

Press Release

Press contacts: Diana Ridderikhoff, Frans van Heemstra
Diana.ridderikhoff@sothebys.com Frans.vanheemstra@sothebys.com

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Exhibition: Works by Witold-K. at Sotheby's Amsterdam

Thursday 12 to Sunday 29 July 2007



Sotheby's will be hosting an exhibition of paintings and other works by the artist Witold-K in her salerooms in Amsterdam from Thursday 12 to Sunday 29 July 2007.

Witold-K is a fascinating man who defies categorisation. The simplest way to sum him up is the, perhaps over-used, phrase *Renaissance man*, the *Homo universalis*. Besides being charming and entertaining company, Witold-K is a painter, sculptor, designer, architect and poet, and active in both politics and the sciences.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1932, Witold-K's youth was dominated by the Nazi occupation. His father was the director of a large mental hospital and saved the lives of numerous members of the Jewish community. After the War he became vice-president of the Polish Red Cross and was personally decorated by King George VI of England.

In 1958, Witold-K himself painted one of Europe's largest murals in the Auschwitz Cultural Centre, dedicating the work to all victims of the concentration camps.

Under the Communist regime Witold-K smuggled manuscripts by Russian and Polish dissidents to the west. He went to live in Paris where the poet Jacques Prévert introduced him to Pablo Picasso. Witold-K worked for a short while with him in the south of France where Picasso painted his portrait.

From that time to this, Witold-K has been an energetic and inspirational figure, lending his name to numerous prestigious exhibitions and events. He was invited in 1973 by the Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles for a retrospective exhibition. Witold moved to the United States and now lives and works in Denver Colorado



Witold-K' versatility is reflected in his oeuvre. In general his style is abstract but he often applies figurative elements. His colour scheme is sometimes exuberant and sometimes serene. Also in the materials and execution his works vary from paintings and sculptures to large ceiling decorations and complete installations. His paintings tell a story were the viewer is invited to experience and explore. This may need courage but is always enriching.

At Sotheby's Amsterdam, every year thousands of works pass through the galleries. The magnificent space provides ample opportunity for the pieces to be admired. The galleries are being transformed from one week to the next as works are sold to become part of new collections and the next sale is coming up.

Sotheby's is delighted to exhibit the work of such an intriguing artist in her Amsterdam galleries for a longer period.

Exhibition: from Thursday 12 to Sunday 29 July 2007, open daily from 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.
Sotheby's Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 30, 1083 HJ Amsterdam, +31 20 550 2200, amsterdam@sothebys.com
www.witoldk.com