

Avigdor ARIKHA (Rădăuți 1928 - Paris 2010)

Blue Bottle

Watercolour.
Signed and dated Arikha 75 at the lower centre.
360 x 258 mm. (14 1/8 x 10 1/8 in.)

Drawn in 1975.

Provenance:

Marlborough Galleries, New York
Acquired from them in the late 1970's by Eugene Istomin, New York and Washington, D.C.
His posthumous sale, New York, Sotheby's, 4 May 2005, lot 209
Jan Krugier and Marie-Anne Poniatowski, Geneva.

Artist description:

Arguably one of the finest draughtsmen of the second half of the 20th century, Avigdor Arikha was born to German-speaking Jewish parents in Romania in 1929. The drawings he produced as a thirteen-year old boy while imprisoned in a Ukrainian labour camp brought him to the attention of the International Red Cross, who in 1944 rescued him and sent him to a kibbutz in Palestine. After a period of study at the Bezalel Academy of Fine Arts in Jerusalem, Arikha went to Paris in 1949, where he completed his training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He had his first solo exhibitions in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in 1952 and 1953, and eventually settled in Paris in 1954, studying philosophy at the Sorbonne and establishing lifelong and intimate friendships with Samuel Beckett and Alberto Giacometti. Arikha began his career as an abstract painter, but in 1965 abandoned painting completely, and spent the next eight years working on black and white drawings, as well as a series of monochromatic etchings. By the time he

returned to painting in 1973, he had become a committed figurative painter, producing portraits of family and friends, interior scenes and still life subjects. Arikha's work was the subject of numerous gallery and museum exhibitions in Europe and America throughout his career, with large retrospective exhibitions held in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Edinburgh in 1998-1999 and London in 2006.