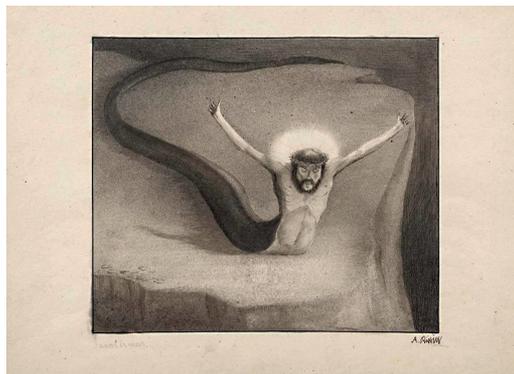


## International Germany, Austria & Switzerland

### Kubin's disturbing demonic creations

The philosophy of the Austrian draughtsman and illustrator Alfred Kubin was greatly influenced by the pessimism of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche; his art by the fantastic works of Munch and Goya among others. Kubin was renowned for his disturbing, often grotesque and demonic visions, two of which are being offered by Beurret, Bailly & Widmer in Basel on March 23.



They have been consigned by a Swiss collector, who has owned them since 1984. First up is Kubin's 9 x 10in (22 x 26cm) pen and ink drawing *Fanatismus* (Fanaticism), a characteristically bizarre composition, combining Christ crucified with the body of an eel. It was created in 1903 and while its radical depiction certainly shocked many in early 20th century Germany, the 26-year-old artist and this drawing were honoured with an illustrated article in the weekly magazine *Berliner Illustrirte Zeitung*, which praised him as the "Painter of the Invisible".

Today's buyers are expected to pay **SFr60,000-80,000**.

The second work, a 7 x 13in (19 x 32cm) pen and ink drawing, *Das schlimmste Geschenk* (The Worst Present), depicts a naked woman standing on the outstretched hand of a demonic being with pointed ears and a grim expression. It was published in another Berlin periodical in 1906 and is now guided at SFr30,000-40,000.

► [bbw-kunstauktion.com](http://bbw-kunstauktion.com)

### Painter inspired by icy adventures



For several years, from 1902-06, the *Oihonna*, an ice-strengthened passenger ship belonging to the Finland Steamship Company, undertook regular cruises to the Norwegian archipelago of Spitzbergen.

Among the travellers was the German painter Karl Paul Themistokles von Eckenbrecher, whose unusual third Christian name was a tribute to the fact that he was born in Athens as the son of a naval officer. Wanderlust was in his blood and from the 1870s onwards he often travelled to Norway, where he found many of the motifs for his landscapes.

His journeys with the *Oihonna* inspired him to paint *Im ewigen Eise* (In the Eternal Ice), a 15 x 22in (39 x 55cm) canvas, which is coming up for sale at Siebers in Stuttgart from March 23-25.

It is one of several variations of the same theme that Eckenbrecher painted around this time, depicting the hardy passengers on the ice; to the right a photographer is preserving the scene for posterity. The inscription on the right provides not only the title and the date, 17.8.1905, but also precisely where it was painted, namely 80.5 degrees north.

The starting price in Stuttgart is **€9000**.

► [siebers-auktionen.de](http://siebers-auktionen.de)



### Commode linked to Parisian ebeniste

Among the contemporaries of André Charles Boulle, who perfected the complex form of marquetrie that bears his name, was the Parisian ebeniste Nicolas Sageot.

He became a master in 1706 and applied Boulle work with tortoiseshell, brass and ornate bronze fitting to the numerous pieces of furniture he produced in his workshop in the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine. He was one of many cabinetmakers who had set up shop in the area to the east of the Bastille. Sageot's repertoire included cabinets, bookcases and commodes, such as one that is being sold by Koller in Zürich on March 31.

On account of comparison with secured works it is cautiously attributed to Sageot. At the peak of his career, he charged 900 livres for his cupboards, 500 for bookcases and between 250 and 625 livres for his commodes. Today's estimate for the 4ft 4in (1.32m) wide commode on offer is **SFr80,000-120,000**.

Sageot did not have long to enjoy his commercial success: in 1720, ill health led to the closure of his workshop and several years later he was declared insane. He spent his final years in an asylum, dying there in 1731.

► [kollerauktionen.ch](http://kollerauktionen.ch)

### Lots hidden from view for 90 years

More than 600 lots at Neumeister's Munich sale on March 30 have been hidden from public view for 90 years, packed in wooden crates.

They are part of the legacy of Ferdinand Eugen, Duke of Württemberg, who died in 2020. The works of art originally belonged to the inventory of the aristocratic family's castle Schloss Karlsruhe in what was then Silesia and is now Polish.

Several years before the castle was destroyed by the Red Army in 1945, its contents had been crated and transferred to another family castle in south-west Germany.

They later passed into the hands of Duke Ferdinand Eugen and have now been consigned by his descendants.

The treasure trove gives an insight into aristocratic life in the 18th and 19th centuries and includes not only paintings, porcelain from the major German manufactures, glass and silver, but walking sticks, top hats, weapons and medals.

The auction house can expect considerable interest for pieces of tableware, created by silversmiths in Breslau, many with coats-of arms and monograms. They document the dining culture of the time.

Among the highlights are no less than 84 plates by Christian Beyl from the late 1730s and this pair of covered tureens with lion-head handles and square bases. They weigh over 24lbs (11.5kg) and were made by Johann Christian Jancke the younger between 1796 and 1804 and are guided at **€20,000-30,000**.

► [neumeister.com](http://neumeister.com)

