

SOTHEBY'S TO SELL THE ROLF DEYHLE COLLECTION

100 years of German Art for auction

LONDON, Tuesday, April 27, 1999: The sale of a selection of works from the Rolf Deyhle Collection which encompasses the development of German art from the late 19th century to the present day was announced at Sotheby's in London today. Approximately 140 works including paintings, drawings, sculpture and prints collected by Mr. Deyhle will be offered for sale at Sotheby's in London on Wednesday, October 6, 1999. The sale will take place on the same day as Sotheby's major sale of German and Austrian Art.

The Deyhle Collection provides a fascinating insight into art in Germany over a period of 100 years. Beginning with works by German Impressionist artists such as Max Liebermann and Lovis Corinth, the collection continues with works by a range of early 20th century Modern artists such as Otto Dix, Karl Hofer and Oskar Schlemmer; the Post-war Informel artists Willi Baumeister, Fritz Winter and Max Ackermann and ends with the more recent works by Georg Baselitz and Markus Lüpertz.

Helena Newman, Senior Director of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department, said: "The auction will provide collectors with an exceptional opportunity to acquire works by well known international artists but at the same time to see the work of less well known artists, particularly from South West Germany."

Music entrepreneur Mr. Deyhle, the owner of the musical company Stella AG, was the first to produce world class musicals such as *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon* and *Beauty and the Beast* in Germany. However, financial setbacks in the development of large scale real estate projects require Mr. Deyhle to restructure his business and sell part of his group.

"Sotheby's has not only a very strong international reputation but has provided us with the most coherent approach to promote German art of the 19th and 20th century. In selling my art collection I want to further consolidate and strengthen my group and save jobs. I am happy to say that, in full co-operation with our banking partners, we have successfully completed most of the work. The auction of my collection will be the final step," Mr. Deyhle said.

Mr. Deyhle's art collection was assembled over a period of 40 years. It contains works not only by artists of international renown but also focuses on the art of Stuttgart, his home town in Southern Germany. Many of the works included in the sale have been exhibited in travelling exhibitions in Germany in the early 1990s.

The most valuable painting in Sotheby's sale is an outstanding example of Otto Dix's portraiture from the 1920s, *Portrait of the lawyer Dr. Fritz Glaser*, one of a series of portraits in which he depicted friends from among the professional classes. Dix depicts his friend as a vulnerable and isolated figure with intense psychological penetration. The tension in the portrait is further enhanced by Dix's unconventional choice of placing Dr. Glaser outdoors, in front of a derelict wall with a view onto a snow-covered building in Dresden. It is possible that Dix was thereby alluding to the social, political and economic turmoils of the Weimar period in Germany. In 1925, Dix painted a further portrait of Dr. Glaser, this time with his family, which is in the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Gemäldegalerie Neue Meister.

As one of the leaders of the *Neue Sachlichkeit* group, in the 1920s, Dix was already moving away from the pre-war Expressionist aesthetic and instead becoming interested in a more objective form of realism. The *Portrait of Dr. Fritz Glaser*, a superb example of this new objectivity, is estimated at £600,000-800,000.

The German Impressionist artist Max Liebermann (1847-1935) is represented by a self-portrait, *The artist sketching surrounded by his family*, which is one of two small oil studies relating to a larger painting that was never completed. This beautiful and charming work of the Liebermann household shows the artist sketching his wife while their children play and the maid looks on, and is set in the brightly lit hall of their country house in Wannsee, near Berlin.

Liebermann's Impressionist style is evident in this work in his use of a light-infused palette and soft brushstrokes. Dating from 1926, *The artist sketching surrounded by his family* is estimated at £ 100,000-150,000.

Oskar Schlemmer (1888-1943), one of the masters of the Bauhaus, the most celebrated school of architecture, design and craftsmanship of the 20th century, is represented by a group of five paintings with estimates ranging from

£20,000 to £120,000. The highlight of this group is a small oil study, Die Treppensteigerin (Woman ascending a staircase) from 1936, which relates to the celebrated painting entitled Bauhaustreppe of 1932 in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It depicts a young woman in a long dress, seen from the rear and ascending a staircase, illustrating Schlemmer's typical elongation and simplification of the human form. It is estimated at £80,000-120,000.

Karl Hofer (1878-1955) is represented by five figure paintings and a still life, painted between 1913 and 1943. Nach dem Bad (After bathing), an oil executed in 1934, is a powerful and beautifully balanced composition of a woman drying herself after bathing in which Hofer uses a strong contrast of light and shadow to create a sculptural and monumental figure illustrating his debt to the Neo-classicism of Picasso. Nach dem Bad is estimated at £100,000-150,000.

From the Post-War period is a group of five works by Willi Baumeister (1889-1955) which includes an outstanding and monumental example from the celebrated Mogador Series made between 1950 and 1951. With this series, as with his Metaphysical Landscape Paintings, Baumeister abandoned his former wartime gloom and returned to a livelier and more optimistic painting style. Entitled Dialog Rot-Blau, the oil is rendered in a spectrum of rich blues, greens, purples and gold, arranged in a pattern of cones, rhomboids and ovals across the canvas. One of the largest compositions from Baumeister's mature period, Dialog Rot-Blau is estimated at £250,000-350,000.

A second work by Baumeister, Faust-Studie from 1953, belongs to one of the artist's last series of paintings and as the title suggests, it refers to Goethe's Faust. Executed in oil on masonite, Faust-Studie is estimated at £200,000-300,000.

The Deyhle Collection also includes works by contemporary artists such as Georg Baselitz, Bernard Heisig and Markus Lüpertz. The most notable from this group is Baselitz's Kollervos Füße from 1967, an oil from the artist's "Fracture Paintings series" where by cutting his figures into horizontal sections and then displacing them laterally, the artist broke from previous more conventional pictorial construction. Rendered in strikingly deep emerald greens and rusty browns, Kollervos Füße is estimated at £180,000-250,000.

The group of prints in the Deyhle collection comprises a selection of works by artists such as Käthe Kollwitz, Max Beckmann and Horst Janssen with estimates ranging from £1,000 to £5,000. It also includes a rare portfolio of lithographs and woodcuts from 1919 titled Uecht-Mappe by Otto Mueller, Oskar Schlemmer and Willi Baumeister. It is estimated at £22,000-32,000.

Highlights of the Deyhle Collection will be included in an international exhibition which from late August to mid-September will visit locations such as Zurich, Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Frankfurt, New York and London. Also included in the exhibition will be highlights from Sotheby's major sale of German and Austrian Art in London.

A further group of approximately 130 works from the Deyhle Collection, including examples from both internationally and locally known German artists from the 19th and 20th centuries, is scheduled for sale at Sotheby's in Munich on Wednesday, November 10, 1999. The rest of the collection, the vast majority of it, will be placed for sale with prominent German art dealers to be selected by Mr. Deyhle after the auctions.

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