

Schiele, Klimt and Hoffmann in Their Time

18th January - 4th February 2024

An exceptional collection of works of art by Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and their contemporaries will be exhibited with *Wiener Werkstätte* furniture by Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser and Adolf Loos, and will be presented for the first time at Ben Brown Fine Arts in Palm Beach by Richard Nagy and Yves Macaux.

Egon Schiele is represented with more than 20 works, many superlative works from his expressionist period; portraits of his sister, *Gerti*, and his early patron, *Carl Reininghaus* and later rare examples of landscapes as well as his more famous erotic drawings.

Presented here in Palm Beach is Gustav Klimt's *Study for Beethoven Frieze*, of a quality rarely seen on the market. In 1902, he painted the *Beethoven Frieze* for the 14th Vienna Secessionist exhibition in celebration of the composer.

Gustav Klimt and Josef Hoffmann founded the Wiener Werkstätte in 1903 and are synonymous with the modernist movement and art revival in Vienna at the turn of the twentieth century.

The objects presented here were all produced for illustrious patrons - the Wittgensteins and the Stoclet amongst others. With paintings and drawings, they were integral parts of interiors conceived as a total work of art - *Gesamtkunstwerk*.

We will exhibit: a spectacular Hoffmann games table from the Wittgensteins, silver from the Stoclets, Koloman Moser's own armchairs and the only complete canteen of silverware designed by Hoffmann in 1904.

It also features a selected group of drawings by Alfred Kubin and major works by the German Expressionists of the same time, Wilhelm Lehmbruck, Georg Grosz, Otto Dix, Ludwig Meidner and Heinrich Campendonk.

The German Expressionists were witnesses of a changing world, taking Modernism in another direction of social awareness. They were politically engaged in a sardonic criticism of German society, depicting the brittleness of bourgeois life in Weimar Germany. The Heinrich Campendonk painting *Mother with Child and Deer* (c. 1913) is an exemplary work of the Blaue Reiter movement. There is an element of dream-like fantasy, which recalls early works by Chagall. It is likely that Campendonk was familiar with Chagall's work as they both exhibited at the Berlin Galerie Der Sturm. The one sculpture from the period exhibited is Lehmbruck's *Bust of a Young Woman*, ex Rockefeller and MoMA New York collection.

Long feared to have been lost or even destroyed, Ludwig Meidner's Expressionist, *The Incident in the Suburb*, is one of the most important works from the brief period that Meidner spent in wartime Berlin before he too was drafted into the army in 1916. The painting depicts a moment of social disintegration in the form of an apparent struggle between two central and contrasting figures on the outskirts of a city that, like so many of Meidner's *Apocalyptic* towns, is seemingly under threat from an oncoming storm.

Exhibition details:

18th January to 4th February 2024

Tuesday to Saturday:

11am - 6pm (and by appointment)

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at Ben Brown Fine Arts

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Outside of exhibition dates for further information contact:

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