

Fair And Just Solution for Nazi Looted Art At Ketterer Kunst

Carl Spitzweg



Carl Spitzweg. Lagernde Kärner (Rast der Streuner). 1870. Oil on panel. 15.5 x 31.5 cm. € 30,000-40,000

Munich, November 9, 2022 (KK) – **It is a precious gem with a great provenance and an eventful history: Now Carl Spitzweg’s painting “Lagernde Kärner (Rast der Streuner)” will be called up in the autumn auctions at Ketterer Kunst in Munich on **December 9/10** in an amicable agreement with the heirs after Olga Mengers.**

Up until 1916, **Carl Spitzweg’s** painting was part of the renowned collection of **Carl Hugo Schmeil**, which was dissolved in an auction that year. The catalog of Helbing/Cassirer caught the attention of the recognized Berlin commercial judge **Dr. Alfred Mengers**, who acquired the subtle masterpiece for the grand price of 7,000 Mark.

Mengers, who was also the director of his family’s “Velvetfabrik M. Mengers & Söhne“ in Berlin, lived in a large villa with his wife Olga Henriette. Olga was the daughter of the important businessman and art lover Sigmund Aschrott from Kassel.

In 1933, after her husband's death, Olga Mengers and her sons, the art dealers Heinz and Kurt, were persecuted and driven to ruin by the Nazis. Their velvet factory was "Arianized" and the inheritance confiscated, the house was sold and soon after Olga was allowed to use only two rooms of her apartment. Her sons Kurt and Heinz fled Berlin in 1936 and in 1938, their old and visually severely impaired mother stayed. In the autumn of 1942 she was deported to Theresienstadt, however, she would survive the concentration camp and was liberated in the summer of 1945. She returned to Berlin where she died in poverty in 1948.

But what happened to the Spitzweg painting? The National Socialists confiscated the belongings of the displaced Olga Mengers in 1942, her apartment was sealed and everything was "utilized". It seems that the Nazi henchman sold the important Spitzweg picture "on the quiet"; perhaps it also got lost along with Olga Mengers' emergency luggage hidden in the basement. The Mengers family definitely lost the work for good in 1942.

Even before the end of the war, the work was presumably privately-owned again, it seems very likely that it became part of the **collection of an army doctor** from Southern Germany, as it remained in the possession of his family into the 1980s, before it was acquired by the present owner on the art market.

Ketterer Kunst was able to mediate a fair and just solution in the sense of the Washington Principles. The auction house will call up Carl Spitzweg's "Lagernde Karrner (Rast der Streuner)" without pending restitution claims and in an amicable agreement with the heirs after the Mengers family in its autumn auctions.

Next to the work from Carl Spitzweg, the section of **19th CENTURY ART** offers more than half a dozen works by the artist, among them "Mönch" with an estimate of € 60,000-80,000, as well as works from, among others, Heinrich **Bürkel**, Edward **Cucuel**, Karl **Hagemeister**, Friedrich **Nerly** and Franz von **Stuck**.

The section of **MODERN ART** offers iconic works from "Painters of the Brücke - Collection Hermann Gerlinger". Among them Ernst Ludwig **Kirchner's** "Das blaue Mädchen in der Sonne" (estimate: € 2,000,000-3,000,000), Karl **Schmidt-Rottluff's** "Rote Düne" (estimate: € 800,000-1,200,000) and Erich **Heckel's** poplar sculpture "Stehende" (estimate: € 600,000-800,000). Other highlights are Emil **Nolde's** "Meer D" (estimate: € 800,000 – 1,200,000), Max **Beckmann's** "Holzsäger im Wald" (estimate: € 600,000 – 800,000). More fascinating modern art comes from, among others,

Hans (Jean) **Arp**, Lovis **Corinth**, Paul **Gauguin**, Karl **Hofer**, Max **Liebermann**, Gabriele **Münter**, Emil **Nolde**, Christian **Rohlf**s, Egon **Schiele** and Hermann Max **Pechstein**.

In the section of **CONTEMPORARY ART** we find luminaries like Georg **Baselitz** with his “Hofteich“ (estimate: € 700,000-900,000) and Anselm **Kiefer** with “Die Ordnung der Engel” (estimate: € 300,000-400,000), but also Günther **Förg**, Katharina **Grosse**, Martin **Kippenberger**, Karin **Kneffel**, Konrad **Lueg**, Ernst Wilhelm **Nay**, Günther **Uecker** and Gerhard **Richter**, as well as international artists: Richard **Serra** is represented with “Corner Prop No. 6 (Leena and Tuula)“, estimated at € 600,000-800,000, it is the sculptor’s first unique piece offered on the global auction market since 2016. Another highlight is “He Kept Following Me“ from David **Wojnarowicz** (estimate: € 350,000-450,000). The international array is completed by, among others, Tony **Cragg**, Keith **Haring**, Sol **LeWitt**, Robert **Rauschenberg**, Andy **Warhol** and Stanley **Whitney**, who celebrates an auction premiere in Germany.

Find the auction’s highlights [here](#)

Auction	November 16-17	Hamburg
Preview	November 19-21	Cologne
	November 23-24	Frankfurt
	Nov. 26 – Dec. 01	Berlin
	December 03-09	Munich

Saleroom Auction	December 09	Contemporary Art Day Sale/Evening Sale/SHG
	December 10	19 th Century Art/Modern Art Day Sale/SHG

Ketterer Kunst (www.kettererkunst.com and www.onlineonly.kettererkunst.com) with headquarters in Munich and branches in Hamburg, Düsseldorf, 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 Century 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 annual 2021 artprice database, Ketterer Kunst is on place 3 of the strongest-selling art auction houses in Continental Europe.

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