

# KOLLERZURICH

## **PRESS RELEASE – POST SALE**

**23 June 2009**

Auctions in Zurich  
16 – 20 June 2009

Swiss Art - Modern Art - Contemporary Art -  
Fine Furniture - Jewelry and Wristwatches - African Art

## **JUNE AUCTIONS AT KOLLER SUCCESSFUL IN ALL COLLECTING FIELDS**

Modern & Contemporary Art, Swiss Art, Fine Furniture and Jewelry all register strong prices

The June sales at Koller Zurich were characterized by spirited bidding for attractive works, in all collecting categories: paintings and furniture, as well as jewelry and gemstones. “During these auctions, buyers showed time and again their willingness to bid over the upper estimate for the works they wanted,” said Cyril Koller, director of Koller Auctions. “The art market is sound, and the relative rarity of high-quality works on the current market makes the ones that do come up all the more attractive.”

The auction market is always driven by the desire to make a bargain on the part of the buyers, and to achieve a record price on the part of the sellers. When times are euphoric, the confluence of these desires often leads to extremes. In the current market, one could say that almost everyone comes away satisfied. Works of good quality, possessing a certain originality and rarity are selling for their “true value.” For example, the CHF 813 500 / EUR 545 000\* paid for a *Concetto Spaziale* by Lucio Fontana (lot 3279) is a price that should please both the buyer – who was not obliged to compete against blindly-spending billionaires – and the seller, who realized more than twice the amount for which he was prepared to sell the work.

This type of market attracts the true collectors and art lovers who had shied away from the excesses of the past several years. They have been waiting in the wings, so to speak, and their pleasure in once again being able to acquire quality art and antiques can be felt in the salesroom.

The sales from 16 – 20 June at Koller realized in total CHF 15 million / EUR 10 million.

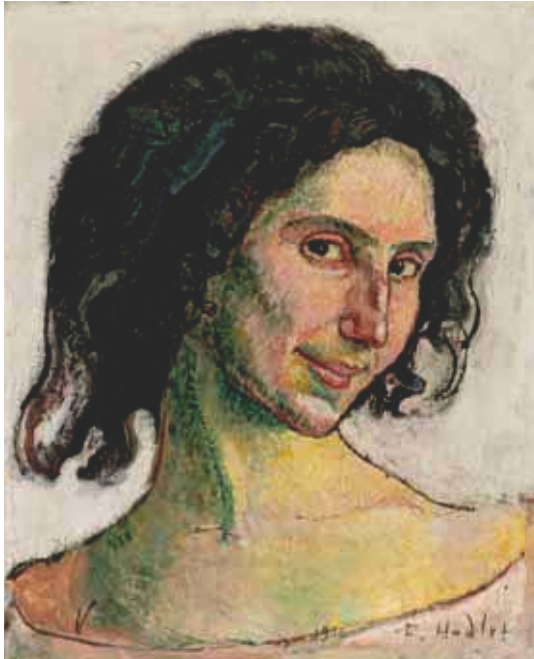
## Swiss Art 19 June 2009

Swiss Art has been one of Koller specialties in recent years, and the auction on 19 June in Zurich continued in this tradition.

One of the highest prices was realized by a portrait by Ferdinand Hodler, "Italienerin" from 1910 (lot 3045). The artist's masterful handling of paint and color, as well as the fascinating expression on the face of Giulia Leonardi, one of Hodler's favorite models, convinced a Swiss collector to pursue the bidding until the upper estimate (CHF 420 000 / EUR 281 400). Another, much earlier portrait by Hodler of a Savoyard farm girl from 1888 ([lot 3038](#)), tripled its estimate at CHF 276 000 / EUR 185 000.

Works by Giovanni Giacometti were particularly sought after, including a view of his beloved Silsersee in the Swiss Engadine (lot 3057) that entered a Swiss private collection for CHF 444 000 / EUR 297 500. A portrait of the artist's wife playing a concertina entitled "La Suonatrice" ([lot 3056](#)) sold for CHF 252 000 / EUR 168 900, and a third work by Giacometti representing a bouquet of daisies ([lot 3050](#)) realized CHF 144 000 / EUR 96 500.

Among the 19th century Swiss paintings, a beautiful view of the Lake of Four Cantons by Lucerne artist Robert Zünd (lot 3014) sold for CHF 240 000 / EUR 160 800; a romanticist landscape by Alexandre Calame ([lot 3009](#)) realized CHF 52 800 / EUR 35 400, and a domestic scene by Valaisan Raphael Ritz ([lot 3028](#)) quadrupled its estimate to sell for CHF 28 800 / EUR 19 300. Edmond Jean de Pury's dreamlike view of a gondolier in Venice (lot 3031) sold for above its high estimate at CHF 40 800 / EUR 27 300.



3045  
Ferdinand Hodler  
Head of a woman. "Italienerin" (Giula Leonardi).  
1910.  
Oil on canvas. 40 x 33 cm.

Sold for CHF 420 000 / EUR 281 500

[high resolution image](#)



3057  
Giovanni Giacometti  
Morgensonne am Silsersee (Morning light on the Silsersee).  
1924.  
Oil on canvas. 35.5 x 37 cm.

Sold for CHF 444 000 / EUR 297 500

[high resolution image](#)



3014  
Robert Zünd  
View of the Lake of Four Cantons.  
Oil on canvas. 84 x 113 cm.

Sold for CHF 240 000 / EUR 160 800

[high resolution image](#)



3031  
Edmond Jean de Pury  
Canal in Venice  
Oil on canvas. 81 x 59 cm.

Sold for CHF 40 800 / EUR 27 300

[high resolution image](#)

## Modern & Contemporary Art 19 June 2009

The top lot in the Modern & Contemporary auction at Koller was a perforated oil on canvas by Lucio Fontana, "Concetto Spaziale" from 1958, which nearly doubled its estimate at CHF 813 500 / EUR 545 000. An early interior scene by Gerhard Richter from 1960 (lot 3284) rose to CHF 396 000 / EUR 265 300, and a 1950 work by Man Ray entitled "La Montagne du Cristal" ("The Crystal Mountain," lot 3274) garnered CHF 306 000 / EUR 205 000. Among the surprises in this sale was the large 1956 oil by Antonio Saura, "La niña de los peines" (lot 3268) that doubled its upper estimate after a battle between 20 telephone bidders, finally selling to a German collector for CHF 282 000 / EUR 188 900.

Among the modern works, an oil from Max Liebermann's second, Impressionistic period, "Karren des Badewärters" ("The Lifeguard's Cart," [lot 3202](#)), realized CHF 192 000 / EUR 128 640, and a "Maternité" by Russian-French artist Nicolas Tarkhoff (lot 3219) sold for more than double its lower estimate, CHF 126 000 / EUR 84 400.

The fine art auctions at Koller on 19 June realized a total of CHF 6.2 million / EUR 4.15 million.



3279  
Lucio Fontana  
"Concetto Spaziale." 1958  
Oil on canvas. 167 x 120 cm

Sold for CHF 813 500 / EUR 545 000

[high resolution image](#)



3274  
Man Ray  
"La Montagne de Cristal." 1950.  
Oil on canvas. 80 x 60 cm.

Sold for CHF 306 000 / EUR 205 000

[high resolution image](#)



3284  
Gerhard Richter  
Interior. 1960.  
Oil on masonite. 74 x 100 cm.

Sold for  
CHF 396 000 / EUR 265 300

[high resolution image](#)



3268  
Antonio Saura  
"La niña de los peines," 1956  
Oil on canvas. 162 x 130 cm.

Sold for  
CHF 282 00 / EUR 188 900

[high resolution image](#)



3219  
Nicolas Tarkhoff  
"Maternité"  
Oil on canvas. 81 x 65 cm

Sold for  
CHF 126 000 / EUR 84 400

[high resolution image](#)

## Fine Furniture 18 June 2009

The healthy prices realized at Koller's furniture auction on 18 June indicate unforeseen strength in the antique furniture market. The star lot, a circa 1723 "commode en bureau" by André-Charles Boulle and sons (lot 1083), sold to a British buyer for CHF 963 000 / EUR 640 000. This is one of the highest prices realized in recent years for a work by Boulle, the appointed cabinetmaker to King Louis XIV who dictated furniture fashion throughout early 18th century Europe.

The collection of 18th century German court furniture sold very well, such as the suite of six Rococo armchairs from Würzburg (lot 1080A) purchased by a bidder from Qatar for CHF 480 000 / EUR 321 600; a Louis XV red lacquer chest of drawers from Berlin/Potsdam ([lot 1078](#)) that sold for CHF 138 000 / EUR 92 500 to a German collector, and an important Louis XV painted court cupboard by Johann August Nahl ([lot 1070](#)) also from Potsdam, that will enter a private Paris collection (CHF 108 000 / EUR 72 400).

Furniture from all periods and provenances was successful, including classic 18th century French pieces such as the Louis XV chest of drawers by Pierre Roussel (lot 1092) that practically doubled its pre-sale estimate, selling for CHF 240 000 / EUR 160 800 to a private collector from the Middle East. A finely carved Régence console table "aux dragons" ([lot 1088](#)) sold to a German collector for CHF 168 000 / EUR 112 600.

One of the smallest objects in the auction inspired the most spirited bidding: a 16th-century traveling clock from Augsburg, Germany (lot 1006) soared far above its estimate to realize CHF 84 000 / EUR 56 300. One of the smallest Renaissance clocks of this type ever made, it will join the collection of a private museum in Geneva.

Prices for 19th century furniture continued their recent ascension, notably for a pair of spectacular throne-like Rajasthani lion-carved armchairs (lot 1342) that sold to an American collector for CHF 234 000 / EUR 156 800. A Régence-style Boulle marquetry writing desk stamped Gerard (lot 1318) sold to a Qatar bidder for CHF 108 000 / EUR 72 400, and a late 19th century writing desk in the Louis XV style by French ébéniste Edmond Poteau ([lot 1309](#)) sold near its high estimate for CHF 72 000 / EUR 48 250.

Altogether, the furniture auction at Koller realized CHF 4.5 million / EUR 3.01 million.



1092  
Louis XV chest of drawers "à fleurs"  
stamped P. Roussel (Pierre Roussel, maître in 1745)

Sold for CHF 240 000 / 160 800

[high resolution image](#)



1083  
"Bureau en commode," Paris, after 1723  
by André-Charles Boulle and sons  
Ebony with engraved brass and tortoiseshell marquetry

Sold for CHF 963 000 / 640 000

[high resolution image](#)



1080A  
Set of 6 Louis XV painted armchairs  
Mainfranken, probably Würzburg circa 1740/50

Sold for CHF 480 000 / EUR 321 600

[high resolution image](#)



1006  
Renaissance traveling clock with leather case  
Augsburg, 16th century  
Height 11.5 cm

Sold for CHF 84 000 / EUR 56 300

[high resolution image](#)



1318  
BUREAU PLAT WITH BOULLE MARQUETRY, Regence style, stamped GERARD,  
Paris circa 1862.

Sold for CHF 108 000 / EUR 72 400

[high resolution image](#)



1342  
A pair of Rajasthani armchairs  
Wood, parcel-gilt and applied with  
silver and semi-precious stones,  
circa 1870

Sold for CHF 234 000 / EUR 156 800

[high resolution image](#)

## Jewelry and Wristwatches 16 June 2009

In what is perhaps a classic reaction to an economic downturn, auction buyers are heavily investing in precious gems and gold jewelry. At Koller on 16 June, three unmounted “fancy yellow” diamonds sold for a total of CHF 837 000 / EUR 554 500, after spirited bidding by the international trade. A stunning 16-carat diamond ring sold for CHF 102 000 / EUR 67 600. The sale totaled CHF 1.84 million / EUR 1.21 million.



2186  
An unmounted diamond  
37.52 carats, Fancy Yellow / VVS2  
  
Sold for CHF 549 000 / EUR 363 700

[high resolution image](#)



2071  
An unmounted diamond  
20.15 carats, Fancy Light Yellow / VVS2  
  
Sold for CHF 144 000 / EUR 95 400

[high resolution image](#)



2071A  
An unmounted diamond  
21.91 carats, Fancy Light Yellow / VVS2  
  
Sold for CHF 144 000 / EUR 95 400

[high resolution image](#)



2162  
A diamond ring  
Circa 14.2 carats, Fancy Light Yellow / VS2  
flanked by 6 brilliant-cut diamonds totaling  
circa 1.4 carats, mounted in white gold.

Sold for CHF 102 000 / EUR 67 600

[high resolution image](#)

## Tribal Art

20 June 2009

Koller's Tribal Art auction featured a rare white Punu mask from Gabon (lot 203) that belonged to the Geneva artist Emile Chambon. Chambon received the mask from his uncle, François Coppier, who worked as a colonial civil servant in Africa from circa 1900, and it is one of the few pieces that were not included in Chambon's donation to the Musée d'Ethnographie in Geneva in 1981. The beautiful and haunting mask realized CHF 74 400 / EUR 49 850. Two multi-figured Yoruba masks by Olówè of Isè (ca. 1875-1938, Nigeria) that came from the Ajero Palace in Ijero-Ekiti (lots [179](#) and [180](#)) realized CHF 54 000 / EUR 36 300 and CHF 58 800 / EUR 39 400.

In total, the Tribal Art auction at Koller garnered CHF 396 000 / EUR 265 300.



Punu mask  
Gabon, H 31 cm.

Sold for CHF 74 400 / EUR 49 850

[high resolution image](#)

Online catalogue and high resolution images on  
[www.kollerauctions.com](http://www.kollerauctions.com)

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### About Koller

The leading Swiss auction house and among the foremost auctioneers worldwide, Koller has been holding successful auctions for 50 years. Koller organizes over 60 auctions annually in more than 15 categories, including old master & 19th century paintings, prints and drawings; Swiss art, modern & contemporary art; furniture and decorative arts; jewelry; Asian art; art nouveau & art deco; books & autographs; tribal art, and wine. A family-owned company, Koller's name is synonymous with professional, personalized service and outstanding results.

With 8 representative offices worldwide from New York to Shanghai, its membership in the worldwide auctioneers' alliance IA, International Auctioneers, and its widespread presence in international publications and the Internet, Koller offers all of the advantages of an international auction house combined with Swiss efficiency and dependability.

\* All prices include buyer's premium. Estimates do not include buyer's premium.