



80 Years of Ketterer

Through changing times –
a name collectors rely on.

Anniversary Auction 2026



*“You have to start with a bang
and then build up step by step.”*

Alfred Hitchcock

Ketterer Kunst is the number one address among the leading auction houses. That wasn't always the case, and it was never a given. When I took over management almost thirty years ago, I inherited a name with history—and the obligation to live up to it. My father, Wolfgang, and my uncle Roman Norbert: two men who, in post-war Germany in 1946, surrounded by debris and uncertainty, founded a company with courage and artistic intuition that is now ranked among the top 10 worldwide.

I inherited their principles—curiosity, focus, and integrity—the rest I had to figure out for myself.

That wasn't always easy. Markets collapse, crises arise unexpectedly. I have learned that the nerve to change is not just a virtue you can allow yourself when things are going well. It is essential for survival when they are not.

What drives me are the people: a team of people I have built up over thirty years, without whom nothing would be possible. The collectors who place their trust in us and whom we must never disappoint. My wife, Gudrun, who helps run this business and contributes her ideas. And my sons, whose curiosity about the world reminds me every day why this profession is such a privilege.

Eighty years of Ketterer. Eight decades of artistry and business acumen form an indelible partnership. For the benefit of our clients. And for our delight.

Robert Ketterer

Gudrun Ketterer

For 80 years: Bringing together market, knowledge, and museum.

KIRCHNER-ARCHIVE

Roman Norbert Ketterer has been the administrator of the Kirchner estate since 1959. Six decades of research into the work of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner followed. Today, his internationally renowned authority is maintained by the family with a comprehensive archive and library.

KIRCHNER MUSEUM DAVOS

Founded and funded by Roman Norbert Ketterer. Donated 519 works—one of the most important private museums in Europe – completely independent of public subsidies.

SCIENTIFIC PROVENANCE RESEARCH

In 2014, we became the first German auction house with an in-house provenance department. Full-time art historians research, document, and preserve. Every work is examined before the hammer falls.

PUBLISHING

Scientific publications, catalogue raisonnés, and editions. The written foundation that connects the art trade with art history.

Sharing a love of art:
The Henze-Ketterer family in Wichtrach
and the Ketterers in Munich.

AUCTIONS

Two seasons a year. Among the top 10 worldwide. The auction house with the highest turnover in Germany for the fifteenth consecutive time. The sale room is our stage – and we make the most of it.

ONLINE SALES

Digital pioneers since 2006. Long before the pandemic forced the industry to adapt. Global reach, refined concept, strong results even without a live auction.

PRIVATE SALES

Personal and targeted. For consignors who value confidentiality yet seek access to a global network of buyers. No public bidding. Utmost discretion.

GALLERY & EXHIBITIONS

The representative offices in Berlin and Cologne host exhibitions featuring works by emerging and established artists. Curatorial presence in the international art world.



1946–1959

*A bang.
Followed by another.*

Germany, 1946. Cities lie in ruins, people are traumatized, and the economy is in tatters. The victorious Allied powers have divided Germany into occupied zones. New companies must be approved, and applicant backgrounds are scrutinized. Anyone opening an art gallery in this situation is either naïve—or sees something that others cannot yet see.

Auction at Eberhardstraße 65 in Stuttgart,
Wolfgang Ketterer on the left,
Roman Norbert Ketterer at the desk

1946

Roman Norbert Ketterer founds the **Stuttgarter Kunstkabinett**

Roman Norbert Ketterer was 35 years old, manager of a company producing special oils in Eisingen, and an art and music enthusiast. As a complete newcomer to the industry, he founded the “Stuttgarter Kunst-kabinett” for Modern and Contemporary Art. This was exactly what made him so dangerously good.

In retrospect, it was the perfect moment. The Expressionists, who had been defamed as degenerate during the Third Reich, were suddenly in demand. People distanced themselves from the barbarism of the Nazi henchmen by finally embracing the ostracized artists without risk. Ketterer understood this – and acted upon it.

1946

- The United Nations was founded.
- Countless soldiers were still prisoners of war or had returned from the front traumatized.

1947

Wolfgang Ketterer joins the company

His younger brother, nine years his junior, returned from American captivity. Without hesitation, he joined his brother’s company. The first auction—graphic works by Max Slevogt—was not particularly successful. Nevertheless, the foundation had been laid.

It soon becomes apparent that the brothers are different, but complementary. Roman Norbert is visionary, entrepreneurial, and has a flair for presentation. Wolfgang is precise, persistent, and has an unerring instinct for business. Together, they are a force to be reckoned with.

1947

- Millions of refugees and displaced persons from eastern territories
- Housing shortage
- Currency reform in 1948
- First peak of the Cold War with the Soviet blockade of West Berlin in 1948/49



Gerstenberg Collection, Berlin, with works by Toulouse-Lautrec at Eberhardstraße 65 in Stuttgart, 1948

1954

Wolfgang Ketterer opens his **own gallery** in Stuttgart

Between 1945 and 1955, the German art market did not yet play a decisive role on the international stage. This began to change slowly, driven by US collectors and institutions that rediscovered the European market. Wolfgang Ketterer seized the opportunity and made it his own: he opened a gallery on Hackländerstraße.

It was a signal: the Ketterers didn't just want to react. They wanted to shape the future.



The Ketterer mansion (gallery and residential building), Stuttgart-Gänsheide, 1954. The combination of a house designed by Chen Kuen Lee (pupil of Hans Scharoun) and a garden by Hermann Mattern, form an open living space where indoors and outdoors merge seamlessly.

1955

- *First documenta exhibition in Kassel*
- *The Federal Republic of Germany joins NATO*
- *Rosa Parks refused to take the back seat on the bus, as required for black people in the USA. Her act marks the beginning of the civil rights movement*

1959

The Stuttgart auctions gain **international attention.**

David Rockefeller was in the hall, Stavros Niarchos, Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza.

To the general astonishment of the audience, Roman Norbert Ketterer placed a telephone on the auction desk. Telephone bidding was unheard of in Germany. The consternation was great. Who is actually bidding? No further attempts of this kind were made in Stuttgart. But the message had been received: Ketterer was thinking globally while others were still stuck in a local mindset.

That same year, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's heirs appointed Roman Norbert Ketterer as administrator of the artist's estate. This gives him and later his heirs significant influence over how the artist's work was researched and promoted. A systematic inventory, but also the market presence of his works, are just as much a part of the estate administration's tasks as the development of a comprehensive archive and the preparation of expert reports.

1956

- *Suez Crisis with Israel, Great Britain, and France ready to invade*
- *Hungarian Revolution*



Roman Norbert Ketterer, Willi Henrich, and Dr. F. W. Arntz crossing from Manhattan to Staten Island, 1954



Kunstauktionator Ketterer

1960–1969

*Der Spiegel and Stern magazine—
the whole world
is watching.*

The sixties marked the decade when Ketterer rose from an insider tip to an institution. Roman Norbert Ketterer was now 49 years old. When he appeared on the cover of *Der Spiegel* in 1960, the art market officially gained recognition in Germany. And Ketterer occupied a prominent position.

August 1960: Roman Norbert Ketterer on the cover of *Spiegel* magazine

1960

Roman Norbert Ketterer on the cover of **Der Spiegel** magazine

Der Spiegel dedicated a report to the “man with flair” in its typically aloof, slightly sarcastic tone. Ketterer took it in stride. The attention of readers—and thus potential collectors and consignors—increased considerably.

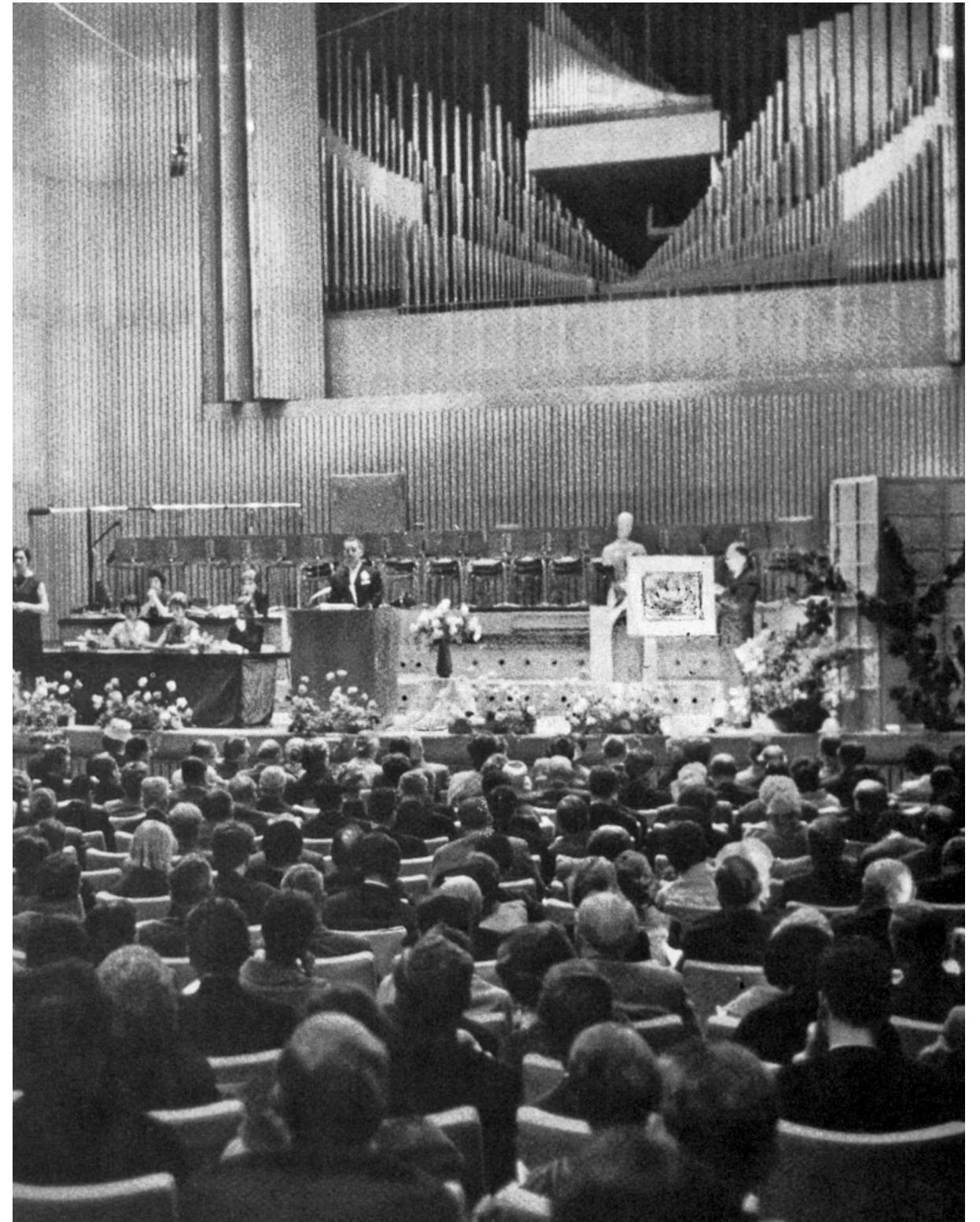
A year later, Stern magazine also featured Ketterer on its cover.



Celebrities at Ketterer: The couples Thyssen-Bornemisza and Moltzau, Oslo, in the Grand Broadcasting Hall of Süddeutscher Rundfunk, Stuttgart, during the 36th auction in May 1961



An article about Ketterer's 36th auction in Stern magazine on May 28, 1961



In the Grand Broadcasting Hall of Süddeutscher Rundfunk, Villa Berg, Stuttgart, 36th auction in May 1961

1961

- Construction of the Berlin Wall begins on August 13, 1961
- First major environmental and health debates kick off in the wake of nuclear tests and reactor technology

17	ALICE 26	ZUGEL 25	WESSEL 24	VOLB 23	KARSCH 22	TANNER 21	PETER 20	PASDACH 19	HERZER 18	LEIN- WEBER 17	DR. KLIMM 16	VERKAUF 15	DI FAU- R- RIN 14	DR FETSCH- RIN 13	FRIEDEL FISCHER 12	FLEISCH- MANN 11	CRWICK- LITZER 10	BEGER 9	BROCK- STEDT 8	BOHMER 7	BRIEGLER 6	DR. WAGNER 5	DR. THESING 4	EGGERT 3	DR. FELD- HAUS 2	DR. ENGELS 1	17
16	DR. WALDEN- BURGER 26	VONDER- BANK 25	UNGERS 24	UNGERS 23	KALBER- SCHOTT 22	DR. SCHREM- MER 21	ROSE 20	RETTIG 19	LUTZ 18	GRABERT 17	GRÜTZKE 16	DR. DORSCH- EL 15	CAMPAMPEN DONIVONK 14	ACLIROS 13	ALEX- ANDER- DER 12	FLEISCH- MANN 11	PAVEL 10	SCHWARTZ DÜSS. 9	DR. SCHOBER 8	DR. SCHNEIDER KEUTHEM 7	DR. FIDER- LATZER 6	DR. SCHEEF 5	DR. STURM 4	16			
15	KLEMM 26	DR. NITSCHKE 25	VON GEMINGE 24	HELLMANN 23	KARRER 22	SCHÜTTE- MILLER 21	BENADOR 20	RICHARTZ 19	DR. PETZET 18	KROSE- BERG 17	ROT- HERMEL 16	KEL 15	KRESS 14	DR. STABENOW 13	DR. MORGEN- THALER 12	KRIEGER 11	BORKHOLDE DRESLER 10	KELLER 9	KINKEL 8	BEY- SIEGEL 7	DR. HOEPFNER 6	FISCHER 5	FERBER 4	MENK 3	DANNECKER 2	15	
14	DR. MIL- GZEWISKY 25	GEBHARDT 24	HUPPNER 23	EGGERT 22	DE FACKEL- MAN 21	FAUSEL 20	HIMMEL- HEBER 19	HOFMAN ALSF. 18	LIEBER 17	LEMPPEMP- AU- 16	HERT. ABELS 15	STEIN 14	LÜBBECKE 13	PRESTEL 12	PROF. REISNER 11	ALLEN- BACH 10	CHRIST W. 9	DR. ROSE- TEBLEE 8	DR. BEYSE 7	OSCHINSKY 6	DR. STÜNKE 5	14					
13	TROFGER 26	DR. WINKLER 25	F. LÄTZER 24	FR. VEIDENEY- WALD- RICH. 23	DIETZSCH 22	HAGEL 21	ANITA FISCHER 20	FRICK 19	HOSCH 18	A. ANGEHRN 17	BECHTLER 16	SULZLE 15	HAGER 14	TROJAN SKI 13	ANNE ABELS 12	DR. RIETH 11	DR. LOHSE 10	MEYER STAT. 9	13								
12	KIPP- HOFF 25	PROF. KRAFT 24	FINCK 23	BRÜSEL 22	PROF. JAYME 21	DONSKOY 20	GUGGER 19	KIENIN- GER 18	LANDT. MAIER 17	BORSI 16	SCHIND- LER 15	FESSLESSLER 14	GROSS- HENNIC 13	PELLENGAHR 12	HAUFF 11	HAMMEL- BECK 10	W. 9	K. 8	DR. KOCHER- BENEING 7	AHLERS 6	DR. OLLIGS 5	PFÄNDER 4	12				
11	NICOLAI 25	DR. MÜLLER- WIRTH 24	F. F. MOSER 23	MAN 22	MERKLE 21	DR. SCHRAG 20	VON SCHIN- KEL 19	STI 18	STROHER 17	STRATHKE 16	HILL 15	NETZER 14	BEHN- HEIM 13	DR. SCHWITZ 12	DR. GOPEL 11	MEISSNER 10	PROF. RAUB 9	PROF. REQUADT 8	HEGE- WISCH 7	TUT (SCHREIER) 6	11						
<p>ab Tot. Na. : s. bestimmte</p> <p>Freiburg, 17. Aug. 1960</p> <p>haben sich bereits für 37. angemeldet</p> <p>und wurden in Sitzplan 36 einverleibt</p> <p>F.VORM. DR. SPEISER</p> <p>F.VORM. DR. BROBECHT</p>																											
10	KUCHLING 24	SCHU- STOLZ 23	BEKKER VOM RATH 22	FREY 21	DR. LÜTZE 20	CONSUL 19	KINDLER 18	PROF. HORSTMANN 17	W. HAHNHN 16	HILDEBRAND HÜ. 15	MÜLLERORLINGH. 14	KRUMM 13	KRENE 12	LUTZOW 11	KLEIN 10	ANDEREGG 9	SORAPERRA 8	BORNHEIM 7	10								
9	DR. WICHER 25	FRAU KETTERE 24	NIELSEN 23	DR. GUGGENHEIM 22	MAYER-AULL 21	HOFMANN 20	GURLITLITT 19	DR. WEBER-ZOFINGEN 18	HACK 17	REY- GERS 16	F. FARBER MU. 15	SCHENK 14	STANGL 13	WUESTER 12	9												
8	KLEEMANN 24	NUSSER 23	GROVERMAN 22	SCHROEDER 21	FRICKER 20	DR. AMUR 19	GALERIE 18	C.G. BOERNER 17	SCHNELL 16	HAUSWEDDEL 15	FRAUENDORFER 14	DR. TRIER 13	SILVANI 12	WAGNER 11	SOMMER 10	8											
7	SCHICKE DANZ 24	ROSEN- BERG 23	BERG- GRUEN 22	PERLS 21	DALLIN- GER 20	BAREISS 19	SALZMANN TUMPEL 18	EICH 17	DR. BEHREN 16	DR. RAEER 15	LIGHT 14	F. FRANK 13	DR. VALENTIN 12	BRAND 11	PELTZER 10	BRAND 9	RUPLEY 8	UHLMANN 7	GASSE- BNER 6	FRANKE 5	7						
6	DR. RÖHDE 23	DR. PETERS 22	DR. PATERS 21	DR. HAEN 20	DR. BOTT 19	DR. BOTT 18	DR. PEE 17	DR. KORN- FELD 16	DR. VONDER- OSTEN 15	DR. HOLZ- HAUSEN 14	DR. BUSCH 13	STAEMEDEL- INST. 12	LANGAARD 11	STAATSGALERIE 10	MUNSTER 9	DR. MÜLLER- WULKOW 8	DR. KEISER 7	HASSE 6	NORD 5	WINTER 4	6						
5	FRANZ MONHEIM 22	DR. MONHEIM 21	DR. KRUSE 20	VON FINCK 19	PROF. FAUVET 18	PROF. SCHULZ 17	PROF. ANSELME 16	PROF. BELMINDO 15	LRAT. HOFFMAN 14	MARLBOROUGH 13	ALEX-VOMEL 12	FURRER 11	BAR 10	5													
4	DR. SCHULZ NANN 22	KALMAN 21	DR. KNOED- LER 20	DR. ZAPP 19	DR. RÖTHEL 18	HAGEMANN 17	SCHMIDT 16	HENZEN 15	SPRENGEL 14	ROSENGART 13	KOHN 12	VAN- BESSE- LAERE 11	DR. HEITMAN 10	BEYELER 9	THALER 8	MOSTE 7	DR. LED- NARDI 6	4									
3	FEIGL BAS 22	SCHARF 21	ZÄCHRICH 20	THEODOXY 19	BEHR 18	DR. MAX FISCHER 17	DR. EMMINGER 16	DR. NATH- AN 15	MÜLLER SOLO- THURNG 14	OETKER 13	BENADOR 12	SCHOUR- MAN 11	3														
2	DR. WYSS 20	DR. WEIN- BERG 19	SCHONEMANN 18	STREIN- GER 17	ULRICH 16	KRKAEMER 15	WICK- MANN 14	ZINS- TAG 13	GANZ 12	LOCK 11	MAURS 10	2															
1	DR. DEUSCH 21	PROF. NALLINGER 20	KNECHT 19	VON FALKEN- HAYN 18	LEITNER 17	DR. DOETSCH 16	ADAM- DOETSCH 15	MÜLLELER 14	PROF. HEISE 13	DR. BOERIN- GER 12	CAMPBELL 11	MUSEUM BERN 10	1														

Auction seating plan, early 1960s

1962

Roman Norbert Ketterer closes the **Stuttgart Kunstkabinett** at the height of its success

It was a decision that no one understood. The Kunstkabinett was doing extremely well. The auctions were major events. Why stop? In his autobiography, Roman Norbert Ketterer later explained that his goal—to re-evaluate Modern Art and bring it to the international stage—had been achieved. The Kunstkabinett could not improve on its performance. So, it was time to call it quits.

In August, he relocated to Campione d'Italia, a Swiss enclave with a special legal status on Lake Lugano. And, after a complicated procedure, he took over the Kirchner estate. He kept both the move and the take-over secret until the very end. Perfectly planned. Perfectly executed.



View from the roof of the Ketterer residence in Campione d'Italia above Lake Lugano



Private residence of Roman Norbert and Rosemarie Ketterer in Campione d'Italia

1962

- The so-called "Spiegel Affair" leads to a serious political crisis in the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis fuels fears of a nuclear war and prompts peace initiatives.

1965

Wolfgang Ketterer sets up shop as publisher and gallerist in **Villa Stuck**

At the villa of Munich's prince of painters, Franz von Stuck—then still privately owned—Wolfgang Ketterer opens up a big gallery space across three floors. A special feature: his own printshop, a photo studio, and a photo typesetting facility. Autonomy mattered to him. He produced elaborate editions, including works by David Hockney, Henry Moore, Marino Marini, Ernst Wilhelm Nay, and Hans Bellmer. Later, the auction catalogs were also produced here.

The art scene was in flux. Informel and Concrete Art, Pop Art, Nouveau Réalisme, Fluxus—the 1960s were the wildest decade in postwar art.



Villa Stuck, Wolfgang Ketterer's company headquarters from 1965 to 1982



Wolfgang Ketterer at the auction desk

1968

Wolfgang Ketterer returns to the **auction business**

He expands his company's range to include categories that had previously been overlooked in Germany: Art Nouveau, African and Pre-Columbian art, Asian art, and Poster art.

1968

- *Vietnam War heats up*
- *Global student protests peak*
- *The global economy is still riding high on the post-war boom*



DIE LACHENDEN DRITTEN

Stefan Moses fotografierte deutsche Auktionatoren. Sie sind die Regisseure des blühenden deutschen Kunstgeschäfts (hier der Münchner Versteigerer Wolfgang Ketterer)

1970–1981

The family grows. As does the house.

In the 1970s, the Ketterer universe expands. A gallery in Campione d'Italia. An archive under construction. A planned museum. Wolfgang Ketterer widens the program's scope in Munich. The Ketterers don't just collect art—they gather knowledge, networks, and responsibility.

Wolfgang Ketterer on the cover of ZEITmagazin in July 1971

1970

Ingeborg Henze-Ketterer and Dr. Wolfgang Henze found **Galleria Henze**

Specializing in Expressionist prints and 1950s abstraction, the gallery in Campione d'Italia has had an international presence from the very beginning: Art Basel since 1971, FIAC Paris, Masterpiece London, Art Cologne, TEFAF Maastricht. The family's network grows.

1971

Wolfgang Ketterer on the cover of **ZEITmagazin**

His auctions attract not only influential dealers, but also high-potential collectors from around the world. Wolfgang Ketterer has established himself as an influential figure in the international art market.

Opening of a representative office on Madison Avenue in New York.



IBM/32 introduced by IBM in January 1975, and two years later at Ketterer



Roman Norbert Ketterer introduces his daughter Ingeborg Henze-Ketterer and his son-in-law Dr. Wolfgang Henze to German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Düsseldorf Art Fair, 1982

1977

Computer technology enters the auction house

As one of the first auction houses worldwide, Wolfgang Ketterer introduces computer technology into the business process. He shows up at the podium with a digitally generated protocol, much to the amusement of the audience. It's a pilot project that finds imitators around the world.

1972

- *Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and "The Limits to Growth" (Club of Rome) as the starting point for modern environmental policy*

1973

- *First oil crisis*
- *The economic boom years come to an end*
- *The global peace movement grows*



Ingeborg Henze-Ketterer, Dr. Alexandra Henze with dog Gaia, Dr. Wolfgang Henze

1979

Start of the methodical organization of the **Kirchner Archive**

Ingeborg Henze-Ketterer and Dr. Wolfgang Henze begin the methodical organization of a comprehensive documentation and library on the complete works of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. With the help of their daughters Alexandra and Cornelia, they also administer the archives and estates of Berthold Müller-Oerlinghausen, Eduard Bargheer, Francis Bott, and Fritz Winter.

1981

Launch of the **Kirchner Museums Davos**

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Roman Norbert Ketterer donates the Kirchner painting “500th Anniversary of the Zehngerichtebund in Davos” to the municipality of Davos. The decision to establish a Kirchner museum soon followed. Ten years later, the museum opened its doors.

In the same year, Roman Norbert Ketterer was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit 1st Class of the Federal Republic of Germany.

1979

- *The second oil crisis leads to the most severe recession in postwar Europe in the early 1980s.*



1982–1993

*Flying high and
landing hard—
and how to
survive both.*

The 1980s were a decade defined by extremes. The art market experienced an unprecedented boom driven by speculation. London and New York saw record prices. Japanese buyers pushed prices to heights beyond imagination. The Munich auction house was right in the thick of it – and then, like everyone else, had to suffer the consequences when the market collapsed.

Entrance of the Carolinenpalais on Briener Straße, Munich,
home to the Galerie Wolfgang Ketterer since 1982

1982

Relocation to Carolinenpalais on Munich's Brienner Straße.

Wolfgang Ketterer moves his auction house to the prestigious Carolinenpalais. The move was necessary as the Stuck Villa was undergoing conversion into a municipal museum.

The 1980s mark the first pinnacle of the international art market, with record prices, some of which driven by speculation, both in leading galleries and at the major auction houses in London and New York at the time. This rapid development is clearly evident at the internationally renowned Munich auction house. Its auctions are events—social, cultural, and economic. The house frequently breaks records.



Carolinenpalais on Brienner Straße in Munich



Richard von Weizsäcker with Wolfgang and Roman Norbert Ketterer on the occasion of a Kirchner exhibition at the Carolinenpalais in 1985

1980

- *The Iran-Iraq War, which began in 1980, had a decisive impact on the political situation in the Persian Gulf until 1988*

1986

- *Chernobyl Reactor Meltdown in the Soviet Union (Ukraine)*

1988

Roman Norbert Ketterer moves to **Lugano**

The international art market, fueled by Japanese investment purchases, begins to decline. Japan withdraws. Prices plummet. More than half of the lots remain unsold. The global recession hits galleries and auction houses hard. Ketterer holds its ground—but not unscathed. Fierce competition among galleries, auction houses, and new internet platforms is emerging worldwide.

1989

Acquisition of the Hamburg Book and Art Auction House **F. Dörling**

The nearly 200-year-old auction house was taken over by Wolfgang Ketterer. Twice a year, the Hamburg branch hosts extensive auctions of valuable books, manuscripts, autographs, and decorative art. This strategic expansion significantly broadens the auction house's scope.

The fall of the Berlin Wall ushered in a global transition and a momentous shift in the art market—from boom to crisis.



Bookshop F. Dörling at Speersort 22 in Hamburg, 1943 destroyed, etching by Otto Saffan

1991

Robert Ketterer joins the company / Galerie Wolfgang Ketterer becomes **Ketterer Kunst**

Together with his sons Roman, Philip, and Robert, Wolfgang Ketterer founded a limited partnership. Galerie Wolfgang Ketterer became Ketterer Kunst.

Robert Ketterer, aged 22, took the helm for the first time. He recalls: "It was a rainy Saturday in 1991. I was sitting next to my father, who was conducting the auction as usual. Suddenly, he asked me if I would like to take over the auction. He said, 'I now hand over to my son Robert,' stood up, and left." No planned transition. No gentle introduction. An assignment.

1993

The gallery, renamed **Henze & Ketterer AG**, relocates to **Wichtrach near Bern**

The new company headquarters, an estate comprising a private residence, gallery, and storage facility, serves as a center for research into Expressionism, hosting temporary exhibitions on Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, the Brücke group, Expressionism, and the archives of Kirchner and the Stuttgart Kunstkabinett. Global exhibitions, publications, and conferences on this area of Modernism are supervised and organized, questions of authenticity are clarified, and provenance research is conducted.

In 2004, the "KUNSTDEPOT" near Bern opened its doors. It is a spacious venue well-suited for special exhibitions.



ART DEPOT, built by the architects Gigon/Guyer in 2004

1989

- *The Berlin Wall comes down*
- *Gulf War*

1991–1995

- *Yugoslav Wars. Dissolution of Yugoslavia,*
- *Bosnian War (genocide in Srebrenica)*

1992

The **Kirchner Museum Davos** opens

In September, Roman Norbert Ketterer, founder of the museum, opens the new facility, which houses 519 works by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. To this day, the museum is one of the very few privately run institutions that is completely independent of public funding.



Kirchner Museum Davos, built by the architects Gigon/Guyer



The Kirchner Museum Davos is a cultural beacon in Switzerland



1992

- Introduction of a common European currency agreed



1994–2006

*Robert Ketterer
takes over.
And thinks afresh.*

In 1994, Wolfgang Ketterer stepped down as general partner and devoted himself to his passion for country life, beekeeping, and horticulture in Kreuth am Tegernsee. Robert Ketterer took over sole management in 1997. At the age of thirty, he set about fundamentally modernizing his company. The market recovered, further proof of the art market's resilience and remarkable growth potential.

Robert Ketterer takes over sole management in 1994

1994–97

Consolidation and reorientation

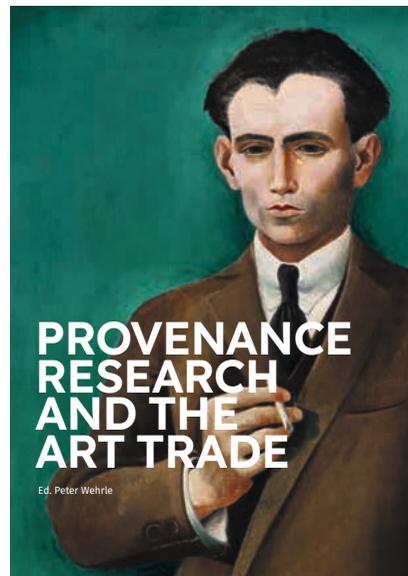
These were years marked by tough decisions. Prestigious but unprofitable departments—African art, Pre-Columbian art, Art Nouveau, Design—were abandoned. The program was narrowed down to Modern, Postwar, and Contemporary Art.

At the same time, Robert Ketterer made the catalogs subject to radical change. Art historical essays, detailed lot descriptions, precise provenance information—the catalog became a research tool, and the offerings were presented on the still-young Internet for the first time.

2000

Ketterer Kunst acquires the rights to **Ernest Rathenau Verlag**

The publishing house, originally based in Berlin and later in New York, was founded in the 1920s and published works on Kokoschka, Karl Hofer, and Edvard Munch. Robert Ketterer: “The unique history of this publishing house is both a challenge and an inspiration to us.”

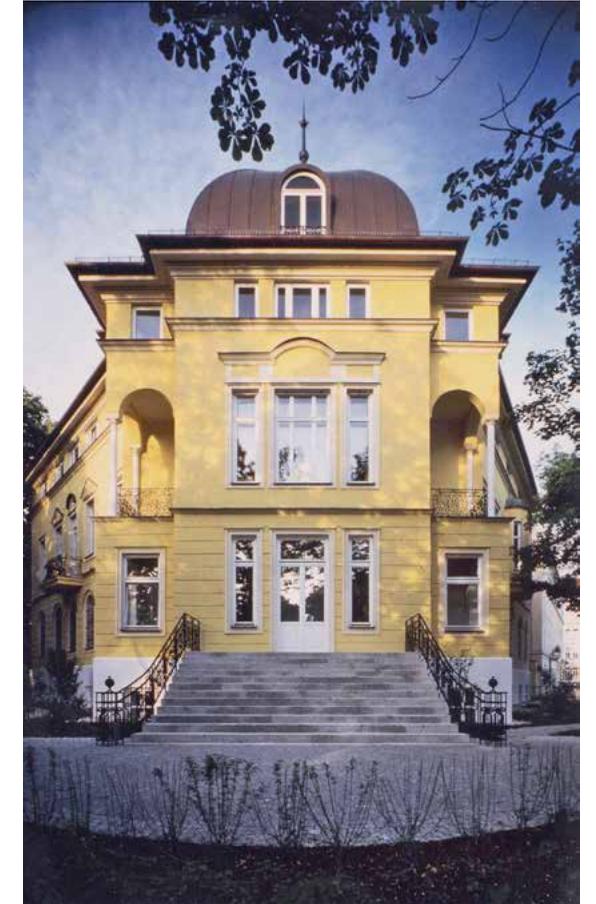


Provenance Research and the Art Trade, 2024 (Volume 1)

2001

Relocation to the **Palais Prinz Alfons von Bayern**

The premises on Munich’s Prinzregentenstraße provide the company with a new, prestigious home. Auctions are held at venues such as Munich’s Prinzregententheater.



Palais Prinz Alfons von Bayern on Prinzregentenstraße in Munich

1994

- Amazon was founded in a garage in Seattle

1998

- The dot-com era booms

2000/2001

- Following massive overvaluation of IT and Internet stocks, technology indices plummet by more than half.

2001

- Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York
- War in Afghanistan begins (and will not end until 2021)

2002

Roman Norbert Ketterer dies June 19, 2002

He is laid to rest in Davos, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's adopted home. His daughter Ingeborg Henze-Ketterer, his son Günther Ketterer, who died in 2024, a financial expert and lifelong patron of the arts, as well as president of the board of trustees of the Kirchner Museum Davos, and his son-in-law Dr. Wolfgang Henze in Wichtrach near Bern continue Roman Norbert Ketterer's gallery work and the management of the Kirchner estate.



Roman Norbert Ketterer (1911–2002)

2002

- Introduction of the Euro

2003

White Glove Sale of Tremmel Collection

The auction of the Tremmel Collection raised five million euros. All lots sold. A world record price for Käthe Kollwitz. Ketterer Kunst is back on track.



Auction of the Tremmel Collection, Wolfgang Ketterer seated in the middle of the front row

2003

- US invasion of Iraq, on the grounds that weapons of mass destruction were allegedly produced and stored there

2004

Dr. Alexandra Henze heads the branch of Galerie Henze & Ketterer in Riehen near Basel

Now in its third generation, Dr. Alexandra Henze is involved in the fortunes of the Henze-Ketterer family's art business and runs her parents' gallery branch until 2024.

The Riehen/Basel location was opened in 2001 and remained active until 2024. It had originally joined forces with Galerie Triebold, founded in 1986.



Dr. Alexandra Henze

2006

First online auctions / Gudrun Ketterer joins the company

While many auction houses are still reluctant to embrace the internet, Ketterer Kunst recognises its innovative value. The first online-only auctions exceeded all expectations. In 2006, Robert Ketterer's wife Gudrun also joined the company. From now on, she will be providing significant impetus for the innovative orientation of the company.

A representative office is opened in Berlin. Six years later, a branch office follows in Düsseldorf.



Gudrun and Robert Ketterer



2007–2018

Market leader with a million euro sale.

The following is the story of a consistently earned rise to the top, the first million-euro sale. More followed. The financial crisis hit. Then recovery. Finally, German art market leader.

In 2007, the company achieved its first sale in the millions:
Emil Nolde, "Nadja", 1919. Sold for € 2.5 million

2007

Nolde's "Nadja" breaks the million-euro mark

The Nolde portrait fetches € 2.5 million. The auction house enters a new league. Outstanding results lead to further consignments of considerable value.



Emil Nolde, Nadja, 1919. Oil on canvas. 40 x 25 cm

2007

- Art fairs are booming around the world, and Germany is an exporter of internationally sought-after works

2008

New corporate headquarters / Lehman Brothers and the aftermath

A building designed to meet the highest standards, located directly adjacent to the New Munich Trade Fair Centre, was constructed in just 10 months, featuring 3,500 square meters across 3 floors, a sales room, a large exhibition area, and plenty of space for art and collectors from all over the world. With its state-of-the-art technology, it offers the best conditions for high-profile auctions with a global reach.

Robert Ketterer also felt the effects of the financial and economic crisis following the bankruptcy of the investment bank Lehman Brothers. Credit markets froze, international trade collapsed, and the global economy slid into its worst recession since the Great Depression. But after a brief period of paralysis, its spectacular driving effect on the art market became apparent. Investment appetite and prices rose rapidly. In times of restrictive banking and interest rate policies, the range of promising investment assets was limited. In the financial world, art is now also recognized as an intelligent portfolio component that recovers faster than any other asset class.

2008

- Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy
- Most severe financial and economic crisis of recent decades



The second floor is still missing: The new building on Joseph-Wild-Straße is entering the final stages



Ketterer Kunst Headquarters after completion, opened in 2008



3,500 square meters across three floors, featuring an auction hall and large exhibition space: the new 'House of Art'



Evening Sale December 8, 2018

2009

Wolfgang Ketterer dies at the age of 89 in Kreuth am Tegernsee

The senior partner and founder of the Munich auction house had retired to his country home years ago, but remained a knowledgeable and loyal partner to his son, Robert, and his wife, Gudrun.

With verve, boldness, and visionary power, the two maneuver the company through yet another stormy period. To this day, the focus remains on an international outlook. Their personal and attentive approach wins over new clients. With an excellent team of experts and employees, they soon became an authority in the European auction industry.



Wolfgang Ketterer (1920–2009)

2011

- Arab Spring, revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East
- Civil wars in Libya and Syria

2014

First in-house **provenance department** in Germany

With a team of permanent employees, the provenance research department quickly grows into a respected, scientific institution in the international art trade.

The globally noted record price of €3.15 million for a painting by Kazuo Shiraga fuels the valuation of works from the Japanese post-war and Gutai context in Germany.

2014

- Annexation of Crimea and Donbass War:
- Russian invasion of Ukraine

2015

World's first result in the millions for Günther Uecker

Günther Uecker's nail picture "Scheerbartwesen" – € 1.8 million. Another world record. Ketterer underscores his specialization in ZERO and Uecker.



ZERO hits peak form in the 425th auction in June 2015: Günther Uecker, Hommage à Paul Scheerbart ("Scheerbartwesen"), late 1960s. Sold for € 1.8 million

2018

Ketterer Kunst – **Market leader in Germany.** To this day.

With annual sales of € 52 million, Ketterer Kunst ranks first among German auction houses. According to the Artprice Database's annual report, the house has entered the global top 20 for the first time, coming in at number 16 for art from 1900 onwards. In the global ranking for 20th-century art, this powerhouse stands as the top-grossing family-owned business.

Private Sales are becoming a mainstay of the house, which is currently experiencing extraordinary growth.

2019/2020

- Outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic with lockdowns and economic slump in many countries

Ketterer Kunst leading in Contemporary Art in Germany since 2014.

2014 Most expensive work of Contemporary Art in Germany

Kazuo Shiraga, Chijikusei Gotenrai, 1961. Sold for € 3.1 million



2021 Another record

Albert Oehlen, #Ohne Titel (Triptychon), 1988. Sold for € 3.6 million

2025 World record Highest result worldwide for this series* Most expensive work of Contemporary Art in Germany

Andy Warhol, Marilyn Monroe (Series of 10 Silkscreens), 1967. Sold for € 4.5 million



* Source: Artnet



2019–2026

*Covid-19 challenges
and 75 results over
the million-euro mark
at Ketterer Kunst.*

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Ketterer Kunst's refined online concept proved its worth in the long term. The auction season brought positive surprises. And after that: records upon records.

Andy Warhol, Marilyn Monroe (Series of 10 Silkscreens), 1967.
World record price: € 4.5 million

2020/21

Ketterer is well prepared / The **strength of online auctions**

Auction houses around the world face the same problem: empty rooms, no live bidders. Ketterer Kunst has been building and refining its online operations since 2006. The online infrastructure pays off. The season is in full swing – and the results are strong.



Auction live stream

2021/2022

- *Pronounced wave of inflation as a result of COVID-19 crisis*

2022

In the **global top 10** for the first time

Ketterer Kunst ranks among the top 10 art auction houses worldwide for the first time. To this day.

Hermann Gerlinger entrusts Ketterer Kunst with his legendary collection, consolidating the house's reputation as the leading address for high-class works of German Expressionism.

The following year: Relocation of the Rhineland office from Düsseldorf to Cologne: Takeover of the former premises of the traditional Galerie Michael Werner on Gertrudenstraße. High-calibre exhibitions, primarily featuring works by up-and-coming artists, are part of the program.

2022

- *Russian invasion of Ukraine*



Collector Hermann Gerlinger and Robert Ketterer at the preview of the June 2022 auction

2023

- *Hamas attack and Gaza War*

2024

€ 8.3 million Record at Ketterer Kunst

Alexej von Jawlensky's "Spanish Dancer" (1909) fetches € 8.3 million. The highest result in the history of Ketterer Kunst.

Following the closure of the branch in Riehen/Basel, Dr. Alexandra Henze joined the management team at Galerie Henze & Ketterer in Wichtrach. Once again, she curates exhibitions at the parent company, negotiates, organizes, writes texts for exhibitions by artists represented by the gallery in public institutions, and oversees the gallery's participation in international art fairs.

2025

Record year grossing € 81.9 million / Warhol world record

Andy Warhol's Marilyn Set fetches € 4.5 million – a world record. Kandinsky's "Behauptend" goes for € 3.1 million – three times the estimated price. Pechstein: € 2.6 million. Munch: € 2.0 million. Total sales: € 81.9 million. The strongest year in the company's history. Market leader in Germany for the fifteenth consecutive year.

2026

80 years of Ketterer

The Ketterer family started out with an art gallery in Stuttgart in 1946. Today, the Ketterers are an institution in the art world—with an internationally renowned auction house, the Kirchner Museum in Davos—a unique institution—the Swiss gallery Henze & Ketterer, which specializes in Modern and Contemporary art, the administration of Kirchner's estate, as well as a wide range of other activities.

After more than 600 auctions, Ketterer Kunst can look back on 91 sales exceeding € 1 million, 28 of which exceeded € 2 million (artnet.com). And that's not the end of the story.



Performing strong in our Day Sale: record result on December 6, 2025

Aristarkh Vasilevich Lentulov, Datscha in Kislovodsk, 1913. Sold for € 1.1 million

**The market
is strong.**

*The market is strong. The stage is unique.
In our anniversary year, attention is greater
than ever. This is the right moment to sell.*

Get in touch with us.

Million results 2019–2025

Artist	Artwork	Technique	Sold for	Increase
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2025 – 14x million results

Andy Warhol	Marilyn Monroe (10 Blatt). 1967	Silkscreens	4.5 m €	274 %
Wassily Kandinsky	Behauptend. 1926	Oil/canvas	3.1 m €	318 %
Hermann Max Pechstein	Inder und Frauenakt / Früchte (Rückseite). 1910	Oil/canvas	2.6 m €	32 %
Edvard Munch	Das rote Haus (Det røde hus). 1926	Oil/canvas	2.0 m €	70 %
Gerhard Richter	Abstraktes Bild. 1989	Oil/canvas	1.8 m €	20 %
Pablo Picasso	Le Sculpteur et son Modèle. 1933	Gouache	1.7 m €	124 %
Thomas Schütte	Bronzefrau Nr. 12. 2003	Bronze	1.5 m €	54 %
Alexej von Jawlensky	Kopf in Bronzefarben – Bildnis Sacharoff. 1913	Oil/paper	1.3 m €	20 %
Lyonel Feininger	Auf der Brücke. 1913	Oil/canvas	1.3 m €	119 %
Morris Louis	Addition VII. 1959	Acrylic/canvas	1.1 m €	42 %
Aristarkh Vasilevich Lentulov	Datscha in Kislovodsk. 1913	Oil/canvas	1.1 m €	5.576 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Sertigweg. 1937	Oil/canvas	1.1 m €	119 %
Gerhard Richter	Abstraktes Bild. 1997	Öl/Alucobond	1.0 m €	49 %
Andy Warhol	Campbell's Soup I (10 Blatt). 1968	Silkscreens in colors	1.0 m €	106 %

2024 – 13x million results

Alexej von Jawlensky	Spanische Tänzerin. 1909	Oil/cardboard	8.3 m €	11 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Tanz im Varieté. 1911	Oil/canvas	7.0 m €	248 %
Max Beckmann	Großer Clown mit Frauen und kleiner Clown. 1950	Oil/canvas	3.7 m €	192 %
Andy Warhol	Flowers (10 Blatt). 1970	Silkscreens in colors	1.9 m €	133 %
Georg Baselitz	Fingermalerei - Birke. 1972	Oil/canvas	1.6 m €	125 %
Kenneth Noland	Via Media (Suddenly). 1963	Acrylic/canvas	1.4 m €	144 %
Robert Ryman	General 52" x 52". 1970	Enamel and Enamelac on cotton canvas	1.3 m €	26 %
Sean Scully	Cut Ground Orange. 2009	Oil/canvas	1.3 m €	57 %
Henry Moore	Working Model for Sheep Piece. 1971	Bronze	1.2 m €	94 %
Alberto Burri	Legno P 1. 1958	Wood	1.1 m €	26 %
Alexej von Jawlensky	Berge in Oberstdorf. 1912	Oil/cardboard	1.1 m €	54 %
Karl Schmidt-Rottluff	Junger Wald und Sonne. 1920	Oil/canvas	1.1 m €	115 %
Gerhard Richter	Herr Uecker. 1964	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	126 %

2023 – 9x million results

Alexej von Jawlensky	Mädchen mit Zopf. 1910	Oil/cardboard	6.4 m €	82 %
Wassily Kandinsky	Murnau. 1908	Oil/cardboard	3.9 m €	161 %
Franz Marc	Grünes Pferd. 1912	Tempera on paper	2.5 m €	311 %
Konrad Klapheck	Die Jagd nach dem Glück. 1984	Oil/canvas	2.5 m €	517 %
Hermann Max Pechstein	Die Ruhende. 1911	Oil/canvas	2.2 m €	86 %
Gerhard Richter	Alster (Hamburg). 1963	Oil/canvas	2.1 m €	111 %
Max Liebermann	Große Seestraße in Wannsee. 1925	Oil/canvas	1.7 m €	358 %
Ernst Wilhelm Nay	Motion. 1962	Oil/canvas	1.6 m €	305 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Alphütten und Tinzenhorn. 1919	Oil on jute and cloth	1.1 m €	79 %

2022 – 13x million results

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Das blaue Mädchen in der Sonne. 1910	Oil/canvas	4.8 m €	138 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Hockende. 1910	Wood	4.3 m €	513 %
Karl Schmidt-Rottluff	Lesende (Else Lasker-Schüler). 1912	Oil/canvas	4.1 m €	480 %
August Macke	Mädchen mit blauen Vögeln (Kind mit blauen Vögeln). 1914	Oil/canvas	2.5 m €	27 %
Karl Schmidt-Rottluff	Rote Düne. 1913	Oil/canvas	1.9 m €	143 %
Gerhard Richter	Abstraktes Bild. 1988	Oil/canvas	1.7 m €	184 %
Erich Heckel	Kinder. 1909	Oil/canvas	1.3 m €	124 %
Georg Baselitz	Waldweg. 1974	Oil/canvas	1.3 m €	92 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Fehmarnküste mit Leuchtturm. 1913	Oil/canvas	1.2 m €	75 %
Emil Nolde	Rittersporn und Silberpappeln. 1929	Oil/canvas	1.2 m €	133 %
Richard Serra	Corner Prop No. 6 (Leena and Tuula). 1983	Steel	1.0 m €	74 %
Georg Baselitz	Hofteich. 1975	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	49 %
Emil Nolde	Meer (D). 1930	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	23 %

2021 – 16x million results

Albert Oehlen	Ohne Titel (Triptychon). 1988	Mixed media	3.6 m €	140 %
Alexej von Jawlensky	Frauenkopf mit Blumen im Haar. 1913	Oil/cardboard	2.9 m €	16 %
Pierre Soulages	Peinture 92 x 65 cm, 3 août 1954. 1954	Oil/canvas	2.2 m €	274 %
Emil Nolde	Buchsbaumgarten. 1909	Oil/canvas	2.2 m €	82 %
Ernst Wilhelm Nay	Doppelspindel-Rot. 1967	Oil/canvas	2.2 m €	993 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Sertigweg. 1937	Oil/canvas	1.5 m €	266 %
Gerhard Richter	Abstraktes Bild. 2001	Oil on Alu-Dibond	1.5 m €	144 %
Sean Scully	Blue Yellow Figure. 2004	Oil/canvas	1.3 m €	124 %
Günther Uecker	Energiefeld. 2009	Nails, white paint on canvas, on panel	1.3 m €	157 %
Alexej von Jawlensky	Mystischer Kopf: Galka Fatum - Fate. 1917	Oil/cardboard	1.1 m €	309 %
Gabriele Münter	Stillleben mit Madonna. 1911	Oil/cardboard	1.1 m €	453 %
Wassily Kandinsky	Gebogene Spitzen. 1927	Watercolour	1.1 m €	391 %
Otto Mueller	Drei badende Mädchen. 1911	Distemper on burlap	1.0 m €	248 %
Erich Heckel	Blaue Iris. 1908	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	161 %
Keith Haring	Andy Mouse (4 Blatt). 1986	Farbserigrafie	1.0 m €	240 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Im Bordell. 1913	Oil on cardboard	1.0 m €	146 %

2020 – 3x million results

Gerhard Richter	Christiane und Kerstin. 1968	Oil/canvas	2.5 m €	339 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Unser Haus. 1918	Oil/canvas	1.6 m €	243 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Dorfstraße mit Apfelbäumen. 1907	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	175 %

2019 – 7x million results

Wassily Kandinsky	Treppe zum Schloss (Murnau). 1909	Oil/cardboard	2.4 m €	62 %
Günther Uecker	Weisses Feld. 1994	Nails, white paint over canvas on wood	1.6 m €	236 %
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner	Heimkehrende Ziegenherde. 1920	Oil/canvas	1.5 m €	301 %
Hermann Max Pechstein	Tänzer. 1910	Oil/canvas	1.2 m €	123 %
Andy Warhol	Portrait of a Lady. 1985	Synthetic acrylic colors and silkscreen on canvas	1.1 m €	207 %
Biblia latina	Biblia latina (Fust-Schöffers-Bibel), 2 Bände. 1462	Inkunabel	1.1 m €	8 %
Gerhard Richter	Abstraktes Bild. 1986	Oil/canvas	1.0 m €	68 %

Results incl. buyer's premium (excl. VAT), increase: starting price to result

**Anniversary auction
June 12–13, 2026**

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and seize
the right moment.



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Over the past seven years, we have secured 75 sales exceeding one million euros. A Kandinsky, estimated at one million, sold for € 3.1 million—three times its estimate—a Warhol set, estimated at € 1.5 million, sold for € 4.5 million—a world record. A bronze nude by Georg Kolbe went from € 150,000 to € 620,000 euros. These are not exceptions. This reflects our standards.

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Your buyer may be based in Munich. Perhaps in New York. Or in Taipei. Our bilingual auction catalogs are published in print runs of well over 10,000 copies and reach collectors across every continent. Our online platform drives bidder participation around the clock, worldwide.

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT.

In 2014, Ketterer Kunst was the first German auction house to introduce an in-house provenance department. Our team of art historians and provenance researchers examines every work before the hammer falls. That protects you. It protects the buyer. And it protects the value of your work.

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Not every work belongs in the auction room. Not every moment is the right one. Deutsche Bank, Hermann Gerlinger, Haniel, and many others entrusted us with their collections, for good reasons.

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Ketterer Kunst is a family business. Robert and Gudrun Ketterer run this company personally. Working with Ketterer Kunst means working with responsible experts who are dedicated to you and your art, with empathy and expertise.

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a history.
We are here to write
the next chapter.*

For eighty years, we have been accompanying exceptional art on its journey to new owners. At times with discretion, at times with much fanfare. With one goal in mind: to achieve the best possible outcome.

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