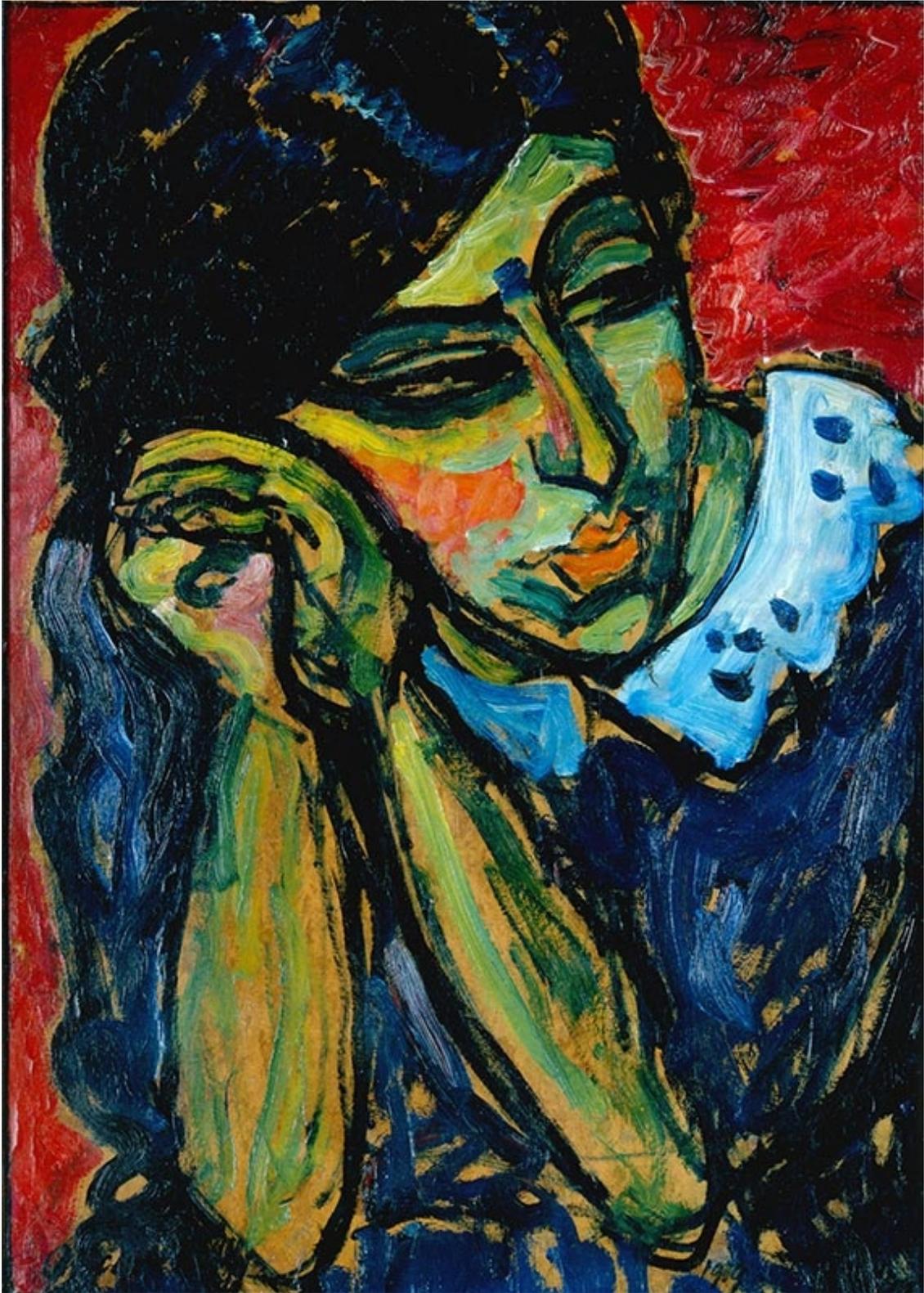


# An Icon of Modernism by Alexej von Jawlensky in Ketterer Kunst's June Auction

PRESS RELEASE | Munich, May 16, 2023 (KK)

- The spectacular work from "Mädchen mit Zopf" will be called up in the Evening Sale in Munich on June 9 with an estimate of € 3.5 - 4.5 million.
- Key work of Expressionism: "Mädchen mit Zopf" marks the beginning of Jawlensky's expressionistic creative period
- Seminal for his creation: The human portrait head is Jawlensky's central theme, through which he attained his novel expressive style before World War I.
- In terms of colors and composition, a fascinating solitaire in Jawlensky's oeuvre.
- Masterpiece of museum quality - works of a comparable quality are extremely rare on the international auction market
- Excellent provenance: From the collection of Clemens Weiler, Wiesbaden, Jawlensky expert and author of the first catalogue raisonné



Alexej von Jawlensky, Mädchen mit Zopf, 1910  
Oil on thin cardboard, on board. 69.5 x 49.5 cm

On June 9, 2023, an expressionistic masterwork by Alexej von Jawlensky will come on the art auction market: With "Mädchen mit Zopf" (Girl with Braid) from 1910, the artist created a second to none key work. With a mysteriously stylized female head and a multicolor face entirely emancipated from any natural model, Jawlensky made a fascinating picture that paved the path to his "strong and powerful heads" (Clemens Weiler) from 1912. Up until today, these pictures count among his most important and most sought-after works. *"Mädchen mit Zopf" was created during Jawlensky's pivotal creative period, when he and his partner Marianne von Werefkin, as well as the artist couple Gabriele Münter and Wassily Kandinsky, invented German Expressionism in Murnau between 1908 and 1910,"* explains Jawlensky expert **Dr. Roman Zieglgänsberger, Modern Art curator at the Kunstmuseum Wiesbaden.**

*"The vibrant painting is an icon of Modernism,"* says **Nicola Countess Keglevich, Senior Director at Ketterer Kunst.** *"The dawn of Modernism happened in December 1909 with the first exhibition of the "Neue Künstlervereinigung München" at Galerie Thannhauser, with works by Jawlensky, Werefkin, Kandinsky and Münter. The tremendously different colors and an overcoming of nature as model, was severely criticized as "savage" painting. Today this non-conformist, progressive step is considered one of the most significant chapters in 20<sup>th</sup> century art history."*

The masterwork from a Swiss private collection will be called up in the Evening Sale on June 9 in Munich with an estimate of € 3.5 - 4.5 million.

*"The pictorial quality of "Mädchen mit Zopf" is simply stunning,"* explains **Dr. Roman Zieglgänsberger**, author of several books and essays on Jawlensky and Werefkin. *"It is therefore little surprising that the work used to part of the Clemens Weiler Collection. Weiler was the author of the first biography and an acknowledged Jawlensky expert after WW II. In the end, it was exactly these works that made art subjective and emotional in the early days of the 20th century and in the run-up to the Blauer Reiter."*

### **"Mädchen mit Zopf" - A vibrant masterpiece of Expressionism.**

The coloristic and compositional mastery and spontaneity, in combination with the exciting perspective and the close-up image section make "Mädchen mit Zopf" so

special. The skin of the exotic "Mädchen mit Zopf" is bright green, accentuated with a strong blue, dark green, turquoise and pink-orange. The paint was applied in strong strokes onto the unprimed ground, which the artist boldly left blank here and there. In addition to the face with the large, almond-shaped eyes, Jawlensky also confidently used the elongated surfaces of the propped forearms all the way to the hands for his play of colors, which he entirely liberated from nature's specifications. This expressive spectacle is framed by the deep black hair and the vibrant dark blue dress in front of the blazing crimson background rendered in equally lively strokes.

The art-historical significance of "Mädchen mit Zopf" in Jawlensky's oeuvre is also emphasized by its comprehensive exhibition history. It was shown at, among others, the legendary Jawlensky exhibition on occasion of his 100th birthday at the Museum Wiesbaden and the Munich Lenbachhaus in 1964.

*"We are extremely happy about the trust the international collector places in our house." says **Robert Ketterer, auctioneer and owner of Ketterer Kunst.** "This consignment is proof of the recognition of Ketterer Kunst as an international market place for museum-quality works of German Expressionism. Owing to our network and a bespoke marketing strategy, we are able to reach out to collectors around the world."* Ketterer Kunst is the only auction house that sends printed English versions of the Evening Sale's catalog to clients around the world.

The work will be showcased on the preview tour, starting in Cologne this Saturday. In the following, it will also be on display in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Berlin and Munich before it is going to be auctioned.

### **More auction highlights from the Evening Sale on June 9, 2023**

Apart from Alexej von Jawlensky, the auction has more fascinating works of **MODERN ART** to offer, among them Max **Pechstein's** "Die Ruhende" from 1911 (estimate price: € 1.2 - 1.8 m.), Otto **Mueller's** "Mädchen auf dem Kanapee" from 1914 ( estimate price: € 650,000 - 850,000), Franz **Marc's** "Grünes Pferd" from 1912 (estimate price: € 600,000 - 800,000) as well as high-quality works by Max **Liebermann**, Egon **Schiele**, Gustav **Klimt**, Otto **Dix**, Emil **Nolde**, Erich **Heckel** and Karl **Schmidt-Rottluff**.

The section of **CONTEMPORARY ART** holds captivating works like Gerhard **Richter's** "Teyde-Landschaft" from 1971 (estimate price: € 800,000 – 1,2 m.), Martin **Kippenberger's** "Gruga-Bad 1982" (estimate price: € 300,000 – 500,000), Ernst Wilhelm **Nay's** "Motion" from 1962 (estimate price: 400,000 – 600,000), "BLOB#3" by the New York artist Steven **Parrino** from 1994 (estimate price: € 100,000 – 150,000) as well as top tier art by, among others, Konrad **Klapheck**, George **Condo**, Stanley **Whitney**, Sean **Scully**, Louis **Soutter**, Karin **Kneffel**, Katharina **Grosse** and Cindy **Sherman**.

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## **UPCOMING DATES:**

### **ONLINE ONLY AUCTIONS**

15. Mai – 10. June 2023                      "The Sensitivity of Collecting" – A selection of works from the Hermann Gerlinger Collection and 100 works of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Learn more about the current auction: [onlineonly.kettererkunst.de](https://onlineonly.kettererkunst.de)

### **AUCTIONS IN MUNICH**

June 09    Contemporary Art / Evening Sale

June 10    Modern Art / Hermann Gerlinger Collection – Woodcuts/19th Century Art

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## **KETTERER KUNST**

*Ketterer Kunst (www.kettererkunst.com and www.ketterer-internet-auctions.com) with headquarters in Munich and branches in Hamburg and Berlin, as well as with a global network of representatives in, among others, the USA and Brazil, was founded in 1954. The owner-operated auction house has a focus on Fine Art from the 19th to the 21st Centuries and on Rare Books. In its market segment, Ketterer Kunst is the Number 1 in the German language region. Ketterer Kunst is the specialist for German art, as well as for many international artists sought-after in Europe, the USA and Asia, who regularly realize record prices at Ketterer Kunst. According to the 2022 artprice database, Ketterer Kunst is on place 7 of the world's strongest-selling art auction houses.*

## **IMAGE - AND PRESS INQUIRIES**

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