

Sotheby's to Present
A Quintessential Example of Vilhelm Hammershøi's
Defining Motif

INTERIØR, STRANDGADE 30

Is on Offer from the Distinguished Collection of
Former United States Ambassador to Denmark,
Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.

Painted in 1899, the Serene Canvas Exemplifies
The Most Refined and Important Period
Of Hammershøi's Career

A Highlight of Sotheby's Evening Sale of
IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART
This November in New York

Public Exhibition Opens 1 November on York Avenue

NEW YORK, 24 October 2019 – Sotheby's is pleased to announce that we will present Vilhelm Hammershøi's *Interiør, Strandgade 30* as a highlight of our [Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale](#) on 12 November 2019 in New York. A quintessential example of the artist's defining motif, the canvas from 1899 exemplifies the most refined and important period of Hammershøi's career. On offer from the distinguished collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., *Interiør, Strandgade 30* is estimated to sell for \$2.5/3.5 million in the November Evening Sale.

The work was painted during the years of Hammershøi's residence at Strandgade 30 in Copenhagen's historic Christianshavn neighborhood. The artist and his wife Ida moved to Strandgade in 1898 following an extended stay in London, and remained in the same apartment for a decade. It was in these rooms that Hammershøi would complete his best works, including the present canvas.



Interiør, Strandgade 30 will appear at auction this November on the heels of a sensational retrospective of the artist's work: *Hammershøi, the Master of Danish Painting* was on view from 14 March until 22 July 2019 at the Musée Jacquemart-André, the first time in 20 years that the artist's work was exhibited in Paris.

The November offering marks the second occasion that a work by Hammershøi will appear in Sotheby's New York Evening Sale of Impressionist & Modern Art. In November 2017, *Interior with Woman at Piano, Strandgade 30* from 1901 established a new auction record for the Danish artist when it sold for \$6.2 million.

Interiør, Strandgade 30 will be on view in Sotheby's New Bond Street galleries in London from 25 to 27 October, before returning to our York Avenue headquarters for public exhibition beginning 1 November.

ABOUT AMBASSADOR JOHN L. LOEB, JR.

This outstanding work comes to market this November from the collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.. Appointed by President Reagan to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Ambassador Loeb moved to Copenhagen in 1981 and has since amassed what is arguably the finest and most representative collection of Danish art in private hands, with an impressive 13 works by Hammershøi represented within this distinguished group.

Ambassador Loeb's three-year appointment in the Danish capital spurred not only a diplomatic mission, but also what became a cultural voyage of discovery and the birth of his collection of 147 works. His passion and deep knowledge of the field combined with his tireless determination to promote Danish art to a wider international audience has culminated in numerous exhibitions and books on his remarkable collection. Over the past nearly 40 years, he has continued to act as a veritable global Ambassador of Danish art and culture, beginning in 1982, when he personally accompanied Prince Henrik of Denmark to the United States as part of the *Scandinavia Today* tour.

Ambassador Loeb has lectured extensively on Danish art, including at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., and is a generous lender of works to international exhibitions. In 2005, he published a catalogue of the Loeb collection, an excellent scholarly work and invaluable academic resource on Danish art in English. He is also an ardent supporter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York, where his collection was exhibited in 2013-4.

Exposed to collecting art at an early age, Ambassador Loeb's parents amassed one of the finest private collections of Impressionist art; his mother's cousins, Philip and Robert Lehman, and his great grandfather Adolf Lewisohn were also notable collectors of French art. Through his twin passion for genealogy, Ambassador Loeb was delighted to find that another ancestor, Joseph Hambro, was a key figure in stabilizing Denmark's economy in the early 1800s after the Napoleonic wars.

INTERIØR, STRANGADE 30



Renowned for his minimalist aesthetic and quiet, contemplative interiors, Hammershøi's apartment on Strandgade 30 and the way in which he captures the quality of light act as the most defining elements of the artist's compositions.

Located in the Christianshavn neighborhood in the historic center of Copenhagen, Hammershøi's apartment – a 17th-century building with 18th-century wood paneling – was the

ideal setting for the artist to take advantage of the low, filtered light. Before the artist and his wife Ida moved into the apartment following an extended stay in London, the couple painted the walls a cool gray and the woodwork a stark white. These purposeful modifications allowed the space to better absorb and reflect the distinct Nordic light that Hammershøi sought to capture and provided a brilliant framing device in his compositions.

Hammershøi would stage his compositions in these rooms, punctuating the interior with pieces from his collections of dark wood furniture, ceramics, paintings, musical instruments and other objects. Chairs, lamps, bowls and framed pictures reappear in countless configurations, and through their deliberate and meticulous arrangement, the artist adapted the conventions of classical still life painting. His wife Ida, shown here in a black dress and white apron carrying a pewter dish, becomes another element of the still life composition, a carefully staged form reflecting the light of an unseen source.

The subdued palette of the present work and the absence of sentimentality bear a striking resemblance to the works of James McNeill Whistler, the American artist who deeply influenced Hammershøi and with whom he first exhibited at the *Exposition Universelle* in Paris in 1889. In addition, Hammershøi's use of subtle light, muted tones and choice of subject belie the influence of Dutch 17th-century master Johannes Vermeer, while the cultivation of stillness and intentional, restrained tension echo in the works of later artists such as Edward Hopper, Giorgio Morandi and Gerhard Richter.

About Sotheby's

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby's Wine, Sotheby's Diamonds, and Sotheby's Home, the online marketplace for interior design.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

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