

EYKYN • MACLEAN

Surrealism and the rue Blomet

November 1 – December 13, 2013

Eykyn Maclean, New York

This fall, Eykyn Maclean will present *Surrealism and the rue Blomet*. This is the first exhibition to explore the rue Blomet, one of the founding centers of the Surrealist movement. "In Paris in the 1920s, the rue Blomet was a hotbed of artistic activity," explains the curator, Kristy Bryce, director at Eykyn Maclean. "Nearly all of the major artists and writers associated with Surrealism either lived, worked, or regularly visited there. We are delighted to shine new light on this previously unexplored moment in art history."

Beginning in 1922 the adjacent studios at 45 rue Blomet, occupied by André Masson and Joan Miró, became a daily congregation spot for the leading figures of Surrealism – the artists Jean (Hans) Arp, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Juan Gris, Georges Malkine, Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, and Yves Tanguy, and the writers and poets Antonin Artaud, Robert Desnos, Paul Éluard, Ernest Hemingway, Michel Leiris, Georges Limbour, and Gertrude Stein. They gathered together to eat, drink, smoke, play cards, and most importantly, to discuss literature and ideas, to write, and to paint.

"The rue Blomet was a decisive place, a decisive moment for me. It was there that I discovered everything I am, everything I would become... More than anything else, the rue Blomet was friendship, an exalted exchange and discovery of ideas among a marvelous group of friends." -- Joan Miró, 1977

Surrealism and the rue Blomet will include works from museums, institutions, and private collections, presenting a special opportunity to see works that are rarely exhibited publicly and others that have never before been exhibited in the United States. The exhibition will explore this period through a variety of media including painting, drawing, and sculpture, as well as documentary photographs, and first edition books. A film by Man Ray and Robert Desnos will be screened, and original tracks of Biguine music from the Bal Nègre dance hall, a favorite of the Surrealists and located just steps away at 33 rue Blomet, will add to this exciting, multimedia presentation.

Highlights include Miró's exceptional painting *Le Cheval de cirque* (1927) from the artist's famous series of 'dream paintings' in which images playfully emerge from the subconscious, and Masson's *Le tour de cartes* (1923, Museum of Modern Art), a painting which depicts his rue Blomet friends relaxing with a game of cards. Masson's 1925 watercolor *Metamorphoses* will be exhibited, as well as a group of the artist's 'automatic' drawings from the 1920s. Jean Dubuffet's painting *Frayeur* (1924, Fondation Dubuffet) will be shown in the United States for the very first time along with rarely seen paintings by Georges Malkine, and an inscribed first edition of *The Night of Loveless Nights*, a book of poetry by Desnos with illustrations by Malkine. Miró's *Statue* (1926, Museum of Modern Art) will be on view, as well as his sculpture *Oiseau lunaire* (1946), a monumental version of which now marks the site of the artists' former studios, and which Miró dedicated to this extraordinary group.

A fully illustrated, hardcover catalogue will be published to accompany the exhibition. Mary Ann Caws, a leading scholar of Surrealist literature and art, will write a new essay on the topic as well as provide translations of essays by Desnos and Leiris about their time on the rue Blomet, both of which will appear in English for the very first time.

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About Eykyn Maclean

Eykyn Maclean (pronounced EE-kin MA-klain) is a private art gallery with locations in New York and London, specializing in museum caliber work by key Impressionist and 20th century European and American artists. Christopher Eykyn and Nicholas Maclean established Eykyn Maclean in New York in 2006, launching their exhibition program in 2010 with the critically acclaimed show *In Giacometti's Studio – An Intimate Portrait*, which was followed by *Matisse and the Model* (2011). Eykyn Maclean opened their London gallery in Mayfair in February 2012 with *Cy Twombly: Works from the Sonnabend Collection*. Other exhibitions include *Andy Warhol Flowers* (New York, 2012), *Interviews with Artists* (London, 2012), *Chuck Close Photo Maquettes* (New York, 2013) and *Van Gogh in Paris* (London, 2013).

Notes to Editors

Key Information

Exhibition: *Surrealism and the rue Blomet*

Location: Eykyn Maclean - 23 East 67th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10065

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Dates: November 1 – December 13, 2013

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm

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