



Hiroshima, Mon Amour

Antonio Saura

Not on display

Title/Description: Hiroshima, Mon Amour

Artist/Maker: Antonio Saura

Born: 1963

Object Type: Painting

Materials: Canvas, Oil paint

Measurements: h. 1334 x w. 1651 mm

Accession Number: 23

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: France

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Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

Born in Huesca, Spain, Saura was self-taught as an artist. Between 1953 and 1955 he lived in Paris, where, influenced by late Surrealistic ideas, he developed automatist techniques. However, he quickly became disenchanted by the lack of control inherent in automatism, and, returning to Madrid, reduced his means and imagery to black and white and the human figure respectively.

Hiroshima, Mon Amour (no. 179 - the title is taken from a 1959 film directed by Alain Resnais) is a bitter comment on man's abuse of his own intelligence. A wreck of a figure stands in the middle of a void, but whether the figure is to be pitied for its suffering, or congratulated on its survival, is by no means clear. In an annotated catalogue of prints of the same title produced in 1959 and 1961, Saura reiterated Goya's dictum, 'The sleep of reason produces monsters' (Stadler, 1965).

Provenance

Acquired by the Sainsbury Family in 1966. Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
