

The Vasarely Affair: latest development

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Paris, 31 January 2014, Art Media Agency (AMA).

The latest decision in the long series of trials concerning the Vasarely affair, between Pierre Vasarely and Michèle Taburno, has just been announced, despite being made by the Paris Tribunal on 31 December 2013. The affair, started by Pierre Vasarely, concerns the division of the estate of Vasarely's grandparents, Claire and Victor Vasarely, and of his father, Jean-Pierre Vasarely, named Yvaral (and married to Michèle Taburno).

The Paris Tribunal de Grande Instance (TGI) has ruled on the following points: it “dismisses Michèle Taburno's plea of inadmissibility”, and “said a judicial partnership engaged by Pierre Vasarely is admissible”.

It has ordered the judicial sharing of:

- “the joint estate having existed between the couple Vasarely / Spinner,
- the inheritance of Claire Spinner and Victor Vasarely,
- the joint estate having existed between the couple Vasarely / Taburno,
- the inheritance of Jean-Pierre Vasarely.”

Furthermore, the TGI said that “it is dependant on the undivided inheritance of Claire Spinner, Victor Vasarely and Jean-Pierre Vasarely, a number of works by Victor Vasarely and Yvaral”. Said works have, for some time, been the subject of conflict between the two families. Lastly, the tribunal “orders the return of these works to France”.

M. Lacan, Pierre Vasarely's lawyer, contacted by AMA, has specified that if the TGI has not yet made a decision concerning the ownership of the works, it has decided on the matter of claims to them by Michèle Taburno, actions which his client denies. A press release has stated that “Pierre Vasarely celebrates this first decision”. It also claimed: “This judgement is another brick added to the reconstitution of the collections left by Victor Vasarely for the edification of current and future generations.” This decision is the latest in this twenty-year long dispute, which began with the death of Clare Vasarely in 1990. Since then, the family has regularly appeared in front of tribunals concerning its inheritance of the works by both artists.

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