

BATHTUB, GRAVITY AND UNCHARTED LANDS

Highlights from the Auction Featuring
Rare Books and Graphic Gems



LYONEL FEININGER, Printed comic pages from the Chicago Tribune (detail), 1906-1907. Estimate price: € 8,000

PRESS RELEASE | Hamburg/Munich, November 3, 2025

The “Rare Books” auction of Ketterer Kunst in on November 24, 2025, boasts an array of extraordinary highlights from seven centuries of cultural and scientific history.

**Comic pioneer: Feininger’s newspaper strips -
between Art Nouveau and later Bauhaus aesthetics**

Lyonel Feininger, the famous German-American artist, shows his lesser-known side as a bustling young cartoonist. During and after his studies at the Berlin Art Academy, the New York-born son of a composer and a concert singer was quite successful making cartoons for

newspapers and popular German magazines. With his sharp pen, he adopted an artistic style that was grotesque, precise in its execution, and unmistakable. Innocuous jokes eventually turned into a series of highly original comic strips once the Chicago Tribune took notice of him. From May 1906 onwards, the adventures of Daniel Webster, Strenuous Teddy, and Piemouth, the three Kin-der-Kids, and their dog Sherlock Bones were published regularly. They set off across the Atlantic in a bathtub. Up and away. Chased by their aunt, who keeps trying to feed them cod liver oil, and by Uncle Gus in a hot air balloon. Mysterious Pete repeatedly rescues them from perilous situations before they end up in England, and later in Tsarist Russia. The charming comic series was discontinued after nine months. The satire, seasoned with gentle sarcasm, did not appeal to the conservative readership. Feininger, who was now living in Paris, conceived the comic strip Wee Willie Winkie's World at around the same time—a no less surreal, magical world that also tanked (January 1907). The conservative Chicago Tribune's attempt to boost circulation by publishing sophisticated, cutting-edge comics had failed miserably.

Ketterer Kunst is now offering 33 of these original newspaper pages from the Feininger family estate, a cultural-historical document of comic history and its early dissemination in popular newspapers and magazines, an extremely rare “early work” of the famous classic of modernism in this completeness and good condition, with an estimate of €8,000.

Bauhaus Exhibition Weimar 1923 – a kaleidoscope of geometry, color, and typography

Feininger was one of the leading artists and teachers at the **Bauhaus**, founded in Weimar in 1919, which ultimately settled in Dessau. In 1925, after the school's relocation, he retired from teaching but remained closely associated with the influential institution and its outstanding teaching staff until its closure in 1933. In 1923, the school organized its first major exhibition, intended as a demonstration of its achievements, which served as a popular foundation and contributed significantly to its reputation. Among other things, the teachers created 20 lithographed postcards for promotional purposes (two of which were contributed by Lyonel Feininger). **These are characteristic miniature works of art and are extremely rare today. The series, which is almost complete with 18 of 20 postcards—merely short of one card by Rudolf Baschant and one by Farkas Molnar—is in excellent condition and estimated at €40,000.**

Landmark in cartography: Waldseemüller's extended Ptolemy Atlas

Boasting beautiful decorative maps in old colors, the 1520 edition of the **Ptolemaic Atlas with additions by Martin Waldseemüller** is a wonderful piece. He added twenty geographically accurate maps to those compiled by the Greek astronomer based on the ancient understanding of the world. He thereby created the most modern cartographic representation of the Earth at that time, including the newly discovered continent of America,

which he cautiously named "Terra incognita". **Printed by Johann Schott in Strasbourg and bound in an embossed half-pigskin binding, the rare atlas "Ptolemaeus auctus restitutus" is offered with an estimate of €250,000.**

First edition of the most important work in the history of natural science

To this day, we still follow **Isaac Newton's** laws of motion. He described the law of gravity. He described the laws of nature, explained how the motion of bodies and gravity work, and how they affect things on Earth and in space. This is the simplest and, of course, insufficient summary of his "Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica", the most influential work in the history of natural science. The first edition of Newton's revolutionary work was published in two print versions in London in 1687, one for Great Britain and one for the continent. **The copy of the first edition offered by Ketterer is from the scarcer continental print version. The revolutionary writing is estimated at 100,000 euros.**

INSIGHTS INTO GOETHE'S WORLD

One of the highlights of the auction is an extensive private collection of letters written by **Goethe**, as reported in detail in the [press release from September 30 \(German \)](#). Goethe's correspondence is much more than a compilation of historical documents—they are linguistic artworks that bridge the gap between private life and public activity.

AT A GLANCE

Find all the works included in the Rare Books auction **here**.

Auction: Monday, November 24, 2025 in Hamburg.
Preview: Monday, November 17 to Friday, November 21 and on
Sunday, November 23, 11 am to 5 pm
Ketterer Kunst Holstenwall 5, 20355 HAMBURG

FURTHER DATES

AUCTIONS IN MUNICH,	Joseph-Wild-Str. 18, 81829 Munich
December 05, 2025	Evening Sale - Contemporary Art / Modern Art / 19th Century Art
December 06, 2025	Day Sale - Contemporary Art / Modern Art / 19th Century Ar

KETTERER KUNST

Ketterer Kunst, based in Munich with branches in Hamburg, Cologne, and Berlin, and a worldwide network of experts, was founded in 1954. Robert Ketterer is the second generation to run the family business. The auction house focuses on Contemporary, Modern, and 19th Century Art, as well as on Rare Books from five centuries. In its market segment, Ketterer Kunst has ranked number one in the German language region for the seventh year in a row and is also among the top 10 highest-grossing art auction houses worldwide, with numerous record results (Artnet Analytics, Auction Houses by Total Sales Value for Fine Art Works Created after 1800)

PRESS INQUIRIES

Anja Häse: +49 (0)89 552 441-25
presse@kettererkunst.de

RARE BOOK CONTACTS

Ketterer Kunst
Holstenwall 5
20355 Hamburg

Silke Lehmann	+49 (0)40 37 49 61 19
Enno Nagel	+49 (0)40 37 49 61 17
infohamburg@kettererkunst.de	

www.ketterer-rarebooks.com
www.instagram.com/ketterer_rare_books