



The Temptations of Saint Anthony

Antonio Saura

On display

Title/Description: The Temptations of Saint Anthony

Artist/Maker: Antonio Saura

Born: 1963 - 1980

Object Type: Painting

Materials: Paint, Paper

Measurements: Unframed: (h. 713 x w. 999 x d. 1 mm) Framed: (h. 792 x w. 1071 x d. 38 mm)

Accession Number: 827

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: France

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.

With Rafael Canoger, Luis Feito and Manolo Millares he co-founded the El Paso group. In both the general approach to painting and basic subject matter, Saura has close affinities to Millares. Much of Saura's work addresses the omnipresent nature of decay and death in the midst of life.

In contrast to the decay theme, *The Temptations of Saint Anthony*, a collage of pin-up photography adorned with swirls of paint, is an ebullient image, attesting to a more straightforward view of life, and bearing out Saura's own statement that, 'of all that is offered to my sight what moves me most is feminine beauty' (Taillandier, 1964: n.p.). In the artist's telling of Saint Anthony's story, the temptation, it seems, is not to be resisted.

Entry taken from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection 3 volume catalogue, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997).
