

LÉVY GORVY

LÉVY GORVY TO PRESENT FIRST EXHIBITION IN FLORIDA FOR RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY FRENCH MASTER PIERRE SOULAGES

Works by the 101-year-old artist to debut new *Outrenoir* paintings

Pierre Soulages: Twenty Twenty-One

Opening April 10, 2021

Slat House, The Royal Poinciana Plaza
50 Cocoanut Row, Suite 122
Palm Beach, FL



PIERRE SOULAGES. *Peinture 130 x 102 cm, 22 juillet 2020, 2020*.
Acrylic on canvas, 51 $\frac{1}{16}$ x 40 $\frac{3}{16}$ inches (130 x 102 cm). © Artists Rights
Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

Palm Beach—Lévy Gorvy is honored to announce a solo exhibition of paintings by Pierre Soulages, to debut in Palm Beach on April 10. *Pierre Soulages: Twenty Twenty-One* will be the French master's first exhibition in Florida, and his first in the United States since being honored in December 2019 with an exhibition at the Musée du Louvre in Paris celebrating his centennial birthday. That exhibition represented only the third time in the Louvre's history that the historic Salon Carré has been devoted entirely to the work of a single living artist, an honor Soulages now shares with Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall.

Recognized as the foremost French artist working today, Soulages has been a key figure in contemporary art for seven decades. A peer of the celebrated American Abstract Expressionists with whom he exchanged ideas during stays in New York City in the 1950s, he has

continued to mine the physical and expressive potentials of abstraction, pushing its boundaries. His striking *Outrenoir* paintings—the term was invented by Soulages and translates as “beyond black”—constitute an ongoing body of work that uses black paint to examine the physical and psychological impact of visual experience.

The works in *Pierre Soulages: Twenty Twenty-One* exemplify the continual experimentation and refinement of composition, method, and expression that Soulages continues to bring to his work as a painter who remains active at age 101. The presentation will debut recent paintings, including five *Outrenoir* paintings created over the past year. To make these works, Soulages repeatedly applies black pigment into irregular bands on his canvas. The resulting accumulation of paint lends these highly textured works the qualities of sculptural reliefs. The artist treats black as a material—a conductor of light and dark—rather than as a color to be used in the service of representation. Each painting in *Pierre Soulages: Twenty Twenty-One* differs radically in its reflection and absorption of ambient light, creating a dramatic interplay across its surface. Incorporating both darkness and radiance, the *Outrenoir* paintings channel ambient light across their surfaces, creating subtle and dramatic perceptual transformations.

Soulages never repeats a canvas; rather, he attempts with each work to inspire a unique visual and emotional response. For him, what lies beyond black is light: “When light is reflected on black, it transforms and transmutes it,” the artist once said. “It opens up a mental field all of its own.” Endlessly questioning the possibilities of intuition and perception, these paintings find the master carrying forth in his sustained exploration of the existential beyond.

About Lévy Gorvy

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of postwar and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York, in Mayfair, London, in the Marais, Paris, and in Central, Hong Kong. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists’ estates that it represents and offers a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. The gallery also produces ongoing art-historical research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications.

909 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021, +1 212 772 2004
22 Old Bond Street, London W1S 4PY, +44 203 696 5910
Ground Floor, 2 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong, +852 2613 9568
4 Passage Sainte-Avoye, 75003 Paris, +33 1 58 80 82 40
www.levygorvy.com | [@levygorvy](https://twitter.com/levygorvy)

Press Contacts

Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc., andrea@andreaschwan.com
Marta de Movellan, Lévy Gorvy, marta@levygorvy.com