

Press release

Follow-up report on the **Fine Art** sale on 17 May 2024



Inspired by foreign countries – appreciated by international bidders

The Fine Art sale was marked by high hammer prices for spectacular, exotic and atmospheric 19th-century paintings up to Impressionism, thanks to enthusiastic collectors from around the world. The overall result of the successful sale totalled approximately 2.3 million euros. The break-neck lion's chase by three Arabian horsemen by Javanese painter Raden Saleh, the Brazilian riverscape by Eduard Hildebrandt and the summery light, Pointillist coast by Belgian artist Théo van Rysselberghe left a lasting impression.

Those interested in **Raden Saleh Ben Jaggia's** dashing work *Battle between Arabian Horsemen and a Lion* from 1842 engaged in a thrilling bidding war. All phone lines went to Indonesia, which has the greatest density of collectors of works by this dazzling 19th-century Javanese artist. Dr. Werner Kraus, an expert on Raden Saleh, considers the newly discovered painting one of the artist's major works. The hammer fell at 550,000 euros – including the buyer's premium, the total was 726,000 euros for the successful bidder from Jakarta.

Exotic motifs were also brought home by **Eduard Hildebrandt** from his extensive travels to North America, Asia, Africa and South America. Especially in his Brazilian works, he successfully managed to capture the tropical atmosphere and light in South America and to excite his audience for this faraway country. A wonderful example of this sort of painting is the *Sonnenuntergang am Pedra da Gavea bei Rio de Janeiro* (Sunset at the Pedra da Gavea near Rio de Janeiro). The atmospheric scene drew collectors from Brazil to the telephones whose bidding war increased the lower estimate by 2,800 per cent to finally end at 116,000 euros – a new **German auction record** for this artist.

Théo van Rysselberghe is the most influential Belgian artist who mostly used the Pointillist technique, which was new at the time, from about 1888 on. However, he modified the strict doctrine of Pointillism, May 2024

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working with tone-on-tone colours and short brushstrokes – as for instance in the atmospheric painting *Beach near Saint-Tropez*. Numerous international bidders participated enthusiastically in the battle for the small landscape, which eventually changed owners for about 270,500 euros, going to a collector from the UK. Van Ham thus achieved the **German auction record** for this artist.

One of the best-known artists' colonies is Worpswede, north of Bremen, one of whose founding members was **Hans am Ende**. His impressive, expansive painting *Bachlauf bei Worpswede* (Stream near Worpswede), for which he used a remarkably strong colour palette typical of the fin de siècle, remains in Germany for a total of 72,500 euros.

Old Masters

Hans Mielich is considered one of the most eminent German artists of the Late Renaissance with close ties to the court of Duke Albrecht V of Bavaria. The present drawing is a preparatory work for a panel of the high altar of the Ingolstadt Cathedral – one of the masterpieces from Mielich's last period of work. After a thrilling bidding war, the design for the presentation of Christ at the temple, which can be found in the right-hand wing of the upper outer register, is going to a Bavarian private collection for the new **international auction record** of 63,500 euros total.

The works from the **Erich Schleier Collection** constituted a special part of the sale. The globally recognized expert in Italian Baroque, who passed away in December 2023, assembled an exquisite collection with paintings and drawings from the 17th to the 19th centuries that reveal the collector's private interests as well as extraordinary connoisseurship. The participant's strong interest, especially in works from Italy, resulted in many price increases. Among the highlights were the **study of a young man's head** from the 17th/18th century, for which a bidder from the US raised the price from 3,000 to 14,500 euros, a study for the crucifixion by **Francesco Solimena** which sold for 10,500 euros, and a large, decorative sketch of Saint Luke with the Virgin Mary by **Domenico I Piola**, which went to Italy for 11,000 euros.

May 2024

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Highlights of the Fine Art sale on 17 May 2024



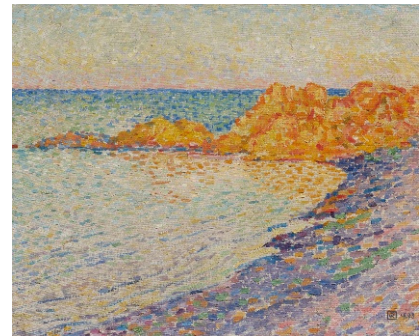
Lot 1159: **Radén Saleh Ben Jaggia**
Battle between Arabian Horsemen and a Lion
Oil on canvas | 67 x 98 cm
Result: €726,000



Lot 1165: **Eduard Hildebrandt**
Sonnenuntergang am Pedra da Gavea bei Rio de Janeiro
Around 1844 | Oil on canvas | 52 x 67 cm
Result: €116,000
German auction record for this artist*



Lot 1200: **Hans am Ende**
Bachlauf bei Worpswede | Oil on canvas | 137 x 202 cm
Result: €72,500



Lot 1219: **Théo van Rysselberghe**
Petite plage à Saint-Tropez | 1898 | Oil on canvas | 40.5 x 49 cm
Result: €270,500
German auction record for this artist*



Lot 1092: **Roman school** (17th/18th century)
Study of a young man's head | Oil on canvas | 44.5 x 38 cm
Result: €14,500
Schleier Collection



Lot 1004: **Hans Mielich**
The Presentation of Christ at the Temple | Before 1572 | Black and brown chalk, heightened in white, squared on beige paper | 17 x 11 cm
Result: €63,500
Int'l auction record for this artist*

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

*Auction record according to Artprice.com – as of 17 May 2024 (without guarantee).

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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