

Press release

Advance report on the **Modern | Post War | Contemporary**
Evening Sale | Day Sale on 5 + 6 June 2024



Nails as far as the eye can see

The highlights of the evening sale of the Spring sales for Modern and Contemporary Art are two distinctive nail pictures by Günther Uecker that are impressive in terms of their dynamics and scale. The *École de Paris* is represented by Serge Poliakoff, whose abstract composition not only impresses with its extensive exhibition history. Those who prefer a work with a humorous character will find what they are looking for in the four-part painting by Martin Kippenberger. Kiki Kogelnik's provocative work can rightly be described as a major work by the Austrian artist.

The works of **Günther Uecker** are unmistakable: the dynamic nail pictures are both paintings and sculptures at the same time. For the ZERO artist, the nails are a metaphor for different human experiences, such as pain, vulnerability and transformation. At Van Ham, two of these expressive nail works will be offered. They are from a Northern German collection and were both acquired directly by the artist. Its increasing density at the centre gives the powerful composition of the *Light Disc* from 1998 a dynamic pull (estimate: €700,000–1,000,000). It is a wonderful example of the way Uecker redefines the borders between sculpture and painting – small wonder that his discs are among the artist's works that are most coveted by collectors. The work *White Wind* from 1990 also bears Uecker's characteristic signature. Swirls and moving structures form on the aesthetically pleasing, large-scale nail picture, reminding the viewer of a corn field in the wind (estimate: €300,000–500,000).

From the high-profile collection from which Van Ham successfully auctioned Picasso's painting *Buste de femme* last year, **Serge Poliakoff's** *Composition grise* will be called up (estimate: €250,000–350,000). The work from the style-defining work phase of the 1950s has a significant exhibition history, including many important retrospectives of the main representative of the "Nouvelle École de Paris".

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VAN HAM Kunstauktionen
Anne Rinckens
Press & Communication
Hitzelerstraße 2
50968 Köln
Tel. +49 (0)221 925 862-110
a.rinckens@van-ham.com
www.van-ham.com

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Georg Tappert is one of the most important representatives of the Berlin avant-garde. His depictions of women in the Berlin demimonde of the 1920s mark the high point of his artistic career. These motifs also include *Dancer with a Raised Fan* - a high quality and colourful work that is rarely found on the auction market (estimate: € 50,000 - 70,000).

The special significance of the painting *The Woman in Man* by **Konrad Klapheck** lies in the rare synthesis of the two central themes of his well-known machine paintings, which were previously either male or female (estimate: € 250,000 - 350,000). The large format impresses with its museum quality and strong primary colours. It comes from a private collection in the Rhineland, from which other important works by **K.O. Götz**, **Joseph Beuys** and **Bernard Schultze** are also on offer.

Martin Kippenberger is known for his multi-faceted oeuvre and his provocative, often humorous paintings. His market-fresh work *Hans-Jesus M.* from 1981 should also be viewed with a smile. It consists of four paintings with whimsical titles, such as *Reserviert für Oma* (Reserved for Nanna) or *Der Freizeitknopf* (The Leisure Button) (estimate: €120,000–180,000). The work comes with a certificate dated November 2013 by the Gisela Capitain Gallery / Estate Martin Kippenberger Cologne.

Gerhard Richter has been at the top of the "*Kunst Kompass*", an international artist ranking, for 20 years. As such, this important artist should not be missing from any auction. An early example of Richter's intensive preoccupation with the colour grey, which led him to abstraction, is the canvas from 1973 (estimate: € 200,000–300,000).

Two works by **Pegeen Vail-Guggenheim**, daughter of Peggy Guggenheim and the poet Laurence Vail, come from the **estate of Max Ernst and his wife Dorothea Tanning**. The eccentric mother with her passion for modern art and its artists had a great influence on Vail-Guggenheim's oeuvre, which is characterized in equal parts by naive art and surrealism. The small painting from 1949 shows a number of young, undressed women in a colourful room painted in clear colours as if by Matisse or Miró. The seemingly exuberant mood of this untitled painting takes on a different meaning when one knows how much the artist suffered from her mother's debauched escapades (estimate: € 10,000–15,000). Vail-Guggenheim knew Max Ernst well due to his short-lived marriage to Peggy Guggenheim. In addition to this painting, she also gave Ernst and his wife a small drawing, which she dedicated to both of them.

Also from the **estate of Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning** are three works by **William Nelson Copley**, with whom Ernst was friends. The work "*Horse Fair*" from 1955 is an important early work from the style-defining Parisian period and is characteristic of Copley's provocative ironic approach to social values (estimate: € 60,000–80,000). Today, Copley is celebrated for his outstanding contribution
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to post-war painting, which represents a unique link between European Surrealism and American Pop Art.

The “punk cosmonaut” **Kiki Kogelnik** is an icon of Austrian Pop Art. Artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Sam Francis were among her closest friends. The large-format diptych “*Real Life Stinks*” from 1979 is an absolute masterpiece by the painter, who died young (estimate: € 80,000–120,000). The market-fresh work with two provocative punks has been in private French ownership since its creation. The “Hidden Treasure” Kogelnik is currently being rediscovered by art history and honoured with an exhibition at the Kunsthaus Zürich, for example.

Zeng Fanzhi is one of the best-known contemporary Chinese artists internationally. His haunting portrait #9 lives from the dynamic brushstrokes and the characteristic, enlarged facial features (estimate: € 200,000–300,000). At the current Venice Biennale, Fanzhi's works can be seen in an exhibition at the Scuola Grande della Misericordia, organized by the LACMA Museum, Los Angeles.

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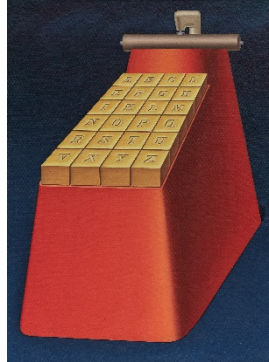
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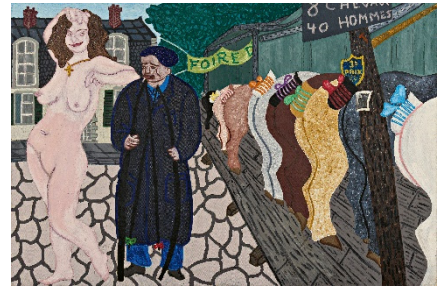
Highlights of the Modern – Post War – Contemporary sales on 5 + 6 June 2024



Martin Kippenberger (1953 – 1997)
Hans-Jesus M. | 4 parts
1981 | Oil on canvas | 60 x 50 cm
Estimate: €120,000–180,000



Konrad Klapheck (1935 – 2023)
The Woman in Man | 1990
Oil on canvas | 169 x 124.5 cm
Estimate: €250,000–350,000



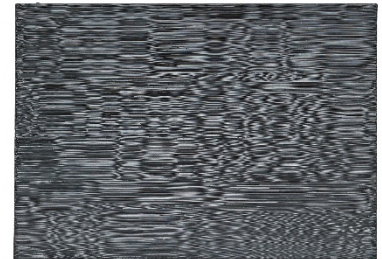
William Nelson Copley (1919 – 1996)
Horse Fair | 1955
Oil on canvas | 97.5 x 145 cm
Estimate: €60,000–80,000



Zeng Fanzhi (1964)
Untitled #9 | 2001
Oil on canvas | 70 x 70 cm
Estimate: €200,000–300,000



Günther Uecker (b. 1930)
Light Disc | 1998 | Hammered-in nails and
white paint on canvas | Ø 150 x 7 cm
Estimate: €700,000–1,000,000



Gerhard Richter (1932)
Grey | 1973 | Oil on canvas | 50 x 70.4 cm
Estimate: €200,000–300,000



Pegeen Vail Guggenheim (1925–1967)
Untitled | 1949
Oil on canvas | 80 x 100 cm
Estimate: €10,000 – 15,000



Serge Poliakoff (1900–1969)
Composition grise | 1956
Oil on canvas | 97 x 130 cm
Estimate: €200,000–300,000



Kiki Kogelnik (1935–1997)
„Real Life Stinks“ (I + II) | Diptychon | 1979 | Oil
and safety pins on canvas | Each 195 x 100 cm;
total measurements: 195 x 200 cm
Estimate: €80,000–120,000

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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