

# VAN HAM

## Annual Report 2024



## Van Ham Shows Strength, Confirming Its Second Place

After the exceptional year 2023, Van Ham can draw an altogether positive balance for 2024 as well: with a total result of approximately €51.2 million, Van Ham once again achieved second place among German auction houses according to the company's own calculations. The Modern and Contemporary Art sales experienced the greatest demand and make up nearly 70 per cent of total revenues. The sale of the Kasper König Collection drew all eyes, demonstrating once more that Van Ham is the premier auction house for extensive private and corporate collections. In the Jewellery and Watches segment and the Online Only sales, the existing top positions among German art auction companies were successfully maintained. Contrary to the international trend, Van Ham posted an increase of 25 per cent compared to 2022. Thus it continues on its expansion course in order to serve the dynamically developing business field of the marketing of corporate collections.

### Facts & figures

- €51.2 million total revenues in 2024
- Ranked 2nd among German auction houses\*
- 60 auctions with over 9,300 lots, incl. 41 Online Only sales
- €7.2 million at the Online Only sale = German market leader in this segment
- Germany's leading art auction house in the Jewellery & Watches segment with an increase of about 34 per cent compared to last year

December 2024

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## Revenue by department (as of 03.12.2024)

- Modern – Post War – Contemporary: approx. €35.4 million
- Fine Jewels & Watches: approx. €7.4 million
- Fine Art: approx. €6 million
- Works of Art & Art Nouveau: approx. €2.4 million

## Modern – Post War – Contemporary

The Modern and Contemporary Art sales yielded a total of approximately €35.4 million this year, of which approx. €6.2 million was contributed by the Online Only sales. German and international collectors participated in the evening sales, setting brilliant highlights of the year with their bids at Van Ham. Confidence placed in the company's own sales platform, My VAN HAM, is great. Consequently, with 680,000 euros for **Günther Ueckers' Lichtscheibe** (Light Disc), the highest award of the Spring sale went to an online bidder from North Rhine-Westphalia. Well-known names yielded great results: **Serge Poliakoff** and **Konrad Klapheck** fetched high hammer prices and contributed significantly to the impressive total result. Artists such as **Steven Parrino** or **Wojciech Fangor**, most of whose fans live abroad, also achieved excellent results at Van Ham. The monumental work by Parrino is going to the Museum Reinhard Ernst in Wiesbaden.

**Günther Uecker** | *Light Disc* | Result: €897,500

**Konrad Klapheck** | *Woman in Man* | Result: €765,500

**Steven Parrino** | *Lucifer's Hammer* | Result: €528,000

## The Kasper König Collection – His Private Choice

A collection to remember: none of this year's auctions has received as much and as positive feedback as the sale of the collection of the legendary exhibition organizer, Professor Kasper König. The 250 lots earned almost €6 million – which translates into a strong sales ratio of 234 per cent. The high-calibre evening sale turned into a white glove sale – all works were sold, sometimes with remarkable price increases. With a sales ratio of about 94 per cent, the day sale was also extremely successful. Kasper König initiated the project of presenting and selling his private collection at Van Ham in Cologne back in 2023. He carefully planned the catalogue and formulated his vision for the exhibition. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the sale. In the end it was an homage in honour of this legendary exhibition organizer.

**On Kawara** | *MAY 7, 1967* | Result: €1,056,000 | **Int'l auction record for a date painting in this format\*\***

**Claes Oldenburg** | *Ghost Wardrobe for M. M.* | Result: €343,000

**On Kawara** | *12 NOV. 2003* | Result: €290,000

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## Single-piece auction “Fancy Yellow Diamond”

For the first time in the company's history – probably even in Germany – Van Ham conducted a single-piece auction. One lot was the sole focus of the sale: a fancy yellow diamond with 16.71 carats. The high-carat gemstone was acquired by a telephone bidder from New York for a total of €152,000. With the single-piece auction, Van Ham offered for the first time a new and unique sales channel for the fastest possible liquidation of art, jewellery or watches. Van Ham generated this custom-made sale within an extremely short time.

## ONLINE ONLY

With 41 Online Only sales in 2024 and total revenues of about €7.2 million, Van Ham offered the most extensive auction programme of an art auction house in the field of curated online sales in Germany. The department thus exceeded its previous year's result by about ten per cent, once again confirming its market leadership in this segment in Germany. The online sales consisted of 35 auctions in Modern and Contemporary Art (€6.2 million) and six from the Jewellery & Watches segment (c. €1 million). The strong sales are attributable both to the large number of about 5,000 lots and the targeted offerings.

## Fine Jewels

With a new record result of approximately €7.4 million and growth of some 34 per cent compared to the previous year, the Jewellery and Watches department has by now become the second-strongest segment at Van Ham and continues to further consolidate its leading role among German art auction houses. An excellent **solitaire ring** with 6.5 carats played a major role in the successful 2024 jewellery sales, whose result of 277,000 euros in the Spring constituted a new record for this segment at Van Ham. The superb offerings of **diamonds** of more than three carats on offer achieved excellent prices, including some among the historic pieces from the 1920s, which continue to enjoy great popularity. **Sapphires** and **emeralds** of optimum quality and from preferred countries of origin underwent a noticeable revaluation. A special collection was offered with the creations by **Kieselstein-Cord**, the iconic American brand with glam appeal.

**Solitaire ring** | 1 cut diamond | 6.50 carats | D/WS2 | Result: €277,000

**Diamond ear jewellery** | 1 diamond | 4.22 carats | Around 1920 | Result: €139,000

**Diamond ring** | 1 emerald-cut diamond | 4.47 carats | E/IF | Result: €79,000

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## Watches

A strong Spring and a successful Autumn yielded a splendid overall result for the Watch department: the total for 2024 was approximately €2.6 million. This constitutes an increase of some 50 per cent compared to the previous year. Together with the Jewellery department, this is the second-strongest segment of Van Ham and is continuing to consolidate its leading role among German art auction houses. Sensational sales ratios of about 95 per cent characterized the watch sales – this segment recorded virtually no post-auction sales. Confidence in online bidding is great: the majority of bids came via the internet – this way of bidding is appreciated by customers all over the world. **Rolex** in any shape and colour is considered a sales hit with a reliably high sales ratio. Other top lots came from other renowned companies such as **Audemars Piguet**, **Jaeger LeCoultre** and **A. Lange & Söhne**.

**Audemars Piguet** | Royal Oak | Ref. 25810OR.OO.0944O.01R. | Result: €145,000

**IWC** | Grand Complication | Ref. 3770 | Result: €66,000

**Audemars Piguet** | Royal Oak Quantième Perpétuel Automatique | Ref. 25654BA.OO.0944BA.01 | €66,000

## Fine Art

Enthusiastic bidders throughout the world participated in the sales, giving the Fine Art department the best result in ten years with total annual earnings of about €6 million. Assumptions concerning the authorship of *Selecting Jewellery*, a scene painted in the most exquisite manner, was confirmed for **Lavinia Fontana** by qualified experts – the international potential buyers had long suspected this and fell all over themselves with their bids. This led to the second-highest auction result ever to be achieved for the exceptional Mannerist artist. Furthermore, the Fine Art sales were marked by high hammer prices for exotic and atmospheric paintings from the 19th century through to Impressionism – about 90 per cent of which were sold – including the break-neck lion hunt by **Raden Saleh** and the plein air painting *In Nature* by **Ivan Ivanovich Shishkin**.

**Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia** | *Battle between Arabian Horsemen and a Lion* | 1842 | Result: €726,000

**Lavinia Fontana** | *Selecting Jewellery* | 1st half of the 17th cent. | Result: €607,000

**Ivan Ivanovich Shishkin** | *In Nature* | Early 1860s | Result: €343,000

## Works of Art & Art Nouveau

From Asia to Europe and America – collectors of extraordinary top items of the Works of Art & Art Nouveau sales are spread all over the world. In 2024 the department earned a total result of approximately €2.4 million. The arguably most curious collector's item was the **antique copy of the bust of Nefertiti** which was offered in Autumn. Among the bidders were also dedicated collectors of contemporary art for whom the bust's appeal lay in its reception in current art. Supreme craftsmanship

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was evident in a classic representative of decorative arts, the distinguished 18th-century **writing cabinet à trois corps**. It was created by the Spindler brothers, two masters of their trade. The euro result does not reflect the significance of the department. It is the forte of Van Ham as a generalist to market entire estates, in all areas of art and price segments.

**Early antique copy of the bust of Nefertiti** | State Plaster Moulder's Shop in Berlin | Result: €50,000

**Writing cabinet à trois corps** | Johann Friedrich and Heinrich Wilhelm Spindler | Around 1765 | Result: €46,000

**Jacob Gierke** | Large horizontal table clock | 1649 | Result: €37,000

All results are rounded and include the buyer's premium.

\* Based on results lists available on the internet (as of 6 December 2024).

\*\*Auction records according to Artprice.com as of 6 December 2024 (without guarantee).

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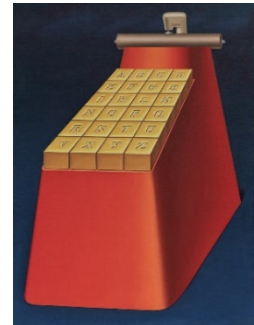
## The Top 9 Highlights at Van Ham in 2024



**On Kawara** (1932–2014)  
*MAY 7, 1967* | 1967  
Acrylic on canvas | 33.5 x 44 cm  
**Result: €1,056,000**  
Int'l auction record for a date painting of this format\*\*



**Günther Uecker** (b. 1930)  
*Light Disc* | 1998 | Nails, white paint on canvas, on wood | 230 x 230 x 7 cm  
**Result: €898,000**



**Konrad Klapheck** (1935–2023)  
*Woman in Man* | 1990  
Oil on canvas | 169 x 124.5 cm  
**Result: €766,000**



**Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia** (1811–1880)  
*Battle between Arabian Horsemen and a Lion* | Oil on canvas | 67 x 98 cm  
**Result: €726,000**



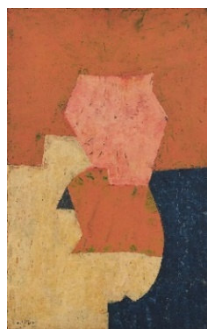
**Lavinia Fontana** (1552–1614)  
*Selecting Jewellery* | Oil on canvas | 69.7 x 66 cm  
**Result: €607,000**



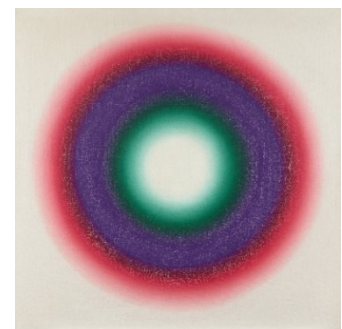
**Steven Parrino** (1958–2004)  
*Lucifer's Hammer* | 1989 | Diptych  
Enamel varnish on canvas | 123 x 183 cm each  
**Result: €528,000**



**Günther Uecker** (1930)  
*White Wind* | 1990 | Nails and white paint on canvas  
110 x 90 x 17.5 cm  
**Result: €475,000**



**Serge Poliakoff** (1900–1969)  
*Composition* | 1951/1954  
Oil on canvas | 100 x 65 cm  
**Result: €462,000**



**Wojciech Fangor** (1922–2015)  
*B23* | 1965  
Oil on canvas | 130 x 130 cm  
**Result: €396,000**

### 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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