

W&K – Wienerroither & Kohlbacher

TEFAF | STAND 722

TEFAF Maastricht | Paper Section - Stand 722
MECC Maastricht, Forum 100, 6229 GV Maastricht
5. - 15. March 2020

Due to its many years of expertise, W&K – Wienerroither & Kohlbacher, with its locations in Vienna and New York, is one of the world's first addresses for the purchase and sale of artworks by Austrian artists of the 20th century. The gallery regularly cooperates on loan with more than 30 museums and collections worldwide such as, for example, the Austrian Galerie Belvedere, the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, the Louis Vuitton Fondation and the Los Angeles Getty Museum.

W&K | It's a matter of body

The works of the artists of Viennese Modernism uncovered the bourgeois society and conservative law around 1900 – but have we overcome social taboos today? Only last year W&K was prohibited by the city government to show street banners depicting nudes by Egon Schiele. An occurrence, which recently even happened to institutions and museums. Modern Art as well as contemporary art face repressive social conventions until today. It's a major concern of the gallery work of W&K to show internationally significant body-centred 20th century Austrian art and to stimulate a discussion about taboos, moral codes as well as the relation between art and society. Since today, this is more relevant than ever, W&K will present its unique concept "It's a matter of body" at TEFAF Maastricht for the first time.

At TEFAF Maastricht 2020 W&K will present leading positions of Austrian psychoanalytical and body-centred art. The pioneering achievements of the artists of Vienna around 1900, in particular of Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt, had a strong influence on Vienna Actionism and they affect Austrian art until today. The intensive examination of the human body and the various dimensions of physical and psychological experience remain unrivalled in other countries. Unimpressed by the repressive conventions of imperial Vienna, the artists of the Fin de Siècle explored the essential elements of life, such as birth and death and the broad spectrum of sexual desire. An artistic approach picked up in the post-war period, for example in the works by Günter Brus and Otto Muehl. Putting the two generations of artists in context produces exciting insights, as they both had a significant impact on the international art world in their own radically new way of expression. The selection of works is complemented by body-focused works by Franz West and further artistic statements by German Expressionists.

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TEFAF | STAND 722 | Highlights



EGON SCHIELE

RECLINING MALE NUDE, 1910

Watercolour and pencil on paper

31x43 cm (12,2 x 16.9 inc.)

© W&K – Wienerroither & Kohlbacher, Vienna

Egon Schiele is one of the most important representatives of Viennese Modernism. At the beginning of 1910, a significant and radical change took place in Egon Schiele's artistic development. The detachment from his role model and mentor Gustav Klimt manifested itself during this period. To this day, works of this year are among the most important and most requested. This watercolour by Schiele fascinates due to its strong colouration and distinctive lines of the artist.

The human body is a central theme in Schiele's oeuvre. He depicts the nude body not in the academic sense of an anatomical study, but as an expression of immaterial existential states. For the male nude, the artist himself was obviously his own and most frequent model. To enhance this self-contained form in the composition, Schiele abandoned the illustration of the head and torso. Instead he focuses on the lower body and the legs. In a sense, it is the fragment of a self-portrait, while at the same time it is an independent and autonomous portrayal of this part of his body. Comparable watercolours can be found in the Leopold Museum, Vienna, the Albertina, Vienna and the Neue Galerie, New York.



GUSTAV KLIMT

CROUCHING SEMI-NUDE, 1917-18

Pencil on Japan paper

55,7 x 37,2 cm (21.9 x 14.6 inch)

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Gustav Klimt's drawings are among the most important to be produced during the twentieth century. His work lets us experience a sensuality that is also our own. In Klimt's work there was always one principal thematic focus: individuality. His nude human figures are implicitly imbued with the great themes of life, not least the mysterious power of Eros. Moreover, as Eric Kandel stated, Klimt was, unlike many early Western artists, not plagued by a sense of sin and therefore felt no need to disguise the sexuality of his models.



GÜNTER BRUS

ACTION DRAWING, 1966

Indian ink on paper

29,7 x 21 cm (11.7 x 8.3 inch)

© W&K – Wienerroither & Kohlbacher, Vienna

Günter Brus is not only considered one of Austria's most important and radical artists, but also, to quote Peter Weibel, justifiably "a major 20th century artist who enjoys an international standing". As a pioneer of Body Art, he not only paved the way for generations of artists but through his drawings also consistently advanced the lineage of early Viennese Expressionism. With his "Bild-Dichtungen" ("pictorial poems") he created a new art genre that straddled two media. His complete oeuvre comprises some 30,000 drawings.

W&K – Wienerroither & Kohlbacher
Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

ANDREAS REITER RAABE | W&K Palais Schönborn-Batthyány | Vienna
3rd Dez 2019 – 15th Feb 2020

ALOIS RIEDL | W&K Gallery | Vienna
29th January – 21st March 2020

JAKOB GASTEIGER | W&K Palais Schönborn-Batthyány | Vienna
26th February – 8th May 2020

Günter Brus | Shepherd W&K | New York
6th May – 27th July 2020