

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cuno Amiet, *Atelier im Herbst [Studio in Autumn]*, 1906, oil on cardboard, 81 x 108 cm, private collection, © M. + D. Thalmann, Herzogenbuchsee

Cuno Amiet at a premium

Why all this new interest in Cuno Amiet? Works by the Swiss artist are fetching premium prices in the art market. The art museums in Bern and Solothurn are devoting major exhibitions to Amiet, a documentary film about him has just been finished, and the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) is compiling a catalogue raisonné of his paintings.

Works by Swiss artist Cuno Amiet (1868–1961) sold for record sums last year at a number of different auctions. But it is not only collectors who are paying greater attention to this key figure in early modern art from Switzerland. Not one, but two museums are currently hosting major exhibitions devoted to the artist. Bern Art Museum is featuring the Eduard Gerber Collection, presenting a connoisseur's view of the painter's considerable output. The show that will open at the Art Museum in Solothurn at the end of September focuses on the fruitful relationship between Cuno Amiet and Ferdinand Hodler that was to have such momentous consequences. In early 2012, this presentation can then be seen at the Bucerius Kunst Forum in Hamburg. As if this were not enough, Cornelia Strasser and Iwan Schumacher have completed their documentary about Amiet just in time for the vernissage in Solothurn.

It was high time that the art market and art research took greater note of Cuno Amiet. During his lifetime, he was held in great esteem by his colleagues and by experts, and he was also well liked by the general public. In recent years, however, Amiet has been overshadowed by the still rising international fame of Ferdinand Hodler and by the increasing popularity of his friend Giovanni Giacometti. His outstanding significance as a protagonist of post-Impressionism and early Expressionism is now being honoured more seriously by both the art market and the broader public.

The scientific basis underlying the current demand for Cuno Amiet was laid by the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA). Amiet specialists Franz Müller and Viola Radlach are currently compiling a catalogue raisonné of his paintings. Parallel to this, art technologist Karoline Beltinger has been investigating Amiet's painting technique and the materials he used. Moreover, the Institute has played a significant role in the two exhibitions in Bern and Solothurn and in the documentary film. Auctioneers, galleries and collectors from home and abroad likewise consult the Amiet experts in Zurich when seeking to establish authenticity or to have works restored.

Contact for further information and for briefing sessions with SIK-ISEA's Amiet specialists

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