KETTERER KUNST

PRESS RELEASE

Beloved TV Painter Bob Ross: One of His TV Paintings Heads to Auction in Germany for the First Time

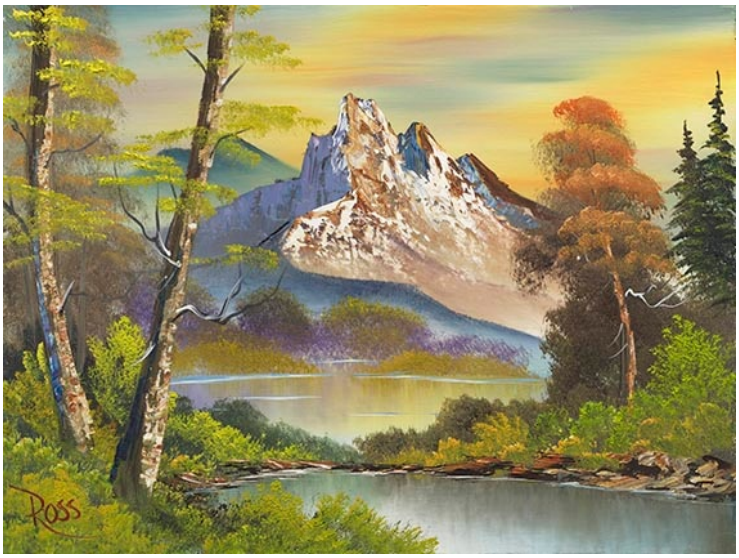
100% of net proceeds to benefit U.S. public television stations following cuts to government funding for public broadcasting



Beloved “Joy of Painting” host and artist Bob Ross.

PRESS RELEASE | Munich, October 27, 2026.

His curls, his gentle voice, and his “happy little trees” have long been iconic. For the first time, an original painting by TV artist Bob Ross (1942–1995) is up for auction in Germany. Ketterer Kunst offers “Mountain Splendor” at its live auction on December 5, 2026, in Munich—an original that Ross painted in front of the camera in a 1986 episode of his television show “The Joy of Painting". The estimate is €40,000–60,000 (USD 46,800 – 70,200).



Bob Ross, Mountain Splendor, 1986. Day Sale, December 5, 2026
Estimate: € 40,000 to 60,000 (USD 46,800 – 70,200)

A "The Joy of Painting" Original

"Mountain Splendor" is what's known as a particularly sought-after "**TV painting**": The painting was created entirely during the recording of Season 7, Episode 8 of "The Joy of Painting." Bob Ross typically painted three versions of a composition: one in preparation, one live on camera and a third for his instructional books. "Mountain Splendor" is therefore the very painting whose creation audiences can still watch today – from the blank canvas, stroke by stroke, to the finished work. This direct connection to the show gives these TV paintings their special appeal.

In less than half an hour, a landscape featuring a majestic mountain range, trees and water takes shape before viewers' eyes – without editing and using the wet-on-wet technique with which Ross encouraged millions to try painting themselves. The episode remains available to audiences worldwide through 'best of' broadcasts, streaming services, YouTube and other platforms.

Following the recording, Mountain Splendor was carefully stored for decades. The TV painting now comes to auction fresh to the market and in exceptionally well-preserved condition.

"Bob Ross has inspired millions of people to take up painting and has long since been an icon of pop culture," **says Robert Ketterer, owner and auctioneer of Ketterer Kunst.** "*With 'Mountain Splendor,' we're auctioning off a piece of television history. What makes it so special is the fact that people can still watch the artist create this painting today. The fact that we're able to offer an original for the first time in Germany—and at the same time support public television in the U.S.—makes this auction particularly special to us."*

Supporting the Public Television That Made Bob Ross Famous

"Mountain Splendor" is being offered by program distributor American Public Television (APT) as part of a charitable initiative, which was conceived by Joan Kowalski, President of Bob Ross Inc. Selected works have already been offered on the U.S. market. APT has pledged to direct 100% of the net sale proceeds to public television stations throughout the country. The initiative is a response to cuts to previously-approved federal funding for public television in the United States.

To reach Bob Ross's large and loyal European following, Ketterer Kunst was selected as Germany's leading auction house to conduct the sale. With "Mountain Splendor", one of the originals carefully stored for decades now makes its first appearance on the German auction market.

This closes the circle: A painting Bob Ross created for public television is, more than 40 years later, supporting the very medium that made him famous.

Jim Dunford, CEO and President of American Public Television: "*Bob Ross is one of America's most beloved cultural exports, and audiences across the globe love his work as much as viewers here in the States do. These auctions turn that worldwide affection for Bob into real support for local public television stations, and we are deeply grateful to Bob Ross Inc. for making it possible."*

403 Episodes and Very Many "Happy Little Trees"

"The Joy of Painting" was both a painting class and a television phenomenon. Between 1983 and 1994, 403 episodes aired across 31 seasons, each lasting about 27 minutes, and the show remains on television today, uninterrupted since that first broadcast.

Ross made painting accessible to millions. His calm voice accompanying every brushstroke, his humor, and his constant encouragement of the audience became just as much a part of his signature style as the landscapes themselves.

A botched brushstroke? ***"We don't make mistakes here, just happy little accidents."*** A single tree? ***"Everyone needs a friend"***—and just like that, it got a second one. And when he shook the paint off the brush, he'd say, ***"Beat the devil out of it."***

Cult Status in Germany

Germany is among the countries where Bob Ross's legacy remains particularly vibrant. In 2001, "The Joy of Painting" premiered on BR-alpha—now ARD alpha—and continues to air regularly. Ross also appears on Sky and various streaming services. Since 2026, Samsung TV Plus Germany has also featured its own "The Bob Ross Channel in German" with more than

400 episodes. As a result, the painter, who died in 1995, has long since reached new generations of viewers. His unmistakable appearance and legendary catchphrases have also become popular features of meme culture on social media.

Bob Ross on the Auction Market

Recent auction results show that a distinct market is developing for paintings by the cult television artist. Particularly sought after are the TV paintings created on camera, which have fetched higher prices at the auctions held to date than the paintings made for instructional books offered alongside them. The TV painting “Change of Seasons” (1990) achieved a record price of USD 787,900, including buyer’s premium, against an estimate of USD 40,000–60,000 at Bonhams in Massachusetts in January 2026. Other mountain landscapes, including “Mountain Summit” (1988), “Mountain Landscape” (1990) and “Mountain Waterfall” (1983), significantly exceeded their estimates, each fetching USD 406,900, including buyer’s premium, in June and August 2026 (source: Artnet.com).

Live auctions with international appeal

Ketterer Kunst will hold its major winter **live auctions in Munich on December 4–5**. The strong lineup is set to attract international attention, featuring works by Peter **Doig**, Pierre **Soulages**, Gerhard **Richter**, Georg **Baselitz**, Pablo **Picasso**, Piero **Dorazio**, Alexander **Calder** and Roy **Lichtenstein**, among others. The live auctions will be livestreamed, with bidding available by absentee bid, online, by phone, or in person.

“Mountain Splendor” will be on view during the preview in the following cities:

Frankfurt	November 8–10
Cologne	November 12–15
Hamburg	November 17–18
Berlin	November 20–27
Munich	November 29–December 4

For more information about the preview, visit our website.

Day Sale – Modern & Contemporary Art
December 5, 2026, Ketterer Kunst, Munich

BOB ROSS (1942–1995)
“Mountain Splendor,” 1986
Oil on canvas, 45,6 x 60,7 cm (17,9 x 23,8 in)
TV painting from “The Joy of Painting,” Season 7, Episode 8
Estimate: € 40,000 to 60,000 (USD 46,800 – 70,200)

- A unique opportunity for fans: a painting by TV legend Bob Ross, who inspired millions to paint.
- Original TV painting: Painted live on camera during “The Joy of Painting” in 1986; the entire painting process can still be watched.
- Fresh to market: Carefully stored for decades after recording and not intended for sale.
- German premiere: For the first time, an original painting by Bob Ross is offered on the German auction market.
- Charity: 100% of net proceeds to benefit U.S. public television stations following cuts to government funding for public broadcasting.

More details on our website.

Press images of the painting and approved video footage from the relevant episode of “The Joy of Painting” are available for editorial use. Please use the following credit: “© Bob Ross Inc. Used with permission.”

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UPCOMING DATES:

November 15, 2026	Online Sale Modern & Contemporary Art
November 23, 2026	Rare Books, Hamburg
December 4, 2026	Evening Sale 19th Century, Modern & Contemporary Art, Munich
December 5, 2026	Day Sale, 19th Century, Modern & Contemporary Art, Munich

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KETTERER KUNST

Ketterer Kunst is one of Europe's leading art auction houses and Germany's market leader. Headquartered in Munich, with offices in Hamburg, Cologne, and Berlin and an international network of experts, the family-owned business is led by Robert Ketterer in its second generation. Its services include auctions and private sales of contemporary, modern, and 19th-century art, as well as rare and valuable books spanning five centuries. Ketterer Kunst ranks among the world's top ten auction houses by total sales value for art created after 1800 (Artnet Analytics, 2025).

www.kettererkunst.com

instagram.com/kettererkunst.de

https://www.youtube.com/@kettererkunstauctions

BOB ROSS

Bob Ross (1942–1995) was an American painting instructor who inspired millions of people around the world to paint through his television series "The Joy of Painting." During his service in the U.S. Air Force in Alaska, he became familiar with the mountainous landscapes that would later become a recurring motif in his paintings. He adapted the wet-on-wet technique he learned from German painter William Alexander, developing his own easy-to-follow approach to painting.

"The Joy of Painting" premiered on American public television in 1983. With his unmistakable appearance, gentle voice, and humorous, encouraging manner, Ross became an iconic figure in television history. His shows continue to air today, reaching new generations through streaming platforms and social media.

AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION (APT)

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's more than 350 public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and nearly one-half of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create®TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD™, public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. More information at APTonline.org.