

Press release

Annual Report 2023



“Crisis? What Crisis?” – A record year at Van Ham

Loosely based on the title of the famous album by the British band Supertramp, Van Ham can consider itself lucky to have made it unscathed through this year's crises. With a total revenue of 53.8 million euros, Van Ham earned an increase of some 40 per cent over the previous year, achieving a new record performance. With about 80 per cent of sales, Modern and Contemporary Art represents the company's most important segment. Of the total turnover, about 6.2 million euros was generated by Online Only sales – this department thus recorded growth of approximately 5 per cent compared to the previous year, once again assuming first place among German auction houses. The Jewellery & Watches segment made a considerable leap of nearly 15 per cent to a total of 5.3 million euros, thus consolidating its market leadership among German auction houses.

Facts & figures

- €53.8 million = best half-year revenue in the company's history
- 2nd place among German art auction houses**
- Increase in earnings of 40 per cent – Van Ham is the only German art auction house among the top four to achieve a turnover increase**
- 60 auctions with over 9,400 lots and 15 catalogues, incl. 42 Online Only sales
- 3 sales of over one million euros + 52 six-figure sales
- €5.3 million = Germany's leading art auction house in the Jewellery & Watches segment
- €6.2 million = German market leader in the Online Only segment + over 4,600 lots offered

January 2024

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Sales by department (as of Dec. 2023)

- Modern – Post War – Contemporary: approx. €43 million
- Fine Jewels & Watches: approx. €5.3 million
- Fine Art: approx. €3.3 million
- Decorative Art: approx. €2.2 million

Modern – Post War – Contemporary

Both in the Spring and in Autumn, Van Ham was pleased to record the best auctions in the company's history in the Modern and Contemporary Art segment. Here total sales amounted to about 43 million euros – an increase of 57 per cent over the previous year. This amount includes the revenues of the evening sales and day sales with *Modern*, *Post War* and *Contemporary*, the special sale *Parkett – The Complete Editions*, plus the Online Only sales with this focus as well as private sales. For the first time Van Ham can celebrate three seven-figure results – especially **Pablo Picasso's** *Buste de femme* created a sensation in the Spring and was downright omnipresent in the art world. **Max Beckmann's** *Monte Carlo*, which also broke the million-euro mark, was from the same eminent private collection. Among the **international auction records** which Van Ham achieved are those for **Heinrich Maria Davringhausen** and for Van Ham Art Estate artist **Ursula**, to whom the Museum Ludwig in Cologne dedicated a much talked-about retrospective.

Pablo Picasso | *Buste de femme* | Result: €4.35 million

Max Beckmann | *Monte Carlo* | Result: €1.12 million

Otto Mueller | *Frau und Knabe* | Result: €1.04 million

Parkett – The Complete Editions

In a unique special sale on 31 October 2023, Van Ham offered the entire series of editions issued by the international Swiss art magazine *Parkett* between 1984 and 2017. The sale represented the very first auction of all *Parkett* editions on the international market. The international audience exhibited great interest, which resulted in an outstanding overall turnover of about 1.1 million euros with 162 national and international auction records for editions and a unit sales ratio of nearly 90 per cent.

Gerhard Richter | *Green-Blue-Red* | Result: €422,000

Rashid Johnson | *I Love Music* | Result: €26,500 | **German auction record for this artist***

El Anatsui | *Diaspora* | Result: €20,000 | **German auction record for this artist***

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ONLINE ONLY

Van Ham remained the art auction house with the most extensive programme of curated online sales in Germany in 2023. With revenue totalling 6.2 million euros, it is once again market leader in Germany in this segment. In 42 Online Only sales, more than 4,600 artworks – some 50 per cent of all works at Van Ham – were offered online. This year the segment Jewellery and Luxury Items by famous designers was systematically expanded and successfully sold at six auctions.

Keith Haring | Untitled (Cupman) | Result: €66,000

Günther Uecker | *Large Spiral* | Result: €34,500

Günther Uecker | *Current* | Result: €26,500

Watches

During the *Watches* sales, collectors of first-rate wristwatches did not hesitate to seize their chance to snatch up the coveted models of renowned companies without long waiting times. For Van Ham, the total result of approximately 1.7 million euros means that it has taken the lead among German art auction houses in the Wristwatch and Pocket Watch segment. A remarkable fact: most of the highest awards went to online bidders from afar who competed against sales room and telephone bidders in Autumn. The most expensive lot turned out to be a Villeret from **Blancpain**. Additional highlights were from **Lange & Söhne** and **Rolex** as well as **Patek Philippe** and **Audemars Piguet**, who were represented with their best-known models.

Blancpain | Villeret | Ref. 0033-3427-55A | Result: €47,500

Lange & Söhne | Lange 1 | Ref. 101.002 | Result: €46,000

Rolex | King Midas | Ref. 3580 | Result: €29,000

Fine Jewels

By offering tempting new pieces of jewellery, Van Ham excited not only its regular customers but also drew the attention of many new bidders. With a total result of approximately 1.8 million euros, Van Ham achieved a new auction record as well as the record for the year with the *Fine Jewels* Autumn sale. Its total annual turnover (incl. watches) of 5.3 million euros confirmed the company's leading position in the Jewellery & Watches segment among German auction houses. One thing is certain: the demand for diamonds remains unabated. Historic jewellery also enjoyed immense popularity, especially artful Art Deco pieces.

Loose diamond | 4.09 carats E/VS1 | Result: €86,000

Solitaire ring | 1 diamond, c. 4.07 carats E/VS1 | Result: €70,000

Historic natural pearl necklace | Germany | Around 1920 | Result: €50,000

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Fine Art

Rare works earned record prices in the Fine Art sales. Numerous bidders, for example, gathered around a rare, even unique monotype by **Paul Gauguin**, with which Van Ham established a new German auction record for a graphic print by Gauguin. Many interested bidders also discovered a rarity in the complete series of nine chalk lithographs by **Ferdinand Olivier**. The Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio succeeded in fetching this rare piece of art history for its collection. With these successful sales and the remarkable hammer prices for **Franz Roubaud** and **Johann Jakob Frey** Van Ham once again proved its strength in marketing 19th-century art through to international Impressionism.

Paul Gauguin | *Parau hanohano* | Around 1894 | Monotype on paper | Result: €165,000

Franz Roubaud | *Circassian Horsemen at the Ford* | Result: €105,500

Ferdinand Olivier | *Seven Landscapes from Salzburg and Berchtesgaden* | Result: €99,000

Decorative Art

International collectors engaged in animated and intense bidding for the selected items offered at the Decorative Art sale, which resulted in a total annual turnover of approximately 2.2 million euros. Some of the estimates were exceeded more than 22-fold, for instance those for the museum-quality pieces from the exquisite **Stadhouder Service Set** by the Meissen manufactory. Strong bids were also submitted for a rare **pair of Empire guéridons** from the 19th century. The price for the two elegant tables made of fire-gilded bronze climbed from 3,000 euros to a total of 29,000 euros – which equalled an increase of over 800 per cent.

Stadhouder Service Set | Meissen | Around 1772/1774 | 9 plates and 3 bowls | Result: **€45,000**

Bowl from the Swan Service set | Meissen | Around 1738–39 | J.J.Kaendler | Result: €34,000

Pair of rare Empire guéridons | France | 19th cent. | Result: €29,000

All results include buyer's premiums (excluding VAT).

*Auction records according to Artprice (as of the date of the pertinent sale)

**Based on results lists available on the internet (as of 13 December 2023).

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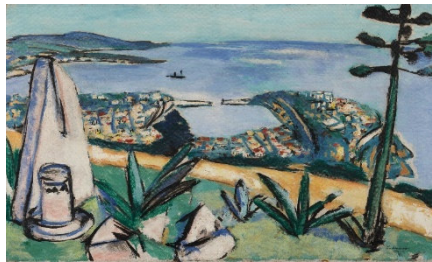
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Top 9 – Annual Report 2023 at Van Ham

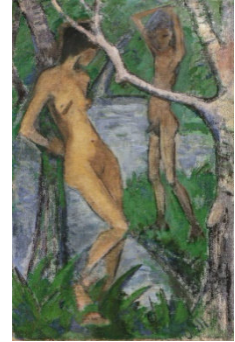


Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)
Buste de femme | 1971
Oil on canvas | 92 x 72.5 cm
Result: €4,318,000

German auction record for this artist*



Max Beckmann (1884–1950)
Monte Carlo | 1936
Oil on canvas | 64.5 x 107 cm
Result: €1,080,000



Otto Mueller (1874–1930)
Frau und Knabe | c. 1922
Distemper on burlap | 150.5 x 98 cm
Result: €1,016,000

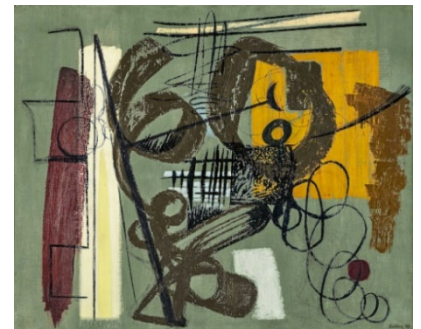


Hermann Max Ernst (1881–1955)
Unterhaltung | 1920
Oil on canvas | 80 x 100 cm
Result: €883,000



Serge Poliakoff (1900–1969)
Composition abstraite | 1967
Oil on canvas | 162.5 x 130.5 cm
Result: €699,000

German auction record for a late work by this artist*

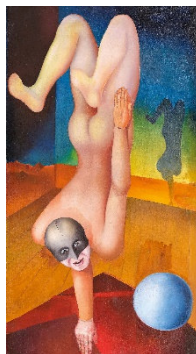


Hans Hartung (1904–1989)
T1947-27 | 1947
Oil on canvas | 80 x 100 cm
Result: €699,000

German auction record for this artist*



Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985)
La vie en ville | 1962 | Gouache, collaged on cardboard,
mounted on canvas | 133 x 91 cm
Result: €572,000



Heinrich Maria Davringhausen (1894–1970)
The Acrobat | Around 1920
Oil on canvas | 178 x 99 cm
Result: €559,000

Int'l auction record for this artist*



Andy Warhol (1928–1987)
Flowers | 1964 | Synthetic
polymer paints on canvas | 36 x 36 cm
Result: €533,000

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Van Ham – About us

Van Ham, founded in 1959, is a family-owned business, managed in the second generation by Markus Eisenbeis. Approximately 20 internationally acclaimed auctions are held annually in the areas of Modern, Post War & Contemporary, Fine Art, Works of Art & Art Nouveau, Fine Jewels and Watches. With over 40 curated Online Only Auctions in 2023, Van Ham is the market leader in Germany. In the same year, Van Ham achieved the highest turnover in the company's history with more than 53.8 million euros and is now ranked second among German auction houses.

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