



Bernard BUFFET (1928-1999)

Clown fond mauve, 1992

Mixed media on paper, signed on the right and dated lower right

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An emblematic figure in Bernard Buffet's universe, the clown holds a central place in his work from the 1950s onward. A symbol of melancholy and of the duality between laughter and despair, under his brush it becomes a true mirror of the human condition.

In this 1992 composition, Buffet unleashes the full force of his angular, nervous line, which lends the face a dramatic intensity. The vivid colors: greens, reds, and purples, contrast with the character's disillusioned expression, creating a tension between the expected gaiety of the clown and the existential gravity the artist infuses into it.

With its piercing blue gaze and frozen smile, this clown illustrates Buffet's power to transform a popular archetype into a modern icon, where emotion and theatricality are expressed with brutal sincerity.

