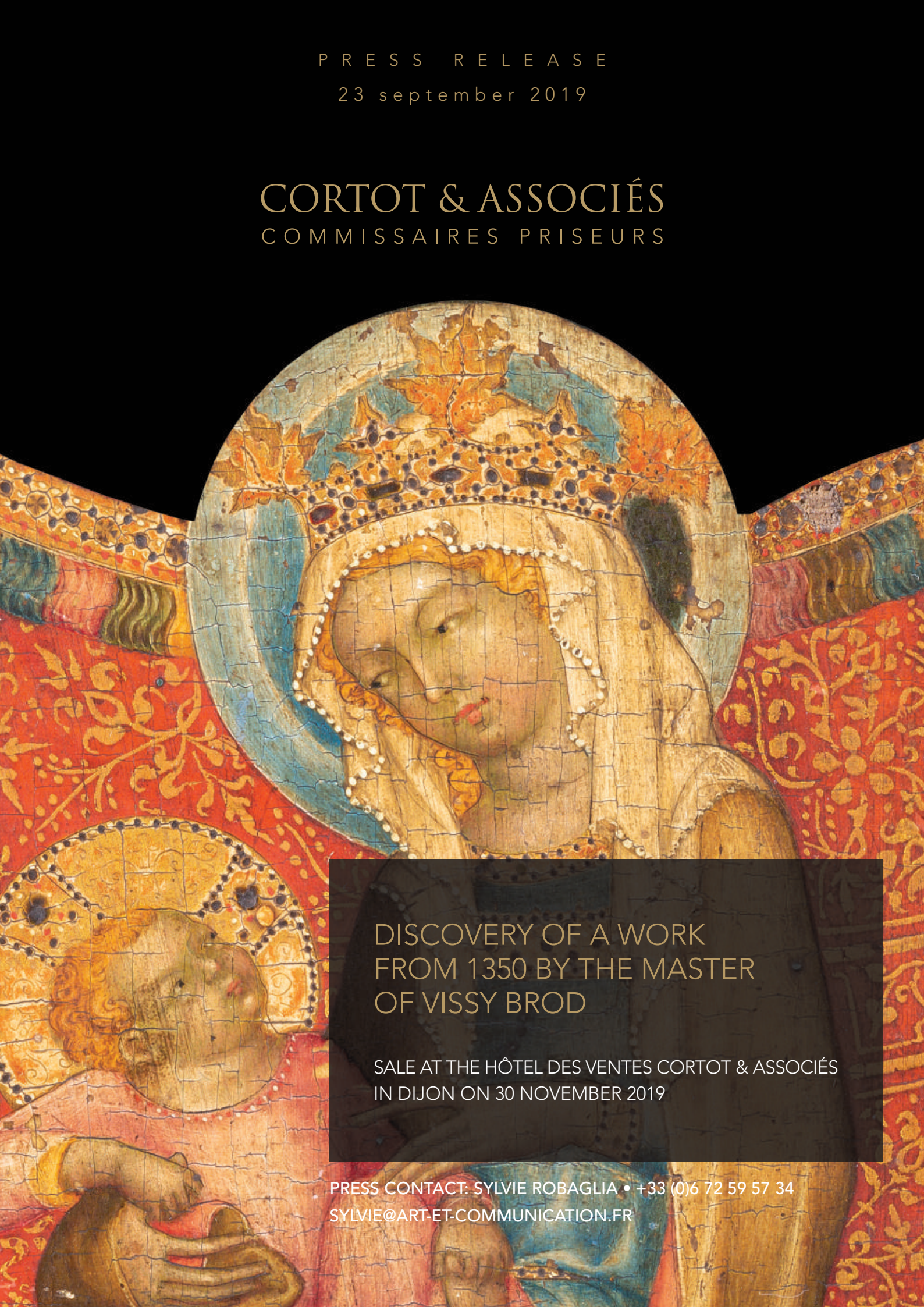


P R E S S R E L E A S E

23 september 2019

CORTOT & ASSOCIÉS
COMMISSAIRES PRISEURS



DISCOVERY OF A WORK
FROM 1350 BY THE MASTER
OF VISSY BROD

SALE AT THE HÔTEL DES VENTES CORTOT & ASSOCIÉS
IN DIJON ON 30 NOVEMBER 2019

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DISCOVERY OF A WORK FROM 1350
BY THE MASTER OF VISSY BROD
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MASTERS
OF INTERNATIONAL GOTHIC

SALE AT THE HÔTEL DES VENTES
CORTOT & ASSOCIÉS IN DIJON
ON 30 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 3H30 PM

Presented for sale by Hugues Cortot, auctioneer in Dijon, this devotional panel of *the Virgin and Child Enthroned*, has been identified by the experts of Cabinet Turquin as a work done circa 1350 by the Master of Vissy Brod, one of the masters of Medieval painting. An X-Ray of the painting has revealed a spectacular architectural composition lying under the black background.

The Master of Vissy-Brod is the name of an anonymous painter who was active in the mid-14th century. His œuvre is reconstituted around the altarpiece painted for the Cistercian convent of Vissy Brod in southern Bohemia. As one of the most remarkable examples of paintings on panel from the Middle Ages, it is today exhibited at the National Gallery in Prague, Convent of Saint Agnes. The scenes representing *the Annunciation*, *the Nativity*, *the Adoration* and the Resurrection are all attributed as being by the hand of the master, whereas the five other episodes from the series are considered to have been done by his workshop.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

23 september 2019



MASTER OF VISSY BROD, Bohemia, circa 1350

THE VIRGIN AND CHILD ENTRONED

Devotional panel, Tempera on a fruitwood panel, 22 x 20 cm (8 ¾ x 7 7/8 in).

Estimate: 400.000/600.000€

Expert : Cabinet TURQUIN - Stéphane PINTA

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23 september 2019

When our little panel was painted, Charles IV (1316-1378), King of Bohemia and later Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, was the most powerful sovereign in all of Christendom. He decides to make **Prague his capital and transforms the city into one of the greatest political and artistic centers of Europe.** He initiates the building of the St Vitus Cathedral (1344-1420) the Karlstein Castle (1348-1365) the University of Prague (1348) as well as numerous convents. Master craftsmen, workshops of painters, sculptors, glass-workers either local or foreign hailing from France, England and Germany, all organized into corporations, will be involved in the city's embellishment.

AN ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND
REVEALED BY THE X-RADIOGRAPH



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Even if we do not know how the panel came to us, the stylistic analysis of the work shows the relationship between our Madonna with the Madonna's in *the Annunciation*, *the Nativity* or *the Glatz Madonna*, the other works attributed to the master (Berlin, Gemäldegalerie); the rhythms and elegance of the drawing of the drapery, the similarities in expression and execution, the richness of the ornamentation, all reveal the **sophisticated hand of the Master of Vissy Brod working around the year 1350 for a private commission.**

But what is even more spectacular is the discovery of an underlying composition, today hidden by the black repainting, revealed by the x-ray. Under the black background that was added in the 19th century hides an architectural structure, consistent with the majority of panels and illuminations of this period from this region.

These scientific analyses also reveal that the panel has been slightly reduced along the top edge, as proven by the gallery of arcades that has been cut, as well as old woodworm tunnels that have been exposed along the panel's side.

Olga Pujmanova, honorary curator at the National Gallery in Prague and **Jan Klipa**, specialist in Gothic painting at the Art History Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, have both confirmed the panel as being by Maître de Vissy Brod after having examined the work in person.

The irony of the story is that on the back of this panel, finely written in ink in late 19th century handwriting, is the name **Cimabué**, the rarest of artists whose exceptional work, also identified by Cabinet Turquin, will be sold by the French auction house Actéon in Senlis on 27 October!

CORTOT & ASSOCIÉS

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