

ARCHEUS / POST-MODERN

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Pierre Soulages, *Peinture 81 x 63,5 cm, 7 mars 2003,*

**ARTIST**

Pierre Soulages (1919-2022)

TITLE

Peinture 81 x 63,5 cm, 7 mars 2003

MEDIUM

Oil on canvas

DATE

2003

SIZE

32 x 25 in : 81.0 x 63.5 cm

FRAME SIZE

35 x 28 in : 89.0 x 71.0 cm

INSCRIPTIONS

Signed, titled and dated '7 mars 2003'
on the reverse

PROVENANCE

Galerie Alice Pauli, Lausanne
Private Collection, Geneva
(acquired from the above in 2003
Galerie Alice Pauli, Lausanne
Private collection, acquired from
the above in 2004

LITERATURE

Pierre Encrevé, Soulages, L'Oeuvre
complet - Peintures, Tome IV - 1997-
2013, p. 105, no. 1248, illustrated in
colour

REFERENCE

AC24-31

Pierre Soulages

Pierre Soulages was the last of the great painters to have been involved at the beginning of Art Informel, the post-war movement which encompassed Tachisme, Abstraction Lyrique, Gutai and CoBrA, that was the European concurrent of Abstract Expressionism and which favoured abandonment of any premeditated approach.

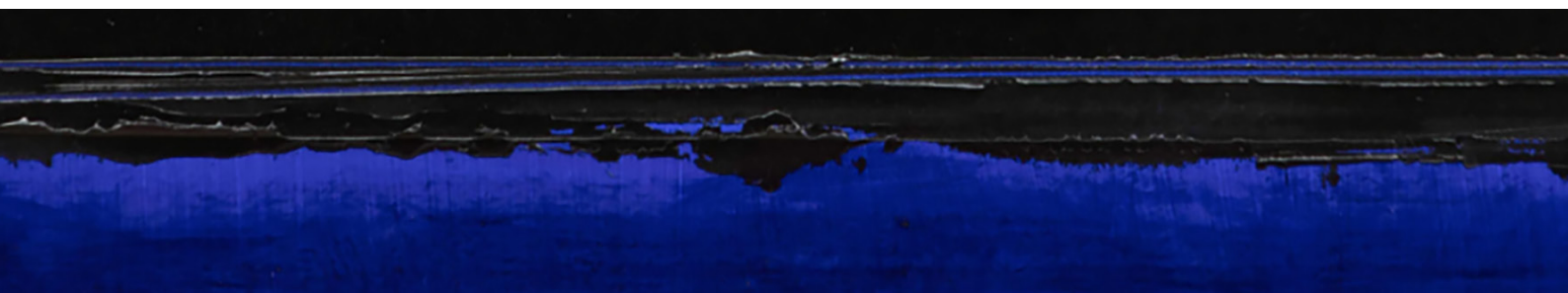
Born in 1919, in Rodez, France, where a museum devoted to his work opened in the summer of 2014, Soulages became known as “the painter of black”. By 1946, having rejected formal art training before the war, Soulages established a studio in Paris and exhibited at the Salon des Indépendants in 1947, having his first solo exhibition at the Galerie Lydia Conti in 1949. The paucity of colour in his work set him apart from his contemporaries and established him quickly as an intellectual leader of the Jeune École de Paris, but his rejection of a total abandonment of formality soon set him at odds with the principles of the Informelists and since the early 1950s, Soulages defied classification.

A looser style of brushwork increasingly defined his method throughout the 1950s, and a fascination with the surface reflection of, and contrasts within, pure tones of black began to steer his exploration as an artist. A visit to Japan in 1958 cemented his interest

in painted large-scale calligraphy, and this influence is clearly visible for prolonged periods throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Soulages was regularly included in the influential Documenta exhibitions and his first major travelling retrospective took place in Hanover, Essen and The Hague during 1960 and 1961.

Soulages’ fascination with black, the tone with which he had come almost exclusively to mark his canvases, became a practical obsession in 1979 with the creation of his first *outrenoir* (beyond black) paintings. With *outrenoir*, black became the starting point of a painting, the canvas itself, upon which he would perform dynamic actions with the brush or palette-knife. In this way, through scoring and scraping, creating ridges, lines and fields of black, Soulages explored the property of black itself and in particular its capacity to hold or reflect light, depending on a simple action performed upon the layer of paint.

A career-crowning retrospective exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, Paris in 2010 and a further exhibition at the Musée du Louvre beginning in 2019 on the occasion of his 100th birthday confirmed Soulages as the father of post-war European abstraction. Pierre Soulages died in 2022 in France at the age of 102.





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