

COLNAGHI ELLIOTT

MASTER DRAWINGS

Leonor Fini
(Buenos Aires 1907 – 1996 Paris)

L'Olpa

Signed right: *Leonor Fini*
Pencil on paper
11.5 x 19.2 cm. (4 ½ x 7 ½ in.)

Provenance:
Private Collection, Belgium;
Lokeren, De Vuyst, 2 March 2024, lot 386.



This playful cat, covered in what appears to be flower petals, is the original pencil design for the related etching in Leonor Fini's *Les Etrangers*.

Published in 1976, *Les Etrangers* is a portfolio of 18 etchings depicting mystical beasts, drawn from Fini's wild imagination. Many of these demonstrate feline characteristics. In the portfolio, Fini gave this cat the sonorous name of L'Olpa.

Cats were an integral to both Fini's life and art. At one point the artist lived with twenty-three cats (fig. 1). Constant companions, they make frequent appearances in her work, maintaining a real sense of life and personality, and often possessing certain magical attributes.

We are grateful to Cedric Lefebvre, co-author of the forthcoming catalogue raisonné, for having confirmed the attribution.



Fig. 1, Cecil Beaton, *Leonor Fini with cats*, 1956, bromide print, 28 x 23 cm, National Portrait Gallery