



LOVIS CORINTH

1858 Tapiau, East Prussia - Zandvoort, Netherlands 1925

Still Life of Flowers

Watercolour and gouache on velin. 1923.

Signed and dated in pen and brown ink: *Lovis Corinth Mai 1923.*

480 x 605 mm

PROVENANCE: Alfred Kuhn (art historian, 1885-1940) – Private collection, Germany

EXHIBITION: *Von Liebermann bis Nolde. Impressionismus in Deutschland auf Papier*, exhib. cat., Internationale Tage, Ingelheim 2014 and Barlach Haus, Hamburg, p. 128f, repr.

Lovis Corinth was a talented painter of allegorical and religious subjects, portraits and landscapes. He was also a versatile printmaker and a highly proficient painter of still lifes – a practice he kept up for

the whole of his artistic career. Many floral still lifes of his later years seem to be intoxicated with their own colour and, as in his famous *Walchensee* paintings, form dissolves. Flower arrangements as subjects often serve as merely as a point of departure for colour compositions of extraordinary freedom and fluidity where the naturalistic depiction of flowers plays a minor role. Often, space too is dissolved and the effects of pure colour dominate.¹

Georg Bussmann wrote about the late works by Corinth: *He rejoices in painting wet upon wet, in painting colour upon colour, in smudging them and then stopping suddenly allowing them to glow; there is a quality of rage in making all this into a picture, into forcing a vision to emerge.*² In his late period he is engaged in a considerably higher level of abstraction than in many of his earlier works and is explicitly a modernist in his interpretation of the natural world.

This gouache was at one time owned by the art historian Alfred Kuhn (1885-1940), who very probably acquired it directly from the artist. Corinth's portrait of Kuhn (fig. 1)³ was executed in the same year as *Still Life of Flowers*. Kuhn published an important monograph on Corinth in 1925.⁴



Fig. 1: *Portrait of Dr. Alfred Kuhn*, 1923, oil on board, 61 x 51 cm
Private collection, Austria

¹ Stephan Kojy, *Everything is woven in Tones*, in *German Impressionist Landscape Painting*, exhib. cat., The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne, 2010, p. 136.

² Georg Bussmann, *Lovis Corinth: The Late Works*, in *German Art in the Twentieth Century. Painting and Sculpture 1905 - 1985*, exhib. cat., Royal Academy of Arts, London 1985, p. 436.

³ Charlotte Berend-Corinth, *Lovis Corinth - Die Gemälde*, Munich 1992, p. 191, no. 915, repr. p. 838.

⁴ Alfred Kuhn, *Lovis Corinth*, Berlin 1925.