

A world record and a second location on Fasanenstrasse Villa Grisebach's fall auctions

Berlin, November 29, 2014

A new chapter opened. This weekend the inaugural auction "Contemporary Art" was held at Villa Grisebach's newly added galleries at Fasanenstrasse 27: With more than 400 guests attending and a total of 150 bidders on the telephones paintings by Anselm Kiefer (EUR 312,500*) and Georg Baselitz (EUR 250,000) fetched the highest hammer-prices.

The top-selling lot of the series of eight auctions was a work in the "19th Century Art" sale. The EUR 3,295,000 achieved for Adolf Menzel's gouache, "Stehende Rüstungen" (estimate: EUR 100,000 / 150,000), turned into the world auction record for a work by the artist, exceeding the previous record by more than a million euros. The winning bid came from a Swiss private collector against eleven bidders on the telephones and numerous bidders in the room. Concurrently, it became the highest price in Germany ever paid at auction for a work on paper. Another spectacular price was achieved for a rare print by Caspar David Friedrich. "Die Frau mit dem Spinnennetz (Melancholie)" brought EUR 901,000 (estimate: EUR 10,000 / 15,000).

In the "Selected Works" auction the last painting Max Beckmann painted in Germany in 1937 before emigrating was sold: Depicting dark looming clouds at a beach on the North Sea island of Wangerooge, it sold after a bidding battle for EUR 1,397,500 to a German private collector.

"Prints" was established in an inaugural auction: Here, the top-selling lot was "Der Kuss" by Edvard Munch. The hand-colored woodcut sold for EUR 500,000 (estimate: EUR 180,000 / 240,000) to a Scandinavian private collector.

Equally successful was the "ORANGERIE" auction featuring selected objects from five centuries. Against recent trends every piece of furniture sold for a high price. For the first time, the auction's total was short of one million euros.

Bernd Schultz: "We are pleased that Villa Grisebach now has a proper location for 21st century art. And we welcome that the Contemporary Art, 19th Century Art, Photography and ORANGERIE departments contribute to represent to the art loving public our program with its strength in Modern Art. The fall auctions' total is 21 million euros."

Micaela Kapitzky

*all prices include buyer's premium