

# Bernard Buffet



1928-1999 | FRENCH

*Panier de fruits et bouquet*

*M.S. Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS



**B**ernard Buffet was one of France's most innovative 20th-century painters. He masterfully captures the existential spirit of the Post-War era with his dramatic, angular style. In his day, he was the most collected artist in France. *Panier de fruits et bouquet* is a stunning still life that exemplifies Buffet's genius, rendered with striking intensity and bright primary colors. For decades, this masterpiece adorned the dining room of the prestigious French restaurant Hostellerie de Plaisance.

Bernard Buffet, a prominent member of the artistic movement *L'homme Témoin* (The Witness-Man), rejected the ideals of abstraction, favoring the expression of reality and raw emotion. While the group was known for its generally pessimistic outlook, Buffet's embrace of bold, vibrant colors and moments of lightness were uniquely his own. In this work, Buffet's unmistakable style is applied to a still life of glass vessels, fruit and flowers, arranged on a crisp white tablecloth against a luminous red background. The interplay of vivid colors and bold, angular lines results in a striking, visceral masterpiece that captures both emotional depth and visual brilliance.

This painting hung in the esteemed Hostellerie de Plaisance in Saint-Émilion, a town celebrated for its exceptional Bordeaux wines. The restaurant's owners, passionate collectors of Bernard Buffet's work, prominently displayed in their dining room several of his paintings, which they had bought from Buffet directly. Our work, with its striking reds and whites, harmonized beautifully with the restaurant's elegant aesthetic and stood out as the most distinguished painting among those on the wall.

Born in Paris, Bernard Buffet began his art studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in December 1943, training in the studio of painter Eugène Narbonne. After just two years, Buffet set out on his own, launching a successful career that began with the exhibition of a self-portrait at the Salon des Moins de Trente Ans at Galerie Beaux-Arts in 1946. His stark, existential compositions brought him global fame and fortune at a remarkably young age. Today, Buffet's works are held in prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Gallery in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many others. His legacy is further celebrated by two museums in Japan dedicated exclusively to his oeuvre.







## Bernard Buffet

1928-1999 | French

*Panier de fruits et bouquet, 1996*

Signed "Bernard Buffet" (upper left) and dated (upper right)  
Oil on canvas

Canvas: 25 1/4" high x 35 3/4" wide | 64.14 x 90.81 cm  
Frame: 30 7/8" high x 41 5/8" wide x 2" deep | 78.42 x 105.85 x 5.08 cm

This work is accompanied by its certificate of authenticity issued by Galerie Maurice Garnier dated February 14, 2007

## PROVENANCE

Collection of Hostellerie de Plaisance, Saint-Émilion, France

M.S. Rau, New Orleans





In the dining room of the Hostellerie de Plaisance, Saint-Émilion, France





# AUCTION COMPARABLES



**Bernard Buffet**  
**NATURE MORTE À LA SOLE**  
oil on canvas  
Height 134.7 x Width 224.3 cm.  
Height 53.031 x Width 88.307 in.  
1962

**30 October 2018** *about 6 years ago*  
**Sotheby's Paris**

*Pierre Bergé: From One Home to Another (Sessions 1-3) – [Lot 00043]*

est. 100,000 - 150,000 EUR **609,000** EUR   
est. 113,636 - 170,454 USD **692,045** USD

**↑ 306% est**



**Bernard Buffet**  
**Bouquet de dahlias**  
oil on canvas  
Height 146 x Width 115 cm.  
Height 57.48 x Width 45.276 in.  
1964

**26 June 1990** *over 34 years ago*  
**Christie's London**

*Impressionist and Modern Paintings and Sculpture – [Lot 00300]*

est. 250,000 - 300,000 GBP **286,000** GBP  
est. 433,877 - 520,652 USD **496,355** USD

**↑ 306% est**



**Bernard Buffet**  
**L'ATELIER**  
oil on canvas  
Height 116.9 x Width 89.2 cm.  
Height 46.024 x Width 35.118 in.  
1956

**30 October 2018** *about 6 years ago*  
**Sotheby's Paris**

*Pierre Bergé: From One Home to Another (Sessions 1-3) – [Lot 00040]*

est. 80,000 - 120,000 EUR **429,000** EUR   
est. 90,909 - 136,363 USD **487,500** USD

**↑ 258% est**



**Bernard Buffet**  
**Bouquet de chrysanthèmes**  
oil on canvas  
Height 100.6 x Width 73.6 cm.  
Height 39.606 x Width 28.976 in.  
1965

**26 February 1990** *almost 35 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**

*IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE – [Lot 00169]*

est. 150,000 - 200,000 USD **484,000** USD

**↑ 142% est**



**Bernard Buffet**  
**ZINNIAS**  
oil on canvas  
Height 65.4 x Width 46.4 cm.  
Height 25.748 x Width 18.268 in.  
1963

**26 February 1990** *almost 35 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**

*IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE – [Lot 00168]*

est. 100,000 - 150,000 USD **462,000** USD

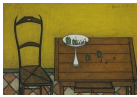
**↑ 208% est**





**Bernard Buffet**  
**Vase de roses**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 73.7 x Width 60.7 cm.  
 Height 29.016 x Width 23.898 in.  
 1964

**26 February 1990** *almost 35 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
 IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & SCULPTURE – [Lot 00164]  
 est. 100,000 - 150,000 USD **462,000** USD  
 ↑ 208% est



**Bernard Buffet**  
**Table et chaise**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 97 x Width 146 cm.  
 Height 38.189 x Width 57.48 in.  
 1951

**16 February 2016** *almost 9 years ago*  
**Matsart Auctioneers and Appraisers**  
 Impressionist, Modern & Contemporary Fine Art – [Lot 00089]  
 est. 220,000 - 260,000 USD **442,800** USD (H)  
 ↑ 70% est



**Bernard Buffet**  
**VASE DEFLEURS ROSES**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 65.4 x Width 50.8 cm.  
 Height 25.748 x Width 20 in.  
 1965

**26 February 1990** *almost 35 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
 IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & SCULPTURE – [Lot 00131]  
 est. 90,000 - 120,000 USD **440,000** USD  
 ↑ 267% est



**Bernard Buffet**  
**OMBELLES JAUNES**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 54.6 x Width 65.4 cm.  
 Height 21.496 x Width 25.748 in.  
 1965

**26 February 1990** *almost 35 years ago*  
**Christie's New York**  
 IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & SCULPTURE – [Lot 00163]  
 est. 90,000 - 120,000 USD **440,000** USD  
 ↑ 267% est



**Bernard Buffet**  
**FLEURS**  
 oil on canvas  
 Height 81.2 x Width 65.4 cm.  
 Height 31.969 x Width 25.748 in.  
 1965

**06 October 1989** *about 35 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**  
 IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE – [Lot 00260]  
 est. 80,000 - 120,000 USD **385,000** USD (P)  
 ↑ 221% est



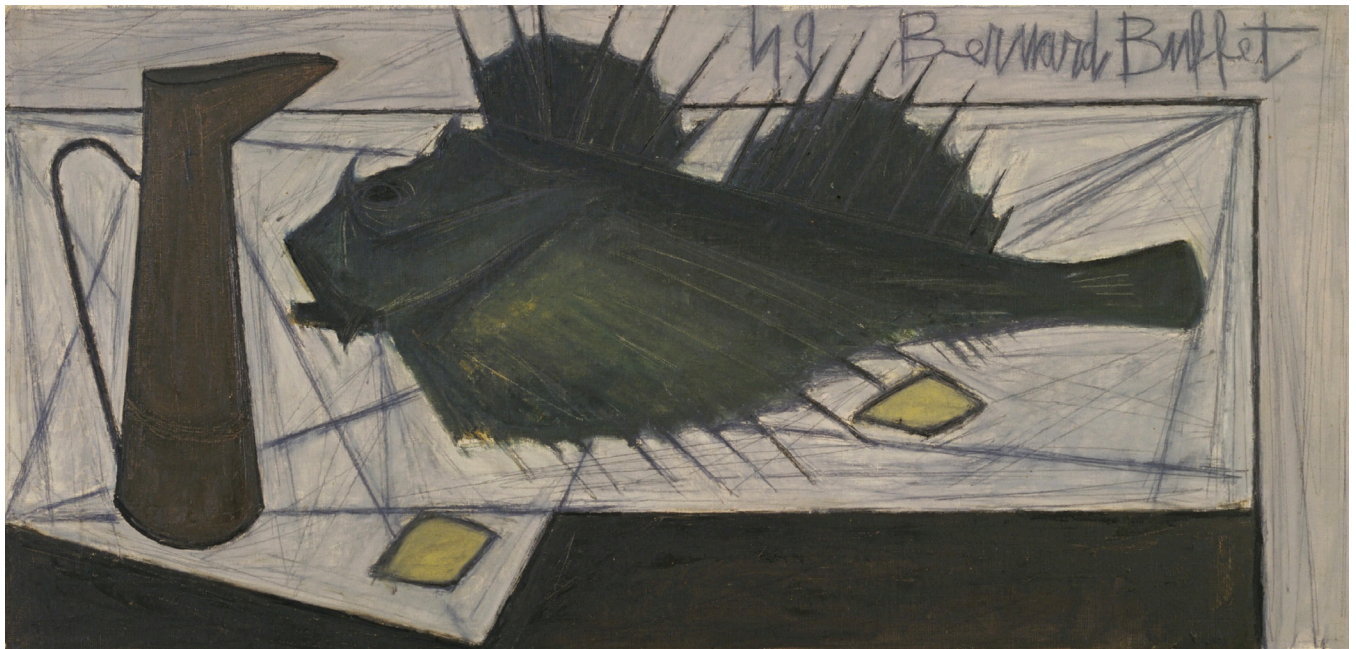


Bernard Buffet | *Still Life with Fish II*

1949

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 16<sup>3/8</sup> x 33<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 41.6 x 85.1 cm



**MoMA**

The Museum of Modern Art  
New York, NY



## Bernard Buffet | *Black Flowers*

1950

**Medium:** Oil and ink on paper, mounted on canvas

**Dimensions:** 25<sup>1/2</sup> x 19<sup>5/8</sup> inches | 65 x 50 cm



kunstmuseum basel

Kunstmuseum Basel  
Basel, Switzerland





## Bernard Buffet | *Nature morte aux poires et cerises*

1951

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 9<sup>1/2</sup> x 19<sup>5/8</sup> inches | 24 x 50 cm



kunstmuseum basel

Kunstmuseum Basel  
Basel, Switzerland

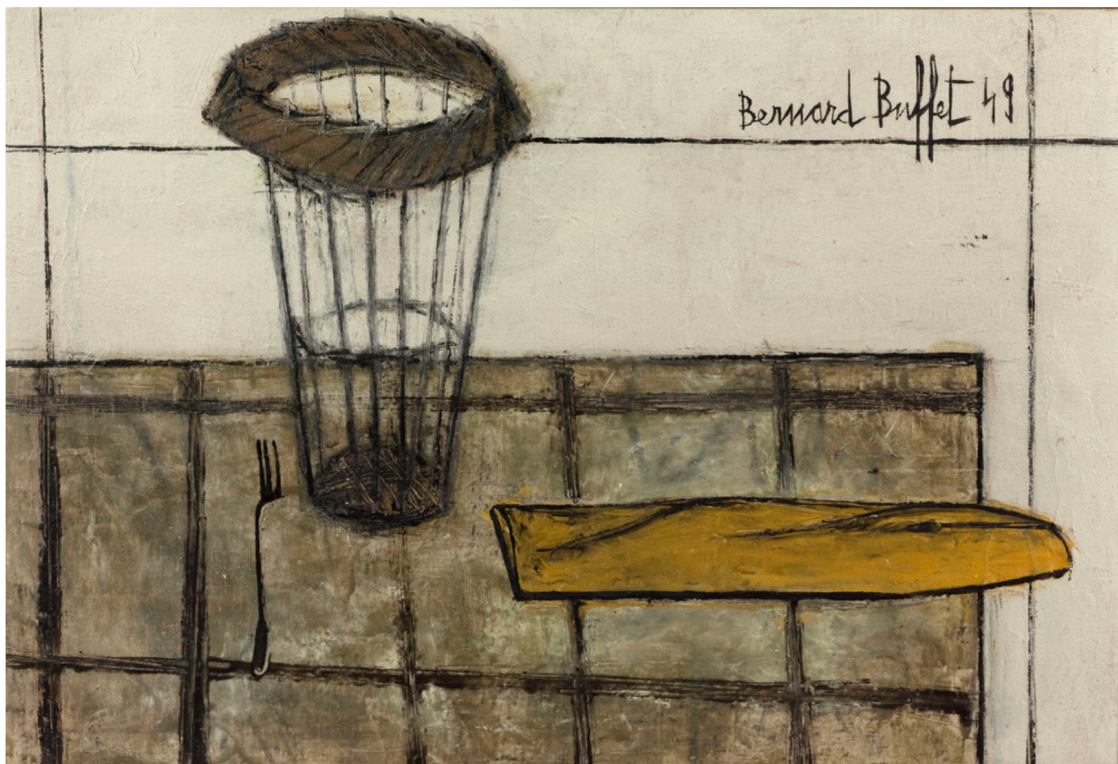


## Bernard Buffet | *Nature morte à la corbeille*

1949

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 15 x 21<sup>5/8</sup> inches | 38 x 55 cm



Tate Modern  
*London, England*





## Bernard Buffet | *Intérieur*

1950

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 77<sup>1/8</sup> x 106<sup>1/4</sup> inches | 196 x 270 cm



Centre  
Pompidou



Centre Pompidou  
Paris, France



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