

Press release

Advance report on the Fine Art sale on 17 May 2024



Yet another magnificent masterpiece by the Indonesian prince

It is a spectacular new discovery by Javanese artist Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia: the breakneck lion hunt by three Arab horsemen. The market-fresh work had a different attribution for years before it was recently discovered by Van Ham and could now be identified as a major work by Raden Saleh with the help of art historian Dr. Werner Kraus. Other highlights of the Fine Art sale include two monumental paintings by the artist brothers Oswald and Andreas Achenbach, the summery light plein air painting by Hans am Ende, and the pointillist coast of Saint-Tropez by Théo van Rysselberge.

Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia is one of the most colourful 19th-century artists and is considered the first Asian to have received a European education. His close friend and patron, Ernst II of Saxony-Coburg and Gotha, introduced him at many European courts, including to the British royal family during the regency of Queen Victoria of Great Britain. The British court appreciated the exotic motifs of this exceptional artist who personally embodied the exotic nature of the Far East.

Saleh's dynamic paintings are distinctive, including the exceptional ***Battle between Two Arab Horsemen and a Lion*** (estimate: €300,000–500,000). It is a wild battle between intertwined animals and people, has intricate perspectives, and would be hard to top in terms of dramatic movement. Life and survival, death and mortal agony are themes of this extraordinary painting from 1842, which let contemporary viewers experience strangeness, wildness and audacity. Dr. Werner Kraus, an expert on Raden Saleh, considers the newly discovered painting one of the artist's major works. Van Ham shares a special success story with the exceptional artist Raden Saleh: in 2011 Van Ham was able to sell Saleh's monumental work *In Direst Need*, which was painted in 1842 and also depicts an Arab rider on his grey horse fighting against a lion, for approximately two million euros.

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The brothers Oswald and Andreas Achenbach are among the most eminent German painters of the 19th century, epitomizing the quality of the Düsseldorf School of Painting. Still, each of them created an independent oeuvre that is quite distinct from that of his brother. **Oswald Achenbach** is known for his Italian landscape paintings that often show idyllic, peaceful natural settings. In the work *Fest der Santa Lucia in Neapel* (Feast of Saint Lucy in Naples) he reveals his lively side, rendering an atmospheric night scene with people making merry at the port of Naples below the old fortifications (estimate: €80,000–120,000). Especially impressive are the light effects of the fireworks that are reflected in the water. Other large versions of this motif can be found at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and the New Gallery in Kassel.

The dominant motif in **Andreas Achenbach's** oeuvre is the depiction of the forces of nature. The painting on offer shows this in a dramatic scene with a *Wassermühle an einem norwegischen Wildbach* (Watermill on a Norwegian Torrent) under a tempestuous sky (estimate: €40,000–80,000). Here Achenbach renders elements such as water, clouds, landscape and vegetation masterfully and in great detail. The work, which is also expansive in terms of size, is from the artist's early years, during which he laid the foundation for his future international fame.

Franz von Stuck's bronze works are marked by their fine details, dynamic poses and carefully crafted surfaces. Especially popular are his dancers, who radiate elegance, movement and sensuality. The work on offer depicts a dancer and is an early cast by the foundry C. Leyrer in Munich. It was created when the artist still signed his name Franz Stuck before being given the title of nobility "von" in 1906 (estimate: €20,000–30,000).

Next to Caspar David Friedrich, **Carl Spitzweg** is probably the most popular German artist of the 19th century. With his affectionate view of people and situations, the painter of *Der arme Poet* (The Poor Poet) and *Der Kakteen-Freund* (The Cactus Friend) crucially shaped the general idea of the Biedermeier period. In the 1860s and '70s Spitzweg frequently varied the theme of (school) children in the forest. Siegfried Wichmann, author of the artist's catalogue raisonné, dates this particularly atmospheric painting of three resting schoolgirls, which like many of Spitzweg's works was painted on the lid of a cigar box, to the period around 1875 (estimate: €30,000–40,000).

A major trend in the last decades of the 19th century was the call "Out into the countryside" – away from the ever more chaotic big cities and out into the peacefulness and seclusion of country life. Artists pursued their pronounced interest in plein air painting in art colonies. One of the best-known artists' colonies was Worpswede, north of Bremen, one of whose founding members was **Hans am Ende**. With over two metres, his impressive painting *Bachlauf bei Worpswede* (Stream Course North of Worpswede) is a very expansive work whose remarkably strong colour palette is typical for the fin de siècle (estimate: €15,000–25,000).

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While the Impressionists made the atmospheric depiction of light the central focus of their artistic endeavours, the Pointillists chose a radically scientific approach. Paints applied to the canvas in dots were not mixed but were placed side by side. The painting, constructed by the artist according to optical laws, is to emerge in the eye of the beholder. **Théo van Rysselberghe** was the most influential Belgian artist who predominantly used this new technique from about 1888 on. However, he modified the strict doctrine of Pointillism, working with tone-on-tone colours and short brushstrokes – as for instance in the atmospheric painting *Strand bei Saint-Tropez* (Beach near Saint-Tropez) (estimate: €90,000–120,000).

Old Masters

Works by Baroque painter **Johann Liss** are rare to be found on the international auction market. Part of an Italian collection for decades, the extremely dynamic composition *Raufende Bauersleute* (Brawling Farmers) impresses art lovers with its strong narrative character (estimate: €40,000–80,000). Indeed, as Rüdiger Klessmann indicated in an exhibition catalogue from 1975, this work may have been inspired by an etching by German artist Hans Sebald Beham (1500–1550) from 1547, which depicts a scuffle among farmers to which Liss added his own invented details.

In December 2023 one of the world's most recognized experts in Italian art of the 16th to 18th centuries passed away: **Erich Schleier** (1934–2023). Schleier was a great scholar of Italian art of the Seicento. His main interest was in the fertile axis between the Po Valley, Rome and Naples, where some of the most eminent masterpieces of this period were created. As a curator of Italian paintings at the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin from 1971 until 1999 he focused on the protagonists of Baroque art. Van Ham now has been given the honour to offer his exquisite collection of paintings and drawings from the 17th to the 19th centuries. It includes sketches by **Francesco Solimena** and **Giacomo Cavedoni** as well as drawings by **Giuseppe Bottani**, **Giovanni Lanfranco** and **Stefano Magnasco**, which reveal the collector's personal interests and extraordinary connoisseurship.

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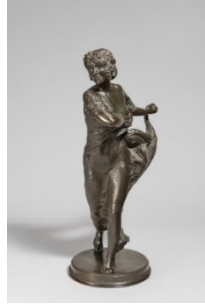
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Highlights of the Fine Art sale on 17 May 2024



Andreas Achenbach (1815–1910)
Wildbach mit Wassermühle
Oil on canvas | 149 x 216 cm
Estimate: €40,000–80,000



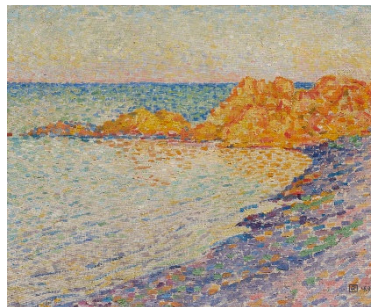
Franz von Stuck (1863–1928)
Tänzerin | Bronze 64 x 34 cm
Estimate: €20,000–30,000



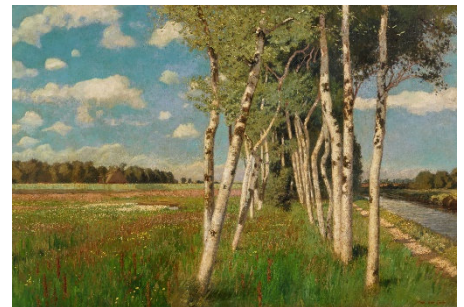
Oswald Achenbach (1827–1905)
Volksfest in Neapel
Oil on canvas | 139 x 197 cm
Estimate: €80,000–120,000



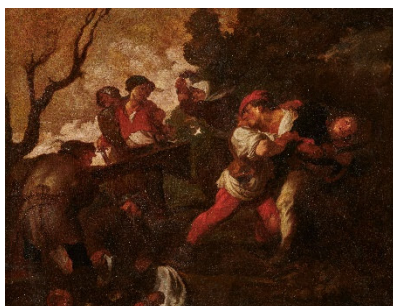
Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia (1811–1880)
Battle between Arab Horsemen and a Lion
Oil on canvas | 67 x 98 cm
Estimate: €300,000–500,000



Théo van Rysselberghe
(1862–1926)
Petite plage à Saint-Tropez | 1898
Oil on canvas | 40.5 x 49 cm
Estimate: €90,000–120,000



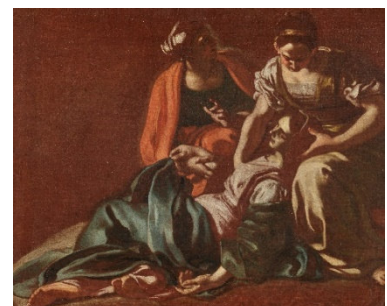
Hans am Ende (1864–1918)
Bachlauf bei Worpswede
Oil on canvas | 137 x 202 cm
Estimate: €15,000–25,000



Johann Liss (c. 1597–1631)
Raufende Bauersleute | c. 1620
Oil on canvas | 66.5 x 84 cm
Estimate: €40,000–80,000



Carl Spitzweg (1808–1885)
Drei Schulfrauen rastend
Oil on wood | 21.5 x 13.5 cm
Estimate: €30,000–40,000



Francesco Solimena (1657–1747)
Draft for the Crucifixion | Oil on canvas |
32 x 40 cm
Estimate: €5,000–7,000
Schleier Collection

Van Ham – About us

Founded in 1959, the Cologne-based auction house Van Ham is a family business run by Markus Eisenbeis, now in its second generation. The internationally acclaimed auctions cover the areas of Modern & Contemporary Art, Old Masters & Impressionism, Works of Art & Art Nouveau as well as Fine Jewels & Watches. In 2023, Van Ham achieved the best result in its history with a total turnover of around 53.8 million euros, putting it in second place among German auction houses. Van Ham is the market leader among art auction houses in Germany in the Jewels & Watches segment and is also the leader for online sales with over 40 curated Online Only auctions per year.

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