

Exhibition: From The Collection Hildegard and Ferdinand Kosfeld

Emil Schumacher

Berlin, 5 October 2020 (kk) – They share a passion for culture: The couple Hildegard and Ferdinand Kosfeld has a love for both fine arts and classic music. In the future one is going to benefit from the other. As part of their legacy it has been planned to auction a total of 15 of Emil Schumacher's works for the benefit of the Berlin Philharmonic, the collectors' current hometown's head orchestra. Starting December 19, Ketterer Kunst shows their fascinating collection at its Berlin gallery.

The exhibition offers comprehensive insight into Emil Schumacher's œuvre, and is also a fascinating document of the close friendship between the collector couple and the artist and his wife. In the mid 1990s the pharmacist and the businessman became acquainted with Emil Schumacher in their original hometown Dortmund. Up until the artist's death in 1999 they maintained a fruitful and lively exchange, which is documented in form of several handwritten postcards from Emil Schumacher, as well as photos of visits at the Kosfelds.

“Hosting this exhibition is a great honor to me and I would like to express my gratitude for the confidence Hildegard and Ferdinand Kosfeld have shown“, says Robert Ketterer, owner of Ketterer Kunst. “Their collection is evidence of true passion and connoisseurship, the best possible combination of traits in a collector.“



Emil Schumacher
Kinabalu
Oil on panel, 1990
170 x 125 cm



Left to right:
Ferdinand Kosfeld. Ulla Schumacher. Emil Schumacher and Hildegard
Kosfeld in front of a work by the artist at the collectors' residence

Emil Schumacher, born in the Westphalian town of Hagen in 1912, began a three-year degree at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Dortmund when he was 20 years old. He started working as an independent artist in 1935 and founded the artist and exhibition association “junger westen” in 1947 together with a few other artists. The style of his work changed drastically in 1950. He abandoned painting objects and turned towards the expressive power of painting alone. Color itself gradually became the decisive element of his works. This biographical artistic process happened during a period coined by the French École de Paris, Tachism and American Action Painting. While abstraction itself was typical of this period, it also became a typical aspect of Emil Schumacher's personal style.

After exhibiting at the documenta III in Kassel in 1964 he created very large works, which manifest an extreme painterly freedom. This phase lasted until the 1980s. His latest works of the 1990s, with figurative reminiscences, have clearly overcome the contrast between abstraction and the figurative.

Schumacher became internationally known and praised around the middle of the 1950s as one of the most important artists of the Informel. He was awarded numerous international prizes, of which the Guggenheim Award in New York in 1958 was only the beginning. He was appointed professor at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg the same year, accepted a post as professor in Karlsruhe in 1966 and taught as a guest professor at the university in Minneapolis/USA in 1967 for one year. The Deutscher Bundestag honored him in 1998 by commissioning a mural for the Reichstag building in Berlin. Emil Schumacher died in San José on 4 October 1999, one year after the grand retrospective exhibition in Paris, Hamburg and Munich.

What ? Exhibition: Emil Schumacher - Die Sammlung Hildegard und Ferdinand Kosfeld

When ? Opening Reception: Friday, December 18, 2020, 5 to 9 p. m.
Exhibition: Monday, December 19, 2020 to January 31, 2021
Hours: Monday to Saturday from 12 to 4 p. m.

Where ? Ketterer Kunst, Fasanenstr. 70, 10719 Berlin-Charlottenburg

The family company Ketterer Kunst (www.kettererkunst.com and www.ketterer-internet-auctions.com) with headquarters in Munich and branches in Hamburg, Duesseldorf, Berlin as well as with a global network of representatives in, among others, the USA and Brazil, was founded in 1954. It is one of the leading houses for auctions of fine art from the 19th to the 21st Century and Rare Books as well as the expert in German Art. According to latest figures issued by Artnet Price Database for 2020, Ketterer Kunst occupies place 7 in the ranking for Art from the 20th and 21st Century and is the strongest selling family business of all.

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