artnet Auctions Honors

German Photography With Latest Sale

New York, October 19, 2017—artnet Auctions is pleased to present a sale dedicated exclusively to German photography. Honoring the tradition and influence of photographers from the region, this auction spans decades of photographic works produced by German artists. German Photography is live now through October 30.

Having set the world record for the most expensive photograph sold at auction, Andreas Gursky is one of the most prominent German artists working today, and his signed 1987 print Schwimmbad Teneriffa is one of the leading lots in this auction. Estimated at $30,000–40,000, the photo depicts a resort pool on the Canary Island of Teneriffa. Beyond the appealing escapism of the image, the photo also contrasts the placid, artificial poolside setting with the tumultuous, natural sea below it.

Also leading the sale is an image from one of the most influential fashion photographers of all time: Helmut Newton. Taken in 1979 and considered to be provocative and scandalous at the time, Two Pairs of Legs in Black Stockings shows two women in stockings and heels while a man stands clothed behind an armchair. The gentleman’s cowering stance in the face of his female companions suggests that they are in control. Estimated at $25,000–35,000, the photo exemplifies the sexually-charged, fashion-centric voice for which Newton became famous.

Candida Höfer’s large-scale photographs of empty historic and contemporary interiors are represented in this sale. From her series on libraries, the 2003 image Bibliotheca Thysiana Leiden I, estimated at $12,000–15,000, attempts to deconstruct how modern society honors and protects knowledge.

Additional highlights include works from Wolfgang Tillmans, Thomas Ruff, Florian Maier-Aichen, August Sander, Thomas Struth, and Albert Renger-Patzsch.
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