

# Anniversary Auction Turns Record Breaker

Unprecedented: Eight results crossing the magic million euro line, two of which are above five million euros



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In the company's 70th anniversary year, Ketterer Kunst sets new standards: While national and international auction houses report declines, Ketterer Kunst is able to increase its sales - by more than 30% compared to same period last year.

With semi-annual figures amounting to € 54 million\*, Ketterer Kunst is recording the domestic market's best season result by a clear margin, the Evening Sale on June 7 fetched twice the total of what the four German competitors achieved in their respective sales of special works. Eventually, it is the only market player to to have achieved a result above the million mark. And eight times at that. Two of these are the highest in the company's history, reaching 7.0 million and 8.3 million.

Furthermore, Ketterer Kunst exceeded the total result of all spring auctions of its four German

competitors by 20%.

Ketterer Kunst thus confirms its leading position with a clear lead and secures the pole position in the German art auctioneer ranking for the twelfth consecutive time.

**Auctioneer and company owner Robert Ketterer sums it up**: "This result is a sensation and a confirmation of Ketterer Kunst's international recognition. We don't stand second in line behind the big houses."

He continues: "The fact that the anniversary auction, 70 years after the company was founded, went so well makes me very proud - especially as a tribute to my father".

**Nicola Countess Keglevich, Senior Director at Ketterer Kunst, adds**: "Our present selection of top international works reflects the emerging trend of art lovers looking for alternatives to the London market. This becomes particularly evident with works by Alexej von Jawlensky, Henry Moore, Georg Baselitz and Sean Scully featured in our Evening Sale, works that previously would have been presented exclusively in London. This is a clear signal for the future development of Ketterer Kunst's international competitiveness."

The outstanding works at Ketterer Kunst attracted bidders from all over the world. Art as an investment, art as an elixir of life - there are many different motifs behind buying art. The decisive factor for a seasoned art lover to show commitment is quality. And that standard is easy to define: works that are new on the market, have a good provenance and high artistic quality, as well as a fair market valuation.

Determined bidders in the packed saleroom, on the telephones and online made for some long bidding battles in the Evening Sale, high increases in the upper six-figure price range and the strongest sales rate (86%) of all German houses. A total of 80 results in the 6-digit € range were achieved.

The Evening Sale's top lot and the auction's overall highlight undoubtedly was **Alexej von Jawlensky**'s "Spanish Dancer" (lot 38) from 1909. The painting from a short phase in the artist's oeuvre characterized by vibrant colors had been in family ownership for over nine decades and went to a phone bidder for  $\in$  8.3 Million. This was the first time that Ketterer Kunst sold a work above the  $\in$  8 million mark, setting a new historic record. For a work by Alexej von Jawlensky, it is the second highest price ever fetched at auction, the top price was achieved in 2008.

Second place goes to **Ernst Ludwig Kirchner**'s "Tanz im Varieté" (lot 19). The painting was thought to have been lost for 100 years, which makes its reappearance a real sensation. Called up at  $\leq$  2 million, the price rose quickly and the work was eventually sold to the 'Im Obersteg Foundation'. A representative on site beat a phone bidder with a bid of  $\leq$  7.0 Million. The painting from the best "Brücke" period will soon be on display at the Kunstmuseum Basel and continue to delight art lovers.

**Andy Warhol**'s matching set of color silkscreens "Flowers (10 sheets)" (lot 51) ranks third, going to a Swiss private collection for € 1.9 Million.

Other works that landed in the millions include **Georg Baselitz**' "Fingermalerei - Birke" (lot 12) from the artist's most seminal creative phase, which several phone bidders drove to a total of € 1.6 Million, now it can call a Swiss private collection its new home, as well as **Sean Scully**'s monumental oil painting "Cut Ground Orange" (lot 64) from 2009, which a bidder from the USA won for € 1.3 Million. The large-format outdoor sculpture "Working Model for Sheep Piece" (lot 4) by **Henry Moore** from the acclaimed Dr. Theo Maier-Mohr Collection - a work rarely offered on the auction market - aroused lively international interest. However, a bidder in the auction room stood up to competitors on the telephones and carried the trophy home (€ 1.2 Million). **Karl Schmidt-Rottluff**'s "Junger Wald und Sonne" (Lot 41) in expressionist colors par excellence sparked a genuine bidding war and raised the estimate from € 500,000 to a final price of € 1.1 Million including buyer's premium. "Herr Uecker" (lot 61), one of **Gerhard Richter**'s early portraits, also enthused numerous bidders and was eventually sold to an American private collection for € 1.0 Million.

International artists were met with particular interest. **Lucio Fontana**'s "Concetto spaziale" (lot 8), an early pioneering work from the famous "Buchi" group, is one of Fontana's earliest "Concetti spaziali". After more than 50 years in a private collection, the museum piece was sold to a British collection for € 482,600 - representing an increase of 111%.

"The Pequod Meets the Rosebud (D-19, 1X)" (lot 57) by **Frank Stella** from 1991 comes from his important "Moby Dick" series. Inspired by the legendary novel of the same name by Herman Melville. "Moby Dick. The Whale" (1851), the work fascinates with its explosion of form and color. It went to a bidder on the telephone for € 330,200. In the 1960s, **William N. Copley** attained his unmistakable visual language of round, curved shapes, a contour style reminiscent of comic drawings and mostly faceless figures. The work "Father, Dear Father, Come Home With Me Now, The Clock in the Steeple Strikes One (From 'Come Home, Father' by

Henry Clay Work)" from 1966 was acquired by an online bidder for € 266.700 after it was called up at € 80.000 and subsequently saw an increase of over 160%.

### World records on the international auction market

Particularly noteworthy is **Renée Sintenis**' bronze figure "Große Daphne" (lot 10) from 1930. Climbing by 130%, it went to a telephone bidder from Northern Germany for a result of € 584.200. **Isa Genzken**'s "Weltempfänger 'Aachenerstraße'" (lot 183), a unique piece made of a telescopic antenna and iron wire in cast concrete, was quickly driven up by numerous bidders from a starting bid of € 35.000 and was sold for a considerable amount of € 158.750. The coveted unique sculpture by the German artist thus achieved an increase of over 350%. Further records were set by, among others, works by **Hans Steinbrenner** and **Friedrich Meckseper** - both from the Dr. Theo Maier-Mohr Collection.

- Contrary to the international and national trend, Ketterer Kunst increases its sales
   by more than 30% compared to the same period last year
- Ketterer Kunst realizes the industry's best result of the season by a wide margin and for the 12th consecutive time
- Highest results in the history of Ketterer Kunst: € 8.3 million\* for Alexej von Jawlensky's "Spanish Dancer", € 7.0 million\* for Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's "Tanz im Varieté"
- The only German auction house with results above the million euro mark this season: Eight results in the millions for works of Modern and Contemporary Art
- With 86%, the Evening Sale saw the highest sales rate on the German market

**Top 10 Evening Sale** 

	Sold for €*	Calling	Lot	Artist – title
		Price in €		
1.	8,338,000	7,000,000	38	Alexej von Jawlensky, Spanische Tänzerin
2.	6,958,000	2,000,000	19	Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Tanz im Varieté
3.	1,863,000	800,000	51	Andy Warhol, Flowers (10 Blatt)
4.	1,621,000	720,000	12	Georg Baselitz, Fingermalerei - Birke
5.	1,258,000	800,000	64	Sean Scully, Cut Ground Orange
6.	1,161,200	600,000	4	Henry Moore, Working Model for Sheep Piece
7.	1,076,500	500,000	41	Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Junger Wald und Sonne
8.	1,016,000	450,000	60	Gerhard Richter, Herr Uecker
9.	838,200	400,000	66	Sean Scully, Wall of Light Green Grey
10.	762,000	600,000	35	Heinrich Campendonk, Landschaft mit Tieren

<sup>\*</sup> The total comprises all proceeds generated in live and online sales auctions as well as in Private Sales

<sup>\*\*</sup> Art auction of Contemporary Art, Modern Art and 19th Century Art

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The result represents the hammer price plus buyer's premium

## Highlights Evening Sale June 7, 2024



Alexej von Jawlensky
Spanish Dancer, 1909.
Sold for: € 8.338.000
Second highest result worldwide
for a work by the artist



Ernst Ludwig Kirchner Tanz im Varieté, 1911. Sold for: € 6.958.000



Andy Warhol Flowers (10 sheet), 1970. Sold for: € 1.863.000



Georg Baselitz
Fingermalerei - Birke, 1972.
Sold for: € 1.621.000



Sean Scully
Cut Ground Orange, 2009.
Sold for: € 1.258.000



Henry Moore
Working Model for Sheep Piece, 1971.
Sold for: € 1.161.200



Karl Schmidt-Rottluff Junger Wald und Sonne, 1920 Sold for: €1.076.500



Gerhard Richter Herr Uecker, 1964. Sold for: € 1.016.000

Image requests: Bettina Ktona presse@kettererkunst.de

<sup>\*</sup> Auction records according to Artprice as of June 8, 2024 (without guarantee)

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

### **ONLINE AUCTIONS**

To the current auction: <u>onlinesale.kettererkunst.de</u>

Auction ends on June 15, 2024 at 3:00 pm

### **POST AUCTION SALE**

until August 3, 2024 <u>www.kettererkunst.de</u>

### **70 YEARS OF KETTERER KUNST**

Ketterer Kunst, based in Munich and with branches in Hamburg, Cologne and Berlin, and a worldwide network of experts, was founded in 1954 and celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. Robert Ketterer is the second generation to run the family business. The auction house focuses on Contemporary, Modern and 19th Century Art, as well as on Rare Books from five centuries. In its market segment, Ketterer Kunst is the number 1 in the German language region for the sixth consecutive year, with numerous record results, it ranks among the 10 top-selling art auction houses worldwide.

## **PRESS INQUIRIES**

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