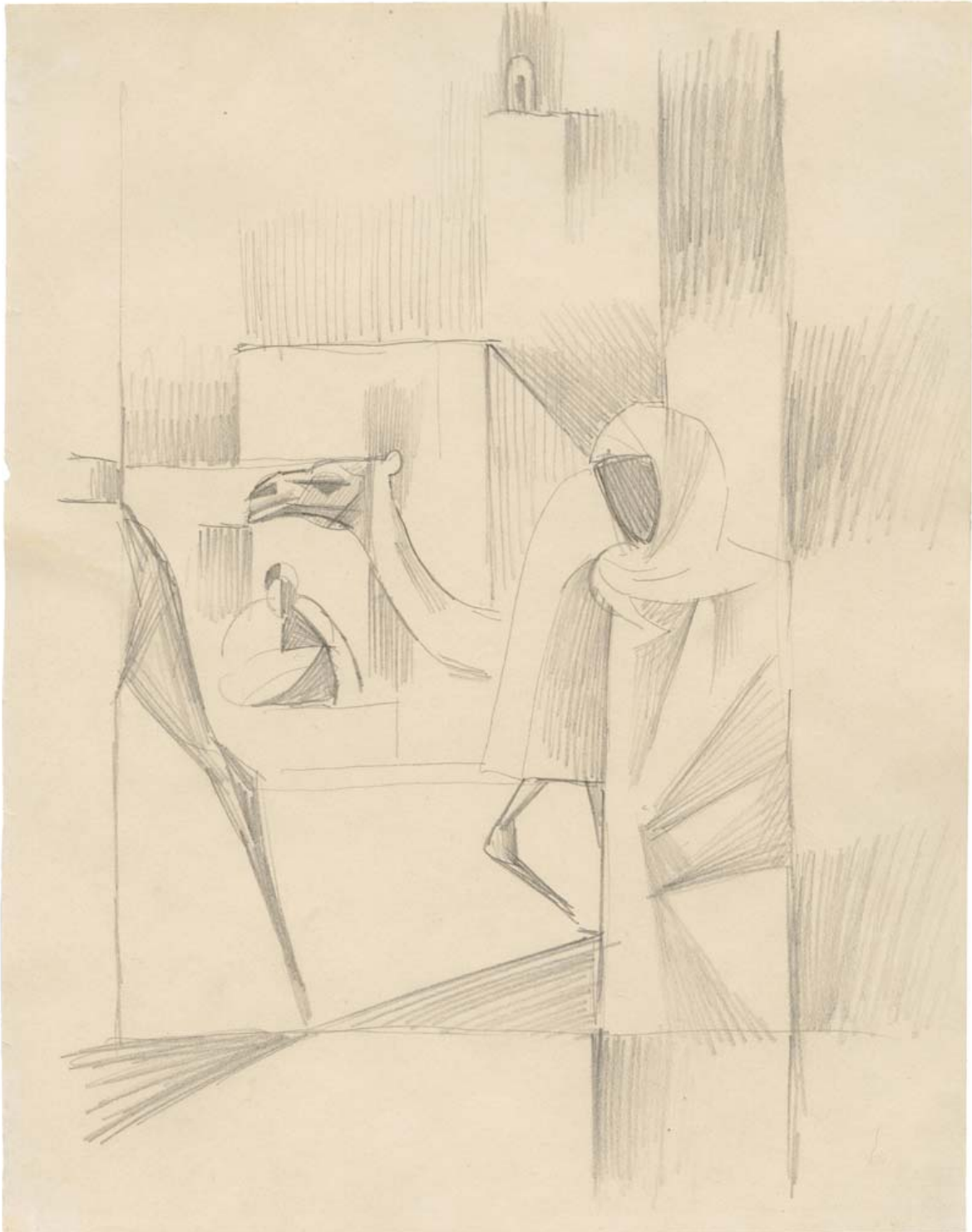


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AUGUST MACKE

1887 Meschede - 1914 Perthes-les-Hurlus

Street Scene in Tunis. 1914

Pencil on chamois wove paper (from Sketchbook LXIV, p. [e]).

On the verso with the stamp of the artist's estate (Lugt 1775 b).

285 x 185 mm

PROVENANCE: Estate of the artist – Leonard Hutton Galleries, New York – Private collection, Germany

LITERATURE: Günther Busch, ‚Macke als Zeichner‘, in *August Macke. Handzeichnungen und Aquarelle*, exhib. cat., *Kunsthalle, Bremen 1964-5*, no. 318, repr. – Günther Busch, *August Macke Handzeichnungen*, Mainz and Berlin, 1966, no. 53 – *Kandinsky, Franz Marc, August Macke Drawings and Watercolors*, exhib. cat., Hutton-Hutschnecker Gallery, New York 1969, no. 158, repr. – Hans Christoph von Travel, ‚1914: Reise nach Kairouan‘, in *Die Tunisreise*, exhib. cat., Münster and Bonn, 1982-3, no. 125, repr. on p. 265 – *August Macke, Gemälde Aquarelle, Zeichnungen*, exhib. cat., Münster, Bonn, Munich, 1986-7, no. 362, repr. on p. 427 – Ursula Heiderich, *August Macke, Die Skizzenbücher*, vol. 1, Stuttgart 1987, from sketch book no. 64, repr. 145 on p. 146, and footnote 58; vol. 2, p. (e), p. 1101, repr. – Magdalena Moeller, *August Macke, Die Tunisreise*, Munich 1989, p. 21 – Ursula Heiderich, *August Macke – Zeichnungen: Werkverzeichnis*, Stuttgart 1993, no. 2565, repr. on p. 669

EXHIBITIONS: *August Macke. Handzeichnungen und Aquarelle*, exhib. cat., Bremen 1964/65, no. 318, repr. on p. 13 – *Kandinsky, Franz Marc, August Macke Drawings and Watercolors*, exhib. cat., Hutton-Hutschnecker Gallery, New York 1969, no. 158, repr. – *Die Tunisreise*, exhib. cat., Münster and Bonn, 1982-3, no. 125, repr. on p. 265 – *August Macke, Gemälde Aquarelle, Zeichnungen*, exhib. cat., Münster, Bonn, Munich, 1986-7, no. 362, repr. on p. 427

On 3 April 1914, the three painters Paul Klee, Louis Moilliet and August Macke set out on their journey to Tunisia. Short as the trip was - they were away just a few weeks - it has entered the annals of art history as one of the most intense and most significant creative periods in twentieth-century art. In this short time Macke was to produce 33 watercolours and 79 drawings. They mark a high point in his artistic oeuvre and today serve as outstanding examples of the cultural rapprochement between the West and the Orient. In the early twentieth century a large part of the western world still clung to a stylized perception of the Arab lands as a region of myth and romance. Macke, like a number of other painters, strove to depart from this anecdotal Orientalist approach. They engaged instead with the multifaceted intellectual and cultural heritage of the Islamic world. Wassily Kandinsky and Gabriele Münter had spent over six months travelling extensively in North Africa some ten years before Macke, Klee and Moilliet arrived in Tunisia. The journey was unquestionably an important source of inspiration for Macke and gave him the opportunity to extend his formal repertoire but it was the exotic that attracted him most - the chance to immerse himself in an unfamiliar culture and very different way of life.

The present motif is an abstraction in reverse of a black-and-white photograph taken by Macke in Tunis. A print of the photograph has survived (Fig. 1).¹ Ursula Heiderich notes: ‘After his return from the Tunisian journey he made a number of drawings based on the photographs he had taken in Tunisia. They show his evident interest in the visual and compositional techniques characteristic of photography (...).’² Macke often trained his lens on a carefully selected segment of reality with a composition in mind. The drawing *Street Scene in Tunis* exploits the selective aesthetic of photography, where contrasting areas of light and dark divide up a square-format frame into clean geometries.

We would like to thank Ursula Heiderich for her help in writing this catalogue entry.

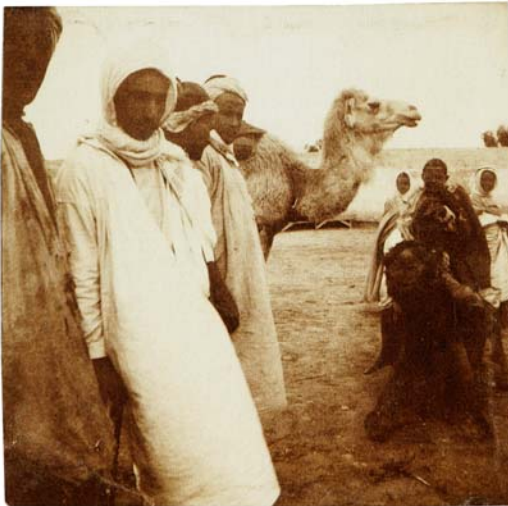


Fig. 1: *Street Scene in Tunis*, Album of Photographs, p. 7, verso.
LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Münster

¹ *Street Scene in Tunis with a Camel, a Man Wearing a White Djellaba*, from August Macke’s album of photographs, p. 7 (verso). LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Münster. See Ursula Heiderich, et al., *Die Tunisreise 1914 – Paul Klee, August Macke, Louis Moilliet*, exhib. cat., Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern 2014, p. 292.

² Heiderich 1993, p. 69.