

# . AGNEWS .

EST. 1817

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**England or France *circa* 1970**

*A high pressure turbine disc from a Concorde engine*

With various marked numbers, and on metal stand

Steel, 250 kg approximately

27 ½ in. (69 cm.) diameter; 12 cm thick



## **Provenance**

Christie's Paris, "Souvenirs du Concorde", 15 November 2003, lot 77.

The Oliver Hoare Collection, Christie's, London, 25 October 2019.

As a symbol of national pride, Concorde was synonymous with excellence, purity of design, and unmatched performance ever since the aircraft was presented to the public in 1967. First flown in 1969, Concorde entered service in 1976 and continued flying for the next twenty seven years, carrying over 1,300,000 passengers. It first landed at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977, cutting the flying time to just under 3 ½ hours. The passion it aroused by its Supersonic speed was equal to its immortal beauty. Its launch represented a tremendous breakthrough in aviation history and the aircraft's elegant silhouette became immediately recognisable on the tarmac, bringing humankind one step closer to its dream of flying like a bird.

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This high pressure turbine disc was bought by the hugely influential dealer-collector and Islamic expert, Oliver Hoare at the landmark sale 'Souvenir du Concorde' at Christie's Paris in 2003 where 218 lots of Concorde memorabilia were sold to large crowds who queued outside the auction house in order to get in. More than 1,300 people packed into the auction rooms, with bidders from thirty five countries participating in the bidding. In 2015 Hoare hosted the second of his exhibitions entitled *Every Object Tells a Story* at 33 Fitzroy Square, former home of the Omega Workshops. It included an eclectic array of objects ranging from antiquities, dodo bones, erotic scrimshaw and this Concorde turbine disc. In these catalogues, Hoare practiced his love of storytelling with entertaining and often semi-autobiographical notes. These catalogues gave him a chance to tell stories and gave visitors another opportunity to experience Oliver Hoare, a private dealer with a very public persona, and an unquenchable thirst for new adventures. As he wrote in his introduction to the 2015 catalogue, "The function of a work of art is to make us dream, but of course the nature of that dream depends to a great extent on what we know about the object.....One purpose of this catalogue is to tell stories that show that objects of little value can have as interesting a tale to tell as something of great value....Any artist will tell you that at a certain point, what he is creating comes from something that passes through him, revealing what they never knew they possessed. I think that the same spirit comes through craftsmen, who never claim their craftsmanship as art, and yet whose works are often suffused with a beguiling quality that is communicated through the dedication of their expertise".

In the same catalogue as this turbine Hoare exhibited a Man Ray *Objet Trouvé* (mid-1960s). He recounts that it was a steel cog from a piece of drilling equipment being developed by Schlumberger. Man Ray commented to Jean Riboud, chairman of Schlumberger and Man Ray's most important collector in Paris, that it was as beautiful as any modern sculpture, more honest and much better made. Riboud gave it to Man Ray who declared it a work of art, an *objet trouvé*, and took it home (fig. 1). The same can be said of this steel turbine from a Concorde.

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Fig. 1: Man Ray, *Objet Trouvé* (mid-1960s), 10.5cm.