



LILL TSCHUDI

(1911 Schwanden 2004)

Guards. 1936.

Linocut in red. Printer's proof outside the edition of 50. Unsigned. Image 16 x 20.2 cm on thin Japan laid paper 22.5 x 28 cm.

This linocut was used by Redfern Publishing under the title "All the kingsmen" as a Christmas card in the late 1930s. Provenance: Directly from the artist's studio, since then private collection Switzerland. Catalogue raisonné: Coppel, no. LT50. Lill Tschudi is a famous exponent of the linocut, who, within the circle of the Grosvenor School of Art under Claude Flight, made a significant contribution to the understanding and recognition of this printing technique. Owing

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to its easily worked surface structure the linocut was initially regarded as a lower form of artistic expression when compared with the labour-intensive woodcut with its rich tradition. However, the pioneer Claude Flight and his pupils at the Grosvenor School of Art, which Lill Tschudi joined in 1929, discovered the array of design possibilities of this medium. Using complex layers of colour, they developed modern designs which reflected the changed Zeitgeist of industrialised society. Acceleration, rapid pace and anonymity are popular themes of this loosely configured artistic group and are also reflected in Lill Tschudi's oeuvre. Lill Tschudi's artistic career took her from the Grosvenor School of Art to Paris, where, within the circles of André Lothe, Gino Severini and Fernand Léger, she further developed her own lino cut technique. In 1935 the Swiss-born artist returned to her homeland and from then onwards lived with the family of her sister Ida Tschudi-Schümperlin, who was also a practising artist. Despite her return to Switzerland, Lill Tschudi continued a lively exchange with her international colleagues and was included by Claude Flight in the exhibition "British Lino-Cut" as well as his ground-breaking publication "The Art and Craft of Lino Cutting and Printing". Lill Tschudi's impressive body of work comprises 355 prints, for which she was awarded the Swiss national prize for printing in 1986. Her works have been included in large scale exhibitions, including those at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We are pleased to be able to present a small selection of figurative as well as abstract linocuts, which powerfully demonstrate her great creativity and mastery of the medium. Alongside these characteristic lino cuts we are also offering some amazing drawings and preparatory sketches in our PostWar & Contemporary catalogue.

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