuffet, with the Barbican staging the first major survey of his work in the UK for over 50 years this Spring. The inclusion of *La féconde journée* in our April Evening Sale marks the first time that the work will be offered at auction."

Dubuffet's oeuvre comprises a number of celebrated series, including *Portraits*, *Corps de Dame*, *Paris Circus*, *L'Hourloupe*, and *Théâtres de mémoire*, to which the present work belongs. He worked on the *Théâtres de mémoire* series from September 1975 until August 1978. Containing some of the largest compositions Dubuffet ever made, this series would be the last sequence of paintings of this magnitude before the artist, suffering from back ailments, would be forced to focus on smaller-scale projects. Rendered in his immediately recognisable palette of reds and blues and on an exceptionally large scale, Dubuffet has built upon the definition of *Art Brut* that characterised his work of the late 1940s, layering materials (44 sections precisely) to impart the composition with added impressions of movement and tumult.

Included in Dubuffet's major centenary retrospective at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, in 2001 – the first substantial monographic exhibition of the artist's work in France since his show at the Grand Palais in 1973 – *La féconde journée* is an exquisite, museum-quality example of his revolutionary opus. With his heightened sensitivity to colour, form, and raw human physiology, the work is a testament to Dubuffet's unique sensibility towards humanity and urban spaces. The artist's oeuvre will once more be the subject of critical and institutional acclaim in Spring 2021, with a major monographic exhibition taking place at the Barbican, London.

**Evening Sale:** 15 April 2021, 3pm GMT

**Day Sale:** 16 April 2021, 2pm GMT

**Virtual viewing:** 7-11 April 2021 on [www.Phillips.com](http://www.Phillips.com)

**Public viewing:** 12-15 April 2021

**Location:** 30 Berkeley Square, London

**Click here for more information:** <https://www.phillips.com/auctions/auction/UK010121>

###

#### ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips is a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century art and design. With dedicated expertise in the areas of 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewelry, Phillips offers professional services and advice on all aspects of collecting. Auctions and exhibitions are held at salerooms in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, while clients are further served through representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Phillips also offers an online auction platform accessible anywhere in the world. In addition to providing selling and buying opportunities through auction, Phillips brokers private sales and offers assistance with appraisals, valuations, and other financial services.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

#### PRESS CONTACTS:

LONDON - Katie Carder, Head of Press, Europe

[kcarder@phillips.com](mailto:kcarder@phillips.com)

+44 20 7901 7938

PHILLIPS NEW YORK - 450 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

PHILLIPS LONDON - 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1J 6EX

PHILLIPS HONG KONG - 14/F St. George's Building, 2 Ice House Street, Central Hong Kong

PHILLIPS GENEVA - Rue de la Confédération, 7 Geneva 1204

VISIT US AT: [www.phillips.com](http://www.phillips.com)

FOLLOW US ON: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Weibo](#) | [WeChat](#) (use QR Code)

