

Press release

Modern and Contemporary Photography at Grisebach

Auction no. 288
30 May 2018, 6 p.m.

On Wednesday 30 May over 200 lots of modern and contemporary photography will be auctioned at Grisebach in Berlin.

The highlight of the auction is a vintage print by László Moholy-Nagy. The photogram, produced during his time at the Weimar Bauhaus in 1923/25, captivates the viewer with a picture full of different, overlapping objects. Moholy-Nagy masterly handles the contrast of substance and transparency. Similar to an X-Ray photograph, the objects appear suffused with light and they form stark contours which then become lost in blurriness. In this valuable unique piece, he unites the principles of avant-garde collage with the technique of an artistic drawing in an extremely poetic way. (EUR 300,000 / 500,000).

František Drtikol shaped erotic photography like barely any other. Drtikol is counted with Jaromír Funke and Jaroslav Rössler among the most important representatives of the Czech avant-garde. In this atmospheric pigment print, he shows his model within a subtly illuminated expressionist stage design. Through this setting the naked body and its shadows move away from each other and this creates a dance of seduction between light and shadow. (EUR 40,000 / 60,000).

Peter Beard found the central theme of his life in Africa. The "Ahmed Diptych" is up for auction with the original frame drawings by an African artist alongside two further unique works. The threat to the natural animal kingdom posed by people and civilisation finds an expression here which reflects Beard's own conflict between tenderness for and worry about a world threatened with destruction. (EUR 50,000 / 70,000).

Along with other avant-garde photographers, Otto Steinert developed a new, experimental image aesthetic within "subjective photography", understanding the individual idea of the image as the opposite of pure illustration and documentation of the visible. The principal example "Zwei Soldaten" stands as an example for this "Neue Sehen". The vintage print is one of two existing prints, one of which is kept in the collection of the Museum Folkwang, Essen. (EUR 20,000 / 30,000).

The auction also includes some characterful landscape and architectural shots by Albert Renger-Patzsch. Three vintage prints are up for auction, straight from the estate of the architect Fritz Schupp, including "Gas und Strom", which

with its size and fine tonality presents the clarity and magic of Renger-Patzsch's pictorial language in a particularly characterful manner. (EUR 5,000 / 7,000).

Two portraits by Lilian Bassman and a number of prints by Horst P. Horst, Walde Huth and William Klein form an overview of decades of fashion photography. The "Pionierin" (EUR 3,000 / 5,000) by the Russian constructivist artist Alexander Rodchenko counts among the climactic points of modern photography along with Berenice Abbott's "Water Front: From Roof of Irving Trust Co. Building, Manhattan" (EUR 7,000 / 9,000) or Iwao Yamawaki's "Fassade" (EUR 4,000 / 6,000). Examples of contemporary photographic art come from William Eggleston, Tod Papageorge, David LaChapelle, Cindy Sherman, Tom Wood, Lewis Baltz, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Thomas Ruff, Robert Mapplethorpe among others.

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Previews

Berlin, 25 to 29 May 2018

Grisebach, Fasanenstrasse 25, 27 and 73

Fri to Mon 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tue 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Auctions

Berlin, 30 May to 2 June 2018

All catalogues and dates available online at
grisebach.com

Berlin, 16 May 2018

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László Moholy-Nagy. Untitled. 1923/25. Vintage. Photogram. Unique work. 12.5 × 17.6 cm. EUR 300,000/500,000



František Drtikol. Composition. 1925. Vintage. Pigment print. 28.3 × 22.9 cm. EUR 40,000/60,000



Peter Beard. Ahmed Diptych. 1968. Gelatin silver print. 2003/04. With original drawings. Unique work. 64 × 41 cm. EUR 50,000/70,000



Otto Steinert. Two Soldiers, Paris. 1951. Vintage. Gelatin silver print. 28.8 × 20.4 cm. EUR 20,000/30,000



Albert Renger-Patzsch. Gas and Power. 1932. Vintage. Gelatin silver print. 37.6 × 27.4 cm. EUR 5,000/7,000



Alexander Rodchenko. Pioneer Girl. 1930. Vintage or early gelatin silver print. 20.2 × 13.4 cm. EUR 3,000/5,000.