

## A GIANT BIODEGRADABLE LAND ART PAINTING BY FRENCH ARTIST GUILLAUME LEGROS



This aerial photograph shows a giant biodegradable land art painting by French artist Saype (Guillaume Legros) representing two hands clasped together on a 80-metre-long floating barge on the Bosphorus Golden Horn in Istanbul.



People look at French artist Guillaume Legros' (aka Saype) giant biodegradable land art painting. — AFP photos



French artist Saype (Guillaume Legros) lies on his giant biodegradable land art painting.



This aerial photograph shows a giant biodegradable land art painting by French artist Guillaume Legros (aka Saype).

## GIACOMETTI SCULPTURE IN SEALED BID AUCTION – STARTING PRICE \$90MILLION

A sculpture by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti is being auctioned by Sotheby's with a reserve price of \$90 million but the winning offer today could remain secret as it is being sold by sealed bid. If "Grande femme I" sells for more than \$100 million, Giacometti will equal Pablo Picasso as only the second artist with four works beyond that threshold. The nearly nine-foot (2.68 meter) bronze of a spindly female figure, cast in 1960, is part of a series of large outdoor sculptures originally intended for Chase Manhattan Plaza in New York but never installed.

Under the rules of the hybrid auction, interested buyers can make only one secret bid of at least \$90 million. The auction closes at 1600 GMT today and the work will go to the highest bid, if it is

at least five percent higher than the second highest, otherwise a second round will take place. Unlike a traditional auction, Sotheby's will not reveal the purchase price, although the buyer can if they wish. Since 2010, three works by the Swiss artist, known for his elongated, emaciated figures, have already sold for more than \$100 million, the only sculptures to have reached this level. "L'homme au doigt" (Man Pointing), a 1947 bronze, sold for \$141.3 million at Christie's in New York in 2015, the most expensive sculpture sold at auction.

"Grande femme I" is "the culminating example" of Giacometti's work, said Brooke Lampley, vice chairman of Sotheby's global fine art division. "This work is really the apotheosis of his exploration of the female standing figure over

the course of his lifetime," she said. "It's mesmerizing. It places us in the artwork. How you encounter it and how it makes you feel is so much part of the work and his intention." Throughout his career, the sculptor gradually enlarged the size of his works up to the monumental "Grande femme I" towards the end of his life. "The Grande femme I" is intended to be vast, enormous and dwarfing to a regular human," said Lampley, to stimulate "reflection and an introspection about your place in the world." The star of the autumn sales at Sotheby's, the "Grande femme" will be followed tomorrow by a sale of contemporary art and a second of Impressionist works and modern art. — AFP



A person looks at Alberto Giacometti's "Grande femme I" during a press preview at Sotheby's for the upcoming Sotheby's Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale tomorrow, in New York City. — AFP photos



A person walks by Andy Warhol's "Albert Einstein" from Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century (1980), during a press preview.



A person looks at Frank Stella's "Untitled" during a press preview.



Alfa Romeo Berlina Aerodinamica Tecnica Concepts cars the B.A.T. 5, 7 & 9, a trio of extraordinary automotive sculptural designs are seen on displays during a press preview at Sotheby's October 23, 2020 for the upcoming Sotheby's Contemporary Art Evening Auction.



A person walks by Rene Magritte's "L'Ovation" during a press preview.



A person looks at Clyfford Still's "1957-G" during a press preview.



## Pandemic halts bullfighting where animal rights activists couldn't

In a matter of months, the novel coronavirus achieved something that animal rights activists failed to do in decades: put a halt to bullfighting in Peru. The annual Señor de los Milagros (lord of the miracles) festival at Lima's Acho Bullring that usually takes place in October or November was cancelled this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. The 14,000 capacity Acho Bullring is currently being used to provide shelter for homeless pensioners affected by the pandemic. "There will be no bulls this year," Rafael Puga, a retired bullfighter who also rears bulls, told AFP. In 1973, he won the Señor de los Milagros festival's top prize, the Escapulario de Oro.

It's the first time since the festival began in 1946 that it's been cancelled. "But it's also the first time that the San Isidro festival in Madrid hasn't been held. It's due to a force majeure," sighed Juan Manuel Roca Rey, who organizes bullfights in the Acho ring and also rears bulls, using a legal term referring to events beyond anyone's control. Bullfighting-known as a corrida in the Hispanic world-was brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century and has since become hugely popular among Peruvians of all social classes. Peru has more bullfighting arenas than football stadiums.

The Acho arena in the Rimac neighborhood of Lima, built in 1766, is one of the oldest in the world and the oldest in the Americas. In Peru, "there must be 700 bullfights a year with 2,500 bulls killed," said Puga. But they have all been banned due to the pandemic that has killed 34,000 people and infected 875,000 in the country. Football, on the other hand, restarted in August after a five-month hiatus, although without fans. "The fact that there aren't any bullfights in the provinces is like death for breeders. Some won't be able to survive because the cattle eat every day," said Rey.

### 'It's good news'

"This doesn't just affect us artists but everyone that works around a bullfight,"

said bullfighter Fernando Villavicencio, 34. He said the ban has also affected bullfighter assistants, those who make the heavily-embroidered suits, stable owners of horses used in the corridas and cattle transporters. In Puga's ranch 140-kilometers northeast of Lima, he has 400 fighting bulls and 140 "mother cows." There's also a small square where novice bullfighters can practice. "We ranchers now have to live off other businesses. Some have even sent their cattle to the slaughterhouse, that is to reduce their livestock to a minimum to cut costs," said Puga, 72. Animal rights activists are celebrating, though.



In these file photos Peru's bullfighter Andres Roca Rey performs during the "Señor de los Milagros" festival at the Acho bullring in Lima. — AFP photos

"It's good news. There's no reason for the bull festival to go ahead," Luis Berrospi, an activist also campaigning against cockfighting, told AFP. In February, Peru's top court rejected a lawsuit brought by animal rights activists hoping to ban cock and bullfighting on the grounds they were unconstitutional. More than 5,000 people had signed a petition, submitted in 2018, demanding that "all cruel shows using animals" be banned. But the Constitutional Court ruled that "there is no universal declaration of animal rights that has been adopted by either the UN or UNESCO."

### More expensive than football

Peru has 199 bullrings, according to official statistics, far more than its 80 football stadiums. Bullfighting websites claim that twice as many Peruvians pay to watch corridas than professional football. Tickets for the Acho Bullring also cost more than those for the national football stadium. Last year, a ticket for all five Sunday corridas during the Señor de los Milagros festival cost up to \$1,600. By comparison, the most expensive ticket for all nine of Peru's World Cup qualifying home matches was \$1,200. — AFP