

POST-AUCTION PRESS RELEASE

***Modern & Contemporary Art, Swiss Art, Jewellery, Watches, and
20th Century Decorative Arts auctions at Koller Zurich, 22 – 25 June 2016***

Koller's June auctions set two world records for Swiss Art and affirm its position as market leader

World records for Giacometti and Anker.

Numerous six-figure results for Kiefer, Poliakoff, Renoir, Soutine and other modern & contemporary masters as Koller welcomes a younger generation of collectors.



Giovanni Giacometti. The Flims Panorama. 1904.
Sold for the world record price of CHF 4.05 million.

Swiss Art

Koller once again the market leader

Koller auctions realised a new world auction record for a work by Swiss artist Giovanni Giacometti. The Flims Panorama, an important and well-known work by the artist, sold in Koller's Swiss Art auction on 24 June to a private Swiss collector for CHF 4.05 million. With a sale total of CHF 9.2 million for the auction, Koller has once again affirmed its position as the worldwide market leader for Swiss Art.

"We are very pleased that this important work will remain in Switzerland, and that it will once again be periodically available for public viewing," said Cyril Koller, CEO of Koller Auctions and the auctioneer for this sale.

Giovanni Giacometti, the father of artists Alberto and Diego Giacometti, painted the three-part oil on canvas in 1904 for the luxurious Hotel Waldhaus, now called Waldhaus Flims Mountain Resort & Spa (“Waldhaus Flims”). Shortly after its installation, Giacometti’s painting was removed from the Waldhaus Flims and placed into storage for reasons unknown. For eighty years, the painting’s existence was largely forgotten, until it was rediscovered in August of 1986 and placed on view once again in the hotel. Last year, the Waldhaus Flims was purchased by the investment group Z Capital partners. The proceeds from the sale of the Giacometti will be used for the renovation of the hotel.

In the same auction, Koller sold a charcoal drawing of a bust of a young girl by Albert Anker for CHF 1 million, a world record for a drawing by the artist, and “Die Armensuppe”, also by Anker, for CHF 1.4 million. Both works will also join Swiss private collections.

Impressionist & Modern Art / Art Nouveau & Art Deco ***Strong bidding for late 19th – early 20th century art***



Pierre-Auguste Renoir. La partie de croquet. Sold for CHF 733 500.

The market for artworks from the late 19th through the mid-20th century is still quite healthy, as witnessed by the strong prices registered in both the fine and decorative arts sales from this period.

The Modern Art sale contained no less than three works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir which sold in the six figures, led by “La Partie de Croquet” from circa 1895 (lot 3213) which fetched CHF 733 500. Other highlights included a landscape by Chaim Soutine dated 1919 which changed hands for CHF 240 500 (lot 3241), and a bronze figure by Alberto Giacometti (lot 3249), that sold for CHF 192 500.

Among the decorative arts, bidding for a pâte-de-verre vase by Gabriel Argy-Rousseau from circa 1925 in blue, aqua and green (rare colours for this model) rose to CHF 41 300 against an estimate of 25 000 – 35 000 (lot 1089), and a classic “Starfish” chryselephantine sculpture by Demeter H. Chiparus from the 1920s changed hands for CHF 26 900.

PostWar & Contemporary Art / Design / Wristwatches *Koller takes on a decidedly younger look*

In recent years, Koller has actively expanded its offer to embrace a younger generation of collectors, and the June sales reflected the success of these efforts, with strong prices recorded for contemporary fine and decorative arts. Another contributing factor was Koller's partnership with the American website Artsy.net for their first-ever live auctions. Koller's PostWar and Prints auctions were broadcast over Artsy to hundreds of thousands of young collectors in the Americas.



Anselm Kiefer. Nigredo-Albedo-Rubedo. Sold for CHF 360 500

Anselm Kiefer's massive book sculpture, steeped in European mysticism and alchemy, "Nigredo-Albedo-Rubedo" (lot 3480) sold for CHF 360 500. Works by Kiefer in this form and size rarely come to auction. Two 1960s works – Serge Poliakoff's "Composition Abstraite" from circa 1966, and an untitled work by Kazuo Shiraga from 1961 – sold for CHF 216 500 and CHF 132 500 (lots 3429 and 3439). Shiraga's work is a stellar example of early 1960s action painting by an important member of the GUTAI artistic movement.

Two collecting fields which are also close to the hearts of Generations X and Y – Design and Wristwatches – have also become a staple of Koller's auctions. A Patek Philippe Jumbo Nautilus watch from circa 1977 (lot 2545) was the top lot of the 22 June Watches auction in Zurich, garnering CHF 36 500. The Nautilus, made of polished steel, broke with the tradition of solid gold luxury watches, and Patek's advertisement at the time underscored just how revolutionary this was, exclaiming: "One of the world's most expensive watches is made of steel!" Among the top lots in the Design auction was a tapestry by op-art artist Victor Vasarely from 1980 (lot 1261), changing hands for CHF 15 500. Tapestries after models by modern artists and designers have become highly trendy, and strong prices were also realized for tapestries by Hungarian-French designer Mathieu Matégot and French artist Bernard Buffet in this sale.

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ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in London, Munich, Dusseldorf, Milan, Hamburg, Beijing, Moscow and New York. Each year Koller holds over thirty auctions, covering all of the major collecting categories in the fine and decorative arts, jewellery, Asian art and wine. Koller regularly sets record prices and benefits from a large base of international bidders. With its team of highly experienced specialists, as well as its membership in the worldwide group "International Auctioneers," the family-owned auction house combines the distinct advantages of an internationally active auction house with Swiss reliability and efficiency.