



**BERNARD BUFFET (1928-1999)****Église de Sainte-Marine**

Signed upper left, "Bernard Buffet 68"

oil on canvas

28 7/8 x 39 1/8 in. (39 5/8 x 50 x 2 in.)

1968

37964

**PROVENANCE:**

Sale: Butterfields, Los Angeles, October 15, 2002, lot 2026

Private Collection, Japan

Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, May 6, 2015 [Lot 00426], Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale

Private Collection, California

**LITERATURE:**

Yann le Pichon, Bernard Buffet 1962-81, Paris, 1986, no. 653, illustrated p. 205

Bernard Buffet (1928 - 1999) was a French painter of Expressionism and a member of the anti-abstract art group "L'homme Témoin" (the Witness-Man). Buffet was born in Paris, France, and studied art there at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (National School of the Fine Arts) and worked in the studio of the painter Eugène Narbonne. Sustained by the picture-dealer Maurice Garnier, Buffet produced religious pieces, landscapes, portraits and still-lives. In 1946, he had his first painting shown, a self-portrait, at the Salon des Moin's de Trente Ans at the Galerie Beaux-Arts. He had at least one major exhibition every year. Buffet illustrated "Les Chants de Maldoror" written by Comte de Lautréamont in 1952. In 1955, he was awarded the first prize by the magazine *Connaissance des arts*, which named the 10 best post-war artists. In 1958, at the age of 30, the first retrospective of his work was held at the Galerie Charpentier. On 23 November 1973, the Bernard Buffet Museum was founded by Kiichiro Okano, in Surugadaira, Japan. At the request of the French postal administration in 1978, he designed a stamp depicting the Institut et le Pont des Arts – on this occasion the Post Museum arranged a retrospective of his works. Buffet created more than 8,000 paintings and many prints as well.

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