

Collection Gerlinger To Be Auctioned

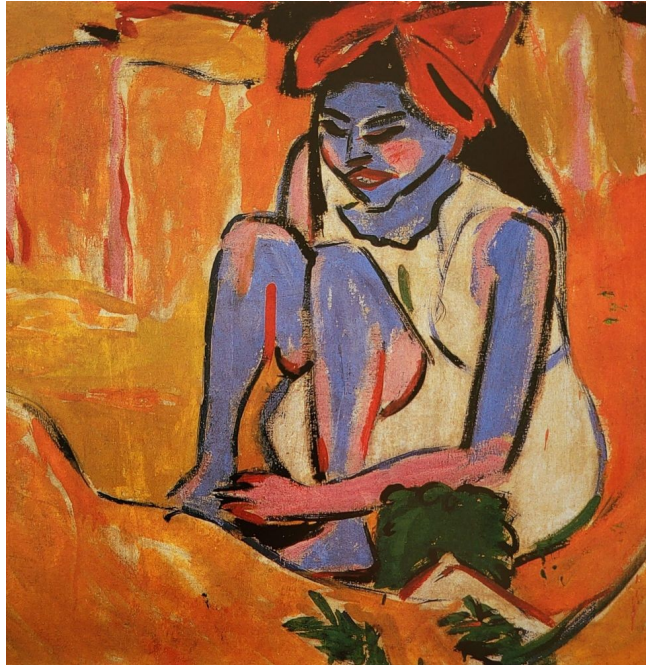
Building Bridges To The Next Generation

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- * Professor Hermann Gerlinger allows collectors of the next generation access to the artist group “Brücke“
- * Ketterer Kunst will put the collection with scores of important works on the market in several steps
- * Proceeds will go to three nonprofit institutions

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Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
Das blaue Mädchen in der Sonne
Oil on canvas, 1910
71 x 81 cm



Munich, January 4, 2022 – **One of the largest and most prominent collections of German Expressionism will open its gates for art collectors: The “Brücke“ collector professor Hermann Gerlinger will pass his works on to collectors of the next generation. Three nonprofit institutions will benefit from the proceeds. Germany’s leading auction house Ketterer Kunst has been entrusted with the sale.**

The Würzburg businessman Hermann Gerlinger was a collector of “Brücke“ art with heart and soul and is known as one of the most distinguished “Brücke“ experts today. With a uniquely keen eye for quality and art-historical relevance, he has compiled one of the most acknowledged collections of German Expressionism since the 1950s. Works by Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Fritz Bleyl, founding fathers of the “Brücke“ in Dresden in 1905, make for its focal point.

The collection comprises around 1,000 paintings, drawings, watercolors, woodcuts, etchings, lithographs, sculptures and numerous documents. “If it hadn’t been for my wife Hertha Gerlinger, I wouldn’t have amassed a collection of such a scope,” explains professor Gerlinger. “I am grateful for her tremendous help and support, for all her words and deeds.“

“For nearly three decades my collection was on display at three renowned museums. The fact that both “Brücke“ lovers, as well as experts from all over the world, had access to it crowned my almost seventy years of collecting. Now the time has come to make these works directly available to collectors of the next generation“, says **professor Hermann Gerlinger**. “If the younger generation has the opportunity to live among the works, they will gain a very own insight into the world of the “Brücke“ artists and their creation. I want to contribute to the persistence of the fascination for this art and to preserve it for the future.“

Professor Dr. Heinz Spielmann, longtime museum director and renowned art historian, as well as recent founding director of the Bucerius Kunst Forum, explains: “The collection Gerlinger provides the most important systematic representation of all the artist’s creative periods from the early beginnings over the group’s common style up to their individual late work. It is characterized by many objects of a particularly high quality.“

Robert Ketterer, auctioneer and head of Ketterer Kunst, points out: “With his spectacular decision, professor Gerlinger gives the next generation of collectors a unique opportunity, as art lovers will have the chance to acquire especially interesting and important objects of German Expressionism. This will move the “Brücke“ to the center of attention of the art market and beyond it again. For many, especially for younger collectors from Germany and abroad, it is going to be the first time that it moves into their focus. This is going to increase renown of both the “Brücke“ and the “Brücke“ artists.“

“Brücke“ exhibitions are among the most popular events of the art world and also have been met with great interest by many young people for years now. “Expressionism has a particularly strong appeal with younger art lovers,“ says Robert Ketterer, whose company has been a specialist in Expressionism for decades.

The collection catalog “Die Maler der Brücke“, a joint publication by the professors Gerlinger and Spielmann, not only documents the artist group’s history and significance, but also provides a uniquely complete account of the lives of the great artist. With this catalog, as well as with many other publications such as “Brücke“ almanacs and exhibition reviews, professor Gerlinger has captured the vast range of fascinating findings his collection has to offer to both art-historical research and the art trade.

With today’s news, Ketterer Kunst once more confirms its position as a collection expert. The company initially plans to release for extra catalogs and a gradual sale over around four years.

Proceeds will go to three nonprofit institutions: The “Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz“, the “BUND Naturschutz“ and the “Stiftung Juliuspital“ in Würzburg.

Up until recently the collection had been on display at the Buchheim-Museum on Lake Starnberg. The loan agreement was canceled in mutual agreement in September 2021 and the works were returned. Another 14 works will be on loan for an exhibition running between July 16 and November 13, 2022.

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. The auction house has a focus on Fine Art from the 19th to the 21st Century and Rare Books. In its market segment Ketterer Kunst is not only Germany’s number one but also the leading house in the European Union. Ketterer Kunst is a specialist for German art, as well as for many international artist who are sought-after on the European market and who regularly realize record prices at Ketterer Kunst. According to the semi annual 2021 artprice database, Ketterer Kunst is the only and best-selling family business represented in the global Top 15.

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