

Le Cirque by Frederic Menguy

Lithograph on Paper - Main Subject: Abstract



Item Number
5463147173

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Dimensions (As Shown)
22W x 17H Inches
55.88W x 43.18H cm

Medium
Lithograph on Paper

Edition
- Limited Edition of 275
- Hand-Signed
- Numbered

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About Frederic Menguy

Frederic Menguy, born in Paris in 1927, rejoices in life and the essential right of every human being to dream. What a life! What dreams! Frederic Menguy's seventy plus years of dreaming are fortunately dispersed in a legacy of art works unlike any other in the world of contemporary expressionists.

His popularity is such that his paintings can be found in galleries and private collections around the globe including the Sketching Room of the National Library of France. When forced to, Menguy classifies himself as being a poetic-expressionist. In the words of the artist, "I am quite un-classifiable. Everybody agrees that my work is unique and that I have set my work apart by creating

my own style, my own universe. I have created Menguy!"

Emerging from a poor and crowded family with six siblings, Frederic Menguy went to work at an early age to help support his family. He also attended evening classes at the famed City of Paris Art School where he later became a teacher. Frederic made his exhibition debut in 1957 at the Salon des Independents. The year 1964 saw the creation of his first lithographs. He has received several accolades in his long career: the 1968 Prix de la Critique at the St Placide Gallery, Paris and in 1985 the Grand Prix Puvis de Chavannes at the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts (SNBA).

Over the years he has received many honors and his wondrous paintings continue to enthrall art lovers around the world. "Reality is not my world," says Menguy. "The world of dreams is my reality and my work reflects that world. I live my dreams and keep at peace with the world."

Lithograph on Paper

This printing technique uses a planographic process in which prints are pulled on a special press from a flat stone or metal surface. The surface has been chemically treated so that ink sticks only to the design areas, and is repelled by the non-image areas. Lithography was invented in Germany in 1798. The early history of lithography is dominated by great French artists such as Daumier and Delacroix, and later by Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Braque and Miro.

Based on the principle that oil and water repel, a Lithograph is created when an artist produces an oil-based or pen image on a stone or piece of metal. This surface is then moistened and covered with an oil-based ink. The resulting chemical reaction between the oil and water drives away the ink on the surface except where the drawing was first done. Fine quality paper is then placed against the surface and a lithographic press is used to create the print. Modern technology and processes have provided artists with many unique methods with which to create magnificent lithographs. In the 1890s color lithography became enormously popular with French artists, Toulouse-Lautrec most notably of all, and by 1900 the medium in both color and monotone was an accepted part of printmaking, although France and the US have used it more than other countries. George Bellows, Alphonse Mucha, Pablo Picasso, Jasper Johns, David Hockney and Robert Rauschenberg are a few of the artists who have produced most of their prints in the medium.

As a special form of lithography, the Serilith process is sometimes used. Serilith are mixed media original prints created in a process where an artist uses the lithograph and serigraph process. The separations for both processes are hand drawn by the artist. The serilith technique is used primarily to create fine art limited print editions.

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