



Philippe Dereux (1918 - 2001), The Hairdo With Birds, 1974



10 000 EUR

Signature : DEREUX Philippe (Lyon, 1918 - Villeurbanne, 2001)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Gouache

Width : 41,5 cm

Height : 61 cm

Depth : 4 cm

Description

H. 61 cm - W. 41.5 cm - D. 4 cm (including mounting). Collage of vegetable peelings on gouache-painted background in a glazed box frame. Signed with the monogram lower right, dated and numbered "9" lower left. Signed, titled, dated "January 1974," and inscribed "Villeurbanne" on the back of the mounting. A former schoolteacher in Lyon, Philippe Dereux devoted himself from the 1950s onward to a unique body of work based on the poetic transformation of everyday materials. A close friend of Jean Dubuffet, he took part in the Art Brut movement and developed his own visual language -- that of the *épluchures* ("peelings"). These fragments of fruit and vegetable skins, dried and painted, became the elements of a playful yet profound vocabulary where humor,

Dealer

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Tel : +33 (0)6 98 02 31 29

Mobile : +33 (0)6 69 15 87 18

22 rue Laure Diebold

Lyon 69009

observation, and imagination converge. In *The Hairdo with Birds*, executed in 1974, Dereux composes a frontal face whose hair transforms into a flock of organic shapes reminiscent of bird heads. The volumes, modeled from natural matter, merge with a gouache background in tones of violet and green, creating a lively dialogue between texture and color. The expression, both mischievous and uncanny, reflects the artist's inventive spirit: a humanistic vision of nature, where waste becomes creation and fantasy turns into art. This work perfectly embodies Philippe Dereux's experimental and poetic vein -- a key figure of Lyon's Art Brut movement and a creative companion to Dubuffet.