

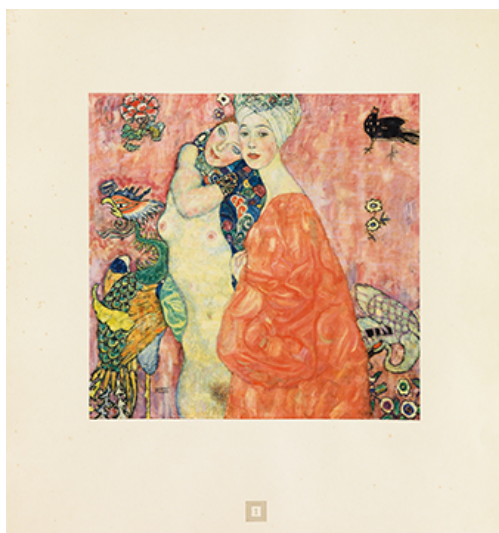


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2018

Contact: Alexandra Nelson
Communications Director
212-254-4710 ext. 19
alexandra@swannalleries.com

Visual Feast of Scarce Volumes in Fine Illustrated Books & Graphics

Two Klimt Monographs Come to Auction



New York—**Swann Galleries' Thursday, April 26** auction of **Fine Illustrated Books & Graphics** will offer books, magazines, portfolios, editions and unique works, with material that changed the trajectory of design and influenced book arts in the last two centuries.

Luminous works by **Gustav Klimt** lead the auction with the limited edition tours-de-force *Das Werk*, 1918, and *Eine Nachlese*, 1931. With text by Hermann Bahr and Peter Altenberg, *Das Werk* is the only monograph published during Klimt's lifetime. The present copy, numbered 103 of 300, retains 49 of the original 50 plates, including the ten printed in color and heightened in gold and silver, carries an estimate of \$25,000 to \$35,000. The lavish portfolio *Eine Nachlese* boasts 30 plates, 15 in color, compiled by Max Eisler. The tome features several important works by Klimt, including some which were destroyed by wartime fires. Rarely seen complete, it is here estimated at \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Works by fine artists of the twentieth century will include volumes by Jean Arp, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Salvador Dalí and David Hockney. One of 55 copies on vellum of Pablo Picasso's idiosyncratic bestiary, *Eaux-Fortes originales pour des textes de Buffon*, 1942, with text by Georges Louis Marie Leclerc Buffon, is estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000. Fernand Léger's *Cirque*, 1950, is an unusual interpretation of the artist's book: rather than use reproductions of existing works, he conceived and developed the theme and prints especially for the project (\$20,000 to \$30,000).

MORE

Fine presses are well represented in the auction, with a section devoted to works produced by the Ashendene, Cheloniidae, Doves and Kelmscott Press houses, as well as the Limited Editions Club. Both the second issue of the first book published by the Kelmscott Press, *The Story of the Glittering Plain*, 1894, with elaborate decorations by William Morris, and *The Defence of Guenevere*, 1892, published and decorated by the same and bound in vellum, carry an estimate of \$2,500 to \$3,500. An original woodblock carving by Eric Gill for the Golden Cockerel Press edition of *The Canterbury Tales* of a “naked man dead” dangling from a vine, 1929, was featured no fewer than ten times throughout the volumes (\$2,000 to \$3,000).



Of note is a never-before-offered trade catalogue of brightly colored wallpaper samples by **Jacques-Émile Ruhlmann**, the legendary Art Deco interior designer. Bound in original oblong leather folio, it is the most extensive array of Ruhlmann’s wallpaper designs known. The 47 pochoir sheets of 19 patterns reveal the effect of variant colorways on his designs (\$15,000 to \$25,000). Additional wallpaper sample books will also be available.

Design cornerstones can be found throughout the offerings: an early nineteenth-century piece de resistance of color printing and typography, **Jean Midolle**’s *Spécimen des Écritures Modernes Romaines fleuronées, Gothiques nouvelles, Fractures, Françaises, Anglaises, Italienne et Allemande*, 1834-35, influenced printers and designers for years to come (\$3,000 to \$4,000). The Russian avant-garde journal *Zhurnalist*, by El Lissitzky, helped to define the look of the Soviet regime; the first six issues of this extremely scarce periodical carry an estimate of \$2,000 to \$3,000.



An archive of material from a late office of Marcel Breuer’s architectural firm offers edifying insight into the architect’s vision. The largest section pertains to the monolithic building on Manhattan’s Upper East Side—previously the Whitney Museum of American Art and currently the Met Breuer. The files include early photographs of construction and finished buildings, floorplans and sketches for many of his iconic structures, including the Bobst Library at New York University and Yale University’s Becton Engineering and Applied Science Center. Records span the 1960s and ‘70s, when Breuer was partnered with Hamilton Smith (\$3,500 to \$5,000).

The complete catalogue with bidding information is available at www.swanngalleries.com.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

[Lot 168](#): Gustav Klimt, *Eine Nachlese*, with 30 plates, Vienna, 1931. Estimate \$15,000 to \$25,000.

[Lot 79](#): Jacques-Émile Ruhlmann, wallpaper sample book, with 47 plates of 19 pochoir patterns, circa 1919. Estimate \$15,000 to \$25,000.

[Lot 85](#): Jean Midolle, *Spécimen des Écritures Modernes Romaines fleuronées, Gothiques nouvelles, Fractures, Françaises, Anglaise, Italienne et Allemande*, with 39 plates, Strasbourg, 1834-35. Estimate \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Auction date: Thursday, April 26, at 1:30 pm

Exhibition dates: April 24 to 25, 10-6; April 26, 10-12

Specialist: Christine von der Linn • cv@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 20

Press: Alexandra Nelson • alexandra@swanngalleries.com • 212-254-4710 x 19

Please credit all images *Courtesy of Swann Auction Galleries* or @swanngalleries on social media.

#

PRINTED CATALOGUE & ADDL. DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Swann Auction Galleries is a third-generation family business as well as the world's largest auction house for works on paper. In the last 75 years, Swann has repeatedly revolutionized the trade with such innovations as the first U.S. auction dedicated to photographs and the world's only department of African-American Fine Art. More than 30 auctions and previews are held annually in Swann Galleries' two-floor exhibition space in Midtown Manhattan, and online worldwide. Visit swanngalleries.com for more information.