

**DI DONNA GALLERIES PRESENTS
MERET OPPENHEIM AT TEFAF NEW YORK, 2023
STAND 334**



Meret Oppenheim, *Forest Interior with Dryades*
(*Waldinneres mit Dryaden*), 1967

Di Donna Galleries is pleased to announce a focused presentation of works by Surrealist pioneer Meret Oppenheim, at TEFAF New York 2023. The presentation spans her five-decade career and features objects, works on paper, mixed media, and oil paintings, including several works that were part of the recent retrospective of Oppenheim at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

A German-born Swiss artist, Oppenheim (1913–1985) famously resisted any formal categorization of her work, and even her Surrealist origin as an artist, but she was unafraid to explore the unconventional and, by doing so, defied societal expectations and inspired countless artists. Throughout her career she created objects, paintings, drawings, furniture, poetry, and fashion accessories that are illustrative of her independent mind, spirituality, and ultimately her femininity, which she fiercely asserted later in life. Oppenheim's boundary-breaking practice has rightly receiving renewed attention and will continue to captivate and inspire new generations of artists.

Highlights of Di Donna's TEFAF presentation include *L'Écureuil (Squirrel)*, 1969-70, a sculpture that combines a beer stein with a squirrel tail, resulting in an aptly Surrealist work that defies the audience's expectations; Man Ray's 1936 photograph, titled *Meret Oppenheim's Fur Covered Cup and Spoon*, which captures Oppenheim's *Object*, a fur-lined cup, saucer, and spoon in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art; *Waldinneres mit Dryaden (Forest Interior with Dryades)*, 1967, a complex assemblage that speaks to Oppenheim's ongoing interest in nature; and *Personnages (Figures)*, 1951, a work on paper that showcases the artist's explorations in abstraction.

Oppenheim initially situated herself among the Surrealists when she visited Paris in 1932 and quickly became immersed in the burgeoning art scene that already included artists such as Max Ernst,

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Salvador Dalí, and Man Ray. In the fall of 1933, Jean Arp and Alberto Giacometti visited Oppenheim's studio and invited her to exhibit at the *Salon des Surindépendants*, organized by André Breton. Around this same time, Man Ray asked Oppenheim to sit for him in the studio of Louis Marcoussis, posing next to the flywheel of a printing press with her arm on a plate. The resulting photograph became one of the most enduring images of Oppenheim and will be included in a concurrent exhibition at Di Donna Galleries, *Man Ray's Paris Portraits: 1921 – 1939*, on view from April 26 through June 2, 2023.

In the years that followed, Oppenheim had her first solo exhibition in Basel, Switzerland and exhibited in three Surrealist group shows. During this time, she had been making paintings and objects out of everyday materials and arranging them in unusual combinations, such as the aforementioned infamous *Object (Le Déjeuner en fourrure [Lunch in fur])*, 1936, a fur-lined cup, saucer, and spoon. This inventive object was the result of a conversation between Oppenheim, Pablo Picasso, and Dora Maar at a café in Paris, and was later acquired by Alfred Barr Jr. for the Museum of Modern Art. The erotic, sensual, and poetic associations accompanying this work ignited Oppenheim's imagination as she continued to experiment across media and with different types of materials.

Di Donna Galleries will be presenting at TEFAF New York 2023 from May 11 - May 16 at stand 334.

DI DONNA

744 Madison Avenue
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Monday – Friday, 10AM to 6PM
Saturday, May 13 11 AM to 5PM

TEFAF NEW YORK

Park Avenue Armory
643 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Collectors Preview (by invitation only)
Thursday, May 11 – 1PM–8PM

General Admission
Friday, May 12 – 12PM–8PM
Saturday, May 13 – 12PM–6PM
Sunday, May 14 – 12PM–6PM
Monday, May 15 – 12PM–8PM
Tuesday, May 16 – 12PM–6PM

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