

# L'art et la vie

## *Art and life*

**Broadcast of February 26, 1949**

***Journalist***

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The ideal collection of a major collector of today's paintings is being shown in a gallery of the faubourg Saint-Honoré in a series of exhibitions. But what should today's collector be? We asked one of these collectors, one of the most audacious, who has long been interested in the most authentic forms of contemporary art: the Docteur Girardin is in our studio tonight. Well doctor, the first question I would like to ask you is the following: you have visited this exhibition, what do you think of Monsieur X's collection?

***Doctor Maurice Girardin***

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I think that this collection, this exhibition rather, should be called "cabinet of an enthusiast of yesterday's art" because it summarizes the efforts of painters from the beginning of the 20th Century. It is impossible for us to imagine a true connoisseur, who would correspond to a well-informed, sensitive, passionate man, but often of modest means, assembling Monsieur X's collection. For him, this collection corresponds to a museum room. Today's enthusiast, who was yesterday's enthusiast in his time, is a young and brave man who admires the elders but can only buy works of would-be masters. The enthusiast whom we are referring to loves with his heart, not with his checkbook. He is a romantic who can go as far as his own sacrifice. He is a sensitive man with an eye to detect genius in unknown or little-known artists. He is a realist who does not hesitate to hang the object of his passion in his mind or on his walls.

***Journalist***

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So, according to you, a collector is not someone who is interested solely in a specific period but a man open to all artforms of his time. If I may ask an indiscreet question: if instead of the collection Monsieur X we could see, at the Galerie de France, the collection of Docteur Girardin, what young painters could we see?

***Doctor Maurice Girardin***

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To answer your first question, I think that the enthusiast should be universal, that he should not be confined to one period. Now, there are moral or financial constraints which may limit his possibilities. Certainly, the exhibition at the Galerie de France could have included works by Soutine, Gromaire, Goerg, who are more or less contemporaries of the exhibited artists, to which one could add works by Hartung, Buffet, Pascin, Marie Laurencin even, why not, Maria Blanchard, Gondouin, Villon, Lapicque Legueult...

***Journalist***

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Well doctor I can see that your taste is very eclectic and that, among young painters, you know how to turn your attention on the most diverse trends as you have done with their predecessors. But to conclude this brief conversation, do you have anything to add regarding the collector of modern painting?

***Doctor Maurice Girardin***

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Oh I think that the art enthusiast- the one we are referring to, that is - will always find promising works, and if their creators fail at fulfilling their promises, he will take no pleasure in them.

***Journalist***

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Well thank you Docteur Girardin for clarifying for our listeners the psychology of the modern painting enthusiast.