



Masson André

1896-1987

Light and shadow

Ink on paper signed lower right, titled and dated on the reverse 1944

Dimensions : 55 x 69 cm

Dimensions : 21.65 x 27.17 inch

Literature : Authenticity confirmed by Comité Masson

Origin : Collection Marcel Arland, Paris



Dimensions with frame : 65 x 79 cm  
Dimensions with frame : 25.59 x 31.10 inch

## Biography

André-Aimé-René Masson was a painter, engraver, illustrator, sculptor and theatre designer.

Born in an industrial village in the Oise region in 1896, the same year as André Breton, André Masson began his artistic apprenticeship in 1907 at the Académie royale des beaux-arts et arts décoratifs in Brussels, where his teacher was a 'beacon' of Belgian symbolism, Constant Montald. For five years, he attended classes at the Academy and was awarded first prize for decoration. He then left Belgium for Paris, where he trained in Paul Baudouin's studio at the École nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris.

After a trip to Italy on a scholarship, he spent some time in Switzerland before enlisting in the infantry a year later. A soldier, he was seriously wounded during the Chemin des Dames offensive and spent several months in various hospitals.

After the war, he spent some time painting in Céret (Paysage de Céret, Environs de Céret). When he moved to Paris, at 45 rue Blomet, his neighbour was Miró, and together they shared the same studio. He met many artists and writers. During his stay in Céret, André Masson married Odette Cabalé (1899-1984). Their daughter Gladys Masson, known as Lily, was born in Paris in 1920 and went on to become a painter.

Taking an interest in Dadaist movements, he welcomed André Breton to his studio and joined the Surrealist group the same year.

From then on, André Masson took part in their activities, meeting Georges Bataille and Paul Éluard. His involvement with the Surrealist movement came to an end when he fell out with Breton in 1929. In 1930, he divorced Odette Cabalé.

During these years, he created his automatic drawings. He invented the process of 'sand paintings', created by spreading glue and then projecting sand onto the canvas. He took up engraving, illustration, theatre decoration and sculpture.

He is the author of a multifaceted body of work, marked by a 'spirit of metamorphosis' and 'mythical invention'.