

Tsuguharu Foujita

1886-1968 | Japanese-French



Portrait of a Mother and Child

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Ink and watercolor on Japanese tissue | Circa 1957

Signed "Foujita / Paris" (lower left)

Paper: 12 1/4" high x 9 1/4" wide | 31.12 cm x 23.5 cm

Frame: 20 1/2" high x 17 1/8" wide x 2 1/4" deep |
52.07 cm x 43.50 cm x 5.72 cm

“

*Consider me dead
until I become famous.*

- Tsuguharu Foujita, in a letter to his father

”



An artistic luminary well ahead of his time, Tsuguharu Foujita burst onto the international art scene in the early 20th century as one of the most important artists in early Japanese modernism. *Portrait of a Mother and Child* hails from an important period in the artist's later career following his conversion to Christianity. Foujita's integration of Japanese techniques with European subjects forms a distinctive visual language that garnered the artist great renown in his lifetime.

Born and trained as an artist in Japan, Foujita fulfilled a lifelong dream of traveling to Paris in 1913, where his brilliance gained newfound direction in the avant-garde circles of Montparnasse. Surrounded by prominent figures of the era such as Pierre Bonnard, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque and others, Foujita quickly achieved acclaim for his artworks. On the opening night of Foujita's first solo exhibition in Paris in 1917, Picasso himself was so enamored with Foujita's watercolors that he acquired as many as he could physically hold.

Foujita positioned himself as a luminary of modernism by blending Japanese *ukiyo-e* techniques with European subjects and mediums. This dual influence led Foujita to create his famed portraits of women, cats and perhaps most importantly, iconic renditions of the Virgin and Child. *Portrait of a Mother and Child* echoes the graceful figures painted by Renaissance masters who Foujita would have seen at the Louvre, while simultaneously drawing from the bold simplicity of his contemporaries, including Amedeo Modigliani. Foujita expertly renders the humanistic notion of maternal love in the Madonna's expression and the languid stretch of her hands, evoking a protective cradle. The bold strokes of ink contrast with the soft hues of the mother and child's clothing. The luminescence of their skin is achieved through Foujita's signature iridescent glaze, a highly secret blend of flaxseed oil, chalk and magnesium silicate that became a hallmark component of his oeuvre.

A lifelong Francophile, Tsuguharu Foujita seamlessly immersed himself in the vibrant artistic community of Paris in 1913, rubbing shoulders with modernist icons before his departure in 1933.

During the Second World War, Foujita served as a war artist in Japan. After the war, Foujita and his wife became French citizens, and later in 1957, the artist became an officer of the esteemed Legion of Honor. Foujita's subsequent conversion to Catholicism offers a crucial lens into his complex understanding of faith, identity and belonging, with works like *Portrait of a Mother and Child* forming cornerstones of his later oeuvre.

Foujita's works are held by prestigious institutions worldwide, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto. Notably, the National Museum of Art, Kyoto has hosted two significant retrospectives of Foujita's oeuvre in 2006 and 2018.

This artwork is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the Tobi Appraisal Institute. ●



PROVENANCE

Private collection, Tokyo

M.S. Rau, New Orleans



LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

鑑定証書

No. 022-2092R

作品題名 母子像
(墨、水彩 紙)
作家名 藤田 嗣治
年代 _____
寸法 31.5 × 23.6

令和 4 年 12 月 25 日
一般財団法人 東美鑑定評価機構 鑑定委員会
委員長 沢木五悟

令和 5 年 2 月 25 日 差換え
一般財団法人 東美鑑定評価機構 鑑定委員会

Translation:

Certificate of Authenticity

No. 022-2092R

Title of work: Mother and Child Statue
(ink, watercolor paper)

Author name: Tsuguharu Fujita

Era:

Size: 31.5 × 23.6

December 25, 2020

General Incorporated Foundation Tobi Seikagaku Tsuka Appraisal Committee

Three-member structure

Chairman: (Signature)

Replaced on February 25, 2020

Tobi Appraisal Organization Appraisal Committee, General Incorporated Foundation



AUCTION COMPARABLES

	4	<p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Misc. Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p>Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita Maternité signed in English, inscribed in French and dated 1951 ink, watercolor and gold foil on paper mounted on cardboard 1951 Height 11.9 in.; Width 9.6 in. / Height 30.3 cm.; Width 24.5 cm. Signed, Inscribed Sotheby's Hong Kong: Thursday, July 9, 2020 [Lot 00741] Modern Art Day Sale 1,500,000 - 2,800,000 HKD (193,545 - 361,285 USD) 3,250,000 HKD Premium (419,349 USD)</p>
	5	<p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Misc. Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p>Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita MOTHER AND CHILD 34.8×26.4cm; paper, gold foil, watercolor, framed; signed and dated; executed in 1953-54; paper, gold foil, watercolor, framed 1953 Height 13.7 in.; Width 10.4 in. / Height 34.8 cm.; Width 26.4 cm. Signed iART CO.,LTD: Saturday, July 4, 2020 [Lot 00046] No. 63 Auction--Japanese one owner's collection 15,000,000 - 25,000,000 JPY (139,550 - 232,584 USD) 40,000,000 JPY Hammer (372,135 USD)</p>



AUCTION COMPARABLES

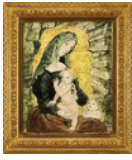


Title	Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita MADONNE À LA GROTTTE
Description	executed in 1957 signed in English; signed in English and titled in French on the reverse oil on canvas 46.2 by 38.2 cm; 18 1/4 by 15 in. Catalogue Note A Perpetually Gold Legend Tsuguharu Foujita began his rare and valuable series of gold leaf paintings during the late 1910s and early 1920s, and these works were the first to win him critical attention. After Foujita earned acclaim in painting circles in 1925 for his “nudes with milk-white skin”, he took an abrupt break READ MORE Fig. 1 KANE SANRAKU, Wenwang, Lv Shang and Shangshan Sihao Folding Screen, early 17th century, Collection of Myoshinji , Kyoto
Medium	oil on canvas
Year of Work	1957
Size	Height 18.2 in.; Width 15 in. / Height 46.2 cm.; Width 38.2 cm.
Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
Sale of	Sotheby's Hong Kong: Saturday, September 30, 2017 [Lot 01021] Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	5,500,000 - 7,500,000 HKD (704,090 - 960,122 USD)
Sold For	8,500,000 HKD Premium (1,088,139 USD)
Provenance	Galerie Romanet, Paris Sotheby's London, 1 December 1987, Lot 74 Acquired directly from the above sale by the present private Asian collector



Title	Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita Madonna (+ another, similar; 2 works)
Medium	oil on canvas
Year of Work	1962
Size	Height 24.1 in.; Width 15.3 in. / Height 61.2 cm.; Width 38.8 cm.
Misc.	Signed
Sale of	SHINWA AUCTION CO., LTD: Saturday, January 27, 2007 [Lot 00205] Modern Art Auction
Estimate	100,000,000 - 150,000,000 JPY (823,519 - 1,235,279 USD)
Sold For	100,000,000 JPY Hammer (823,519 USD)





Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita

Title

Maternité 聖母子像

Description

Property from an Important Private European Collection
 Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita
 1886 - 1968
 Maternité
 oil and gold leaf on canvas
 signed in English
 executed in 1953
 41 by 33 cm; 16 1/8 by 13 in.

This work is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by Sylvie Buisson and will be included in the artist's forthcoming Catalogue Raisonné prepared by Sylvie Buisson, Leonard-Tsuguharu Foujita IV (No.D53.135.H)

歐洲重要私人收藏

藤田嗣治

1886-1968

聖母子像

油彩、金箔於畫布

一九五三年作

款識

Foujita(下方)

41 x 33 cm; 16 1/8 x 13 in.

附: Sylvie Buisson開立之作品保證書

註: 此作將收錄於Sylvie Buisson即將出版之〈藤田嗣治全集—第四冊〉(作品編號No.D53.135.H)

Medium

oil and gold leaf on canvas

Year of Work

1953

Size

Height 16.1 in.; Width 13 in. / Height 41 cm.; Width 33 cm.

Misc.

Signed

Sale of

Sotheby's Hong Kong: Sunday, April 18, 2021 [Lot 01037]
 Beyond Legends: Modern Art Evening Sale

Estimate

4,000,000 - 6,000,000 HKD
 (514,694 - 772,041 USD)

Sold For

6,225,000 HKD Premium
 (800,993 USD)

Provenance

Galerie Romanet, Paris
 Important Private European Collection

巴黎, 羅曼內畫廊

歐洲重要私人收藏

Exhibition

Barcelona, La Pinacoteca, Foujita, 1953

巴塞隆納, 皮納克特卡畫廊〈藤田嗣治〉一九五三年

Literature

Sylvie Buisson, ed., Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita Vol. II, ACR Edition, Paris, 2001, p. 121, illustrated in a photograph of the exhibition

〈藤田嗣治全集 第二冊〉Sylvie Buisson編(巴黎, ACR Edition, 二〇〇一年), 121頁, 展覽舊照彩圖



AUCTION COMPARABLES



Title	Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita
Description	Madone (2 figures) Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita (TSUGUHARU FOUJITA TSUGUHARU FUJITA, 1886-1968) Madone (2 Figures) signed 'L. Foujita' in French (lower middle); signed and numbered 'Foujita VIII' in French; dated '62' (on the reverse); inscribed 'Collection Mme Kimiyo Foujita' in French (on the stretcher) ink, oil and gold foil on canvas 61.2 x 38.8 cm. (24 x 15 1/4 in.) Painted in 1962
Medium	ink, oil and gold foil on canvas
Year of Work	1962
Size	Height 24.1 in.; Width 15.3 in. / Height 61.2 cm.; Width 38.8 cm.
Misc.	Signed, Inscribed
Sale of	Christie's Hong Kong: Saturday, May 28, 2011 [Lot 01001] Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)
Estimate	1,500,000 - 2,500,000 HKD (192,779 - 321,299 USD)
Sold For	5,780,000 HKD Premium (742,844 USD)
Exhibition	<i>Tsuguharu Foujita Memorial</i>
Literature	Asahi Shimbun sha, <i>Hommage A Leonard Foujita</i> , exh. cat., Kyoto, Japan, 1968 (illustrated, p. 131). Editions Nichido, <i>Léonard Foujita 1949-1968</i> , Tokyo, Japan, 1978 (illustrated, plate 172). Sylvie & Dominique Buisson (ed.), ACR Edition Internationale, <i>La vie et l'oeuvre de Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita</i> , ACR ?dition Internationale, Paris, France 1987 (illustrated in black & white, plate 62.02, p. 541)





Léonard Tsuguharu Foujita

Title	Les Deux Jeunes Femmes et un enfant aux roses
Description	Estimate on request oil on canvas, framed 61.0 × 50.0 cm (French 12F) 1960 oil on canvas, framed signed on lower left with a TOOBI CERTIFICATION FOR FINE ARTS certificate
Medium	oil on canvas, framed
Year of Work	1960
Size	Height 24 in.; Width 19.7 in. / Height 61 cm.; Width 50 cm.
Misc.	Signed
Sale of	ICHI ART CO., LTD.: Saturday, May 27, 2023 [Lot 00035] The One, No.5 ICHI ART Special Auction Sale
Estimate	No Estimate Received
Sold For	414,000,000 JPY Premium (2,944,224 USD)
Provenance	GALERIE PAUL PETRIDES (France) Private collection (Japan)
Exhibition	"LÉONARD FOUJITA A Gift from Paris" special exhibited (2023: Shusui Museum of Art)
Literature	"LEONARD-TSUGUHARU FOUJITA (ACR Edition)" P.304 No.60.33 (Sylvie et Dominique Buisson)



Tsuguharu Foujita | *Little Girl with Cat*

1954

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 16^{3/4} x 13^{3/4} inches | 42.5 x 34.9 cm



Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minneapolis, MN, United States

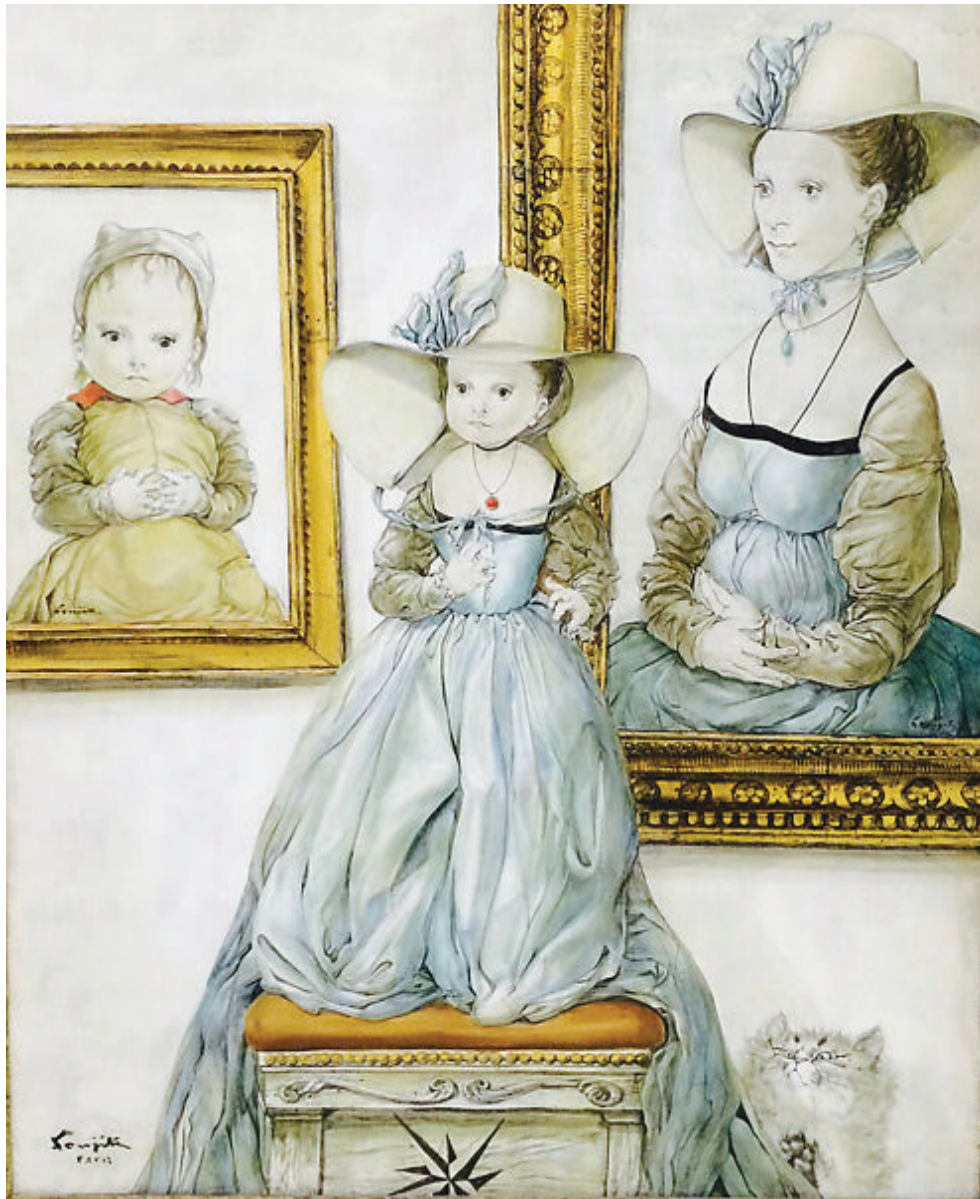


Tsuguharu Foujita | *La Robe de Maman*

Circa 1951-53

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 26 x 21^{1/2} inches | 66 x 54.6 cm



**THE
MET**

Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York, United States



Tsuguharu Foujita | *Woman's Head*

Medium: Graphite, with stumping on cream wove tracing paper

Dimensions: 11^{7/16} x 9 inches | 29 x 22.8 cm



Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL, United States



Tsuguharu Foujita | *Nuns in Convent Yard*

Medium: Watercolor and brush and black ink, with pen and black ink, over traces of graphite on cream Japanese paper, laid down on brown wood-pulp board

Dimensions: 12^{13/16} x 16^{3/4} inches | 32.5 x 42.5 cm



ART
INSTITUTE
CHICAGO

Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL, United States



Tsuguharu Foujita | *Untitled (Girl with Cat and Tiles)*

Circa 1956

Medium: color lithograph on cream wove paper

Dimensions: 15 x 12^{13/16} inches | 38.1 x 32.6 cm



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