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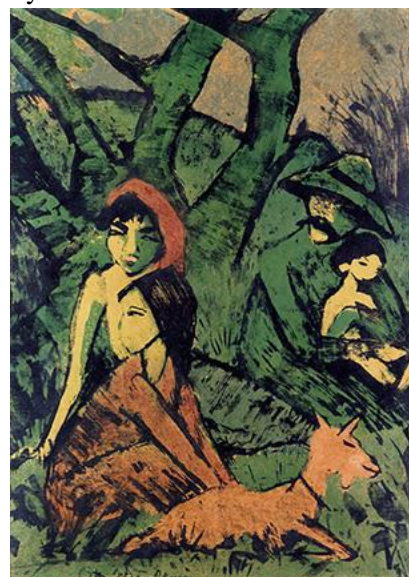
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Swann Galleries Announces the Ismar Littmann Family Collection of German Expressionism and European Avant-Garde



New York–Swann Galleries’ **March 5** auction boasts property from the **Ismar Littmann Family Collection**, a 160-lot offering of German Expressionism and European Avant-Garde. The afternoon session of **19th & 20th Century Prints & Drawings** features an array of works from notable Modern, nineteenth-century and American artists.

Compiled in a separate catalogue, the Littmann offering celebrates a singular collector. Ismar Littmann began collecting in the 1910s, and his habits and tastes were individual and contemporary to the time—a parallel to the independent spirit of the Breslau art scene. The personal relationships he held with the artists, particularly Otto Mueller, had a deep influence on him and resulted in a collection with depth and insight, consisting of not only works of art, but correspondence between the collector and artists. By the end of the 1920s Littmann had acquired more than 6,000 works. The Nazis’ rise to power put a strain on the collector’s livelihood as well as art patronage, and much of the collection was lost or destroyed. Littmann’s combined financial and personal losses, as well as the overwhelming persecution of his faith and culture, led him to commit suicide in September of 1934. Littmann’s eldest son was able to immigrate to the United States with a portion of the family collection that same year. These works, along with additional pieces



sent later, have since remained with the family. Swann Galleries is very pleased and honored to have been trusted with the historic offering.

Notable lots include **Otto Mueller**'s color lithographs from 1926-27, *Zwei Zigeunerinnen* (*Zigeunermutter mit Tochter*) and *Lagernde Zigeunerfamilie mit Ziege* which are expected to bring \$25,000 to \$35,000 and \$30,000 to \$50,000, respectively. Max Pechstein's portfolio of 50 lithographs, *Reisebilder: Italien–Sudsee*, 1919, depicting scenes from Italy and Germany (Estimate: \$25,000-35,000), as well as the watercolor *Russisches Ballet*, 1912, and a woodcut, *Sommer I*, 1912, are among the highlights (\$15,000-20,000 and \$10,000-15,000, respectively). Further works include *Allee im Tiergarten, Berlin*, circa 1920, a color pastel depiction of an urban landscape by **Lesser Ury**, and a Nicolas Ghika oil on canvas, *Intérieur avec chevalet d'artiste*, circa 1920s, that portrays the artist's studio. Both are estimated at \$50,000 to \$80,000.



The afternoon session following the Littmann Collection offers a broad selection of high-end prints and drawings. The top lot is Edvard Munch's *Kyss IV*, 1902—a first-state woodblock print based on the artist's oil painting of the same title. Only six other impressions of *Kyss IV* have come to auction in the past 30 years (\$150,000-250,000). Additional works by Modern masters include **Sonia Delaunay**'s color pochoir and watercolor illustration of Blaise Cendrars' poem *La Prose du Transsibérien et de la petite Jehanne de France*, 1913, which explored the frustrated yet wondrous experience of living through a period of ever-accelerating modernity (\$70,000-100,000); *Natura Morta con Cinque Oggetti*, 1956, a still-life etching by Giorgio Morandi (\$30,000-50,000); and Joan Miró's *La Permissionnaire*, 1974, (\$40,000-60,000).

Nineteenth-century stalwarts include artist-friends (and rivals) Paul Gauguin and Vincent van Gogh, with remarkable works on paper: *Noa Noa*, 1893-94, a superb color woodcut by Gauguin, is estimated at \$40,000 to \$60,000, and Van Gogh's *Homme à la Pipe: Portrait du Docteur Gachet*, 1890, the artist's only known etching, comes across the block at \$80,000 to \$120,000. William Blake's *Illustrations of the Book of Job*, 1826, complete with 22 engravings, is expected to bring \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Highlights from the American section include Winslow Homer's *Mending the Tears*, 1888—a line-based etching of rural women darning a fishing net (\$10,000-15,000). Martin Lewis's quintessential New York drypoint *Rain on Murray Hill*, 1928, displays the artist's mastery of depicting nocturnal and atmospheric conditions (\$15,000-20,000). Works by Thomas Hart Benton, Childe Hassam, and Joseph Pennell ensure a standout selection.

Exhibition opening in New York City February 28. The complete catalogue and bidding information is available at www.swanngalleries.com and on the Swann Galleries App.

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

Captions:

Lot 17: Lesser Ury, *Allee im Tiergarten, Berlin*, color pastels, circa 1920. From the Ismar Littmann Family Collection. Estimate \$50,000 to \$80,000.

Lot 112: Otto Mueller, *Lagernde Zigeunerfamilie mit Ziege*, color lithograph, 1926-27. From the Ismar Littmann Family Collection. Estimate \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Lot 393: Sonia Delaunay, *La Prose du Transsibérien et de la petite Jehanne de France* by Blaise Cendrars, color pochoir with watercolor on four joined sheets, 1913. Estimate \$70,000 to \$100,000.

Auction date: Tuesday, March 5, at 10:30 am

Exhibition dates: February 28 & March 1, 10-6; March 2, 12-5; March 4, 10-6

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