

Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Munich Olympic Poster

The ability to create a cohesive body of work through a number of different mediums is a rare trait, even amongst the world's best artists.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser is one such artist, whose admiration of natural forms and a more liveable social environment is reflected through his work in architecture, paintings, and screenprints. Michaan's Auctions is happy to offer **Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Munich Olympic Poster, 1972, serigraph** (\$8/1,200) in our January Gallery Auction on Friday, January 19th.

The poster is centered around a blue O, which contains swirling marks of green, indigo, and purple. It is

interrupted at several points, most notably by a red building with multiple onion domes in the lower left, but also by blue figures around the entire form,



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as well as at the bottom where the red background is allowed to show through. Surrounding the O are a number of faces and figures, each constrained to a square format and positioned as tiles around the edge of the frame. In the center are a number of figures running and eventually fighting their way toward the top of the image. At the bottom right of the image plane is the words Olympic Games Munich 1972, written in German, while at the bottom left is a field left blank except for a few numbers, East Asian seals, print marks, edition number, and the Olympic Games ring logo.

This work appears to straddle a number of different interpretations, but it is, at its base, a rendering of the energy and emotion present in every large sporting event or Olympic Games. The spectators, depicted with wide eyes and with mouths full of sharp teeth,

appear poised to devour the athletes below, a possible reaction to the recent growth of the Olympic Games television ratings, which set records in Munich that would not be surpassed until the 21st century. The athletes themselves are rendered similarly, although marginally less crazed in appearance than the members of the audience, and those towards the top of the frame appear to be especially happy.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser worked across a number of different mediums throughout his career, including architecture, painting, and silkscreens such as the Munich Olympic Poster. As such this work reflects a commercial endeavor for the artist, as evidenced by the large edition number, and is similar to his applied art practice which created stamp designs for a number of different countries in the years following this work. That does not

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diminish from the work's fine detail and excellent execution, which highlights the artist's interest in organic forms and sophisticated understanding of color, line, and form.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser was born Friedrich Stowasser in Vienna, late in 1928. He and his mother are Jewish and faced prosecution under the Nazi regime, with Hundertwasser adopting his new name and being baptized by the Catholic Church. After the war, he studied at the Vienna School of Fine Arts and eventually became an architect, designing several notable buildings throughout his life. He continued to produce fine and applied art, including flag and stamp designs. He was a fierce environmentalist and unique artist, who created a philosophy of art titled "Transautomatism" which rejects straight lines and the inorganic while praising natural forms.

Friedensreich

Hundertwasser, Munich Olympic

Poster, 1972, serigraph (\$8/1,200)

will be offered at Michaan's Auctions January Gallery Auction on Friday, January 19th, which features numerous cars in excellent condition in addition to fine examples from the Fine Art and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by a 2023 Tesla Model X in Plaid Trim with only 3,901 miles, a 1966 Ford Mustang Hardtop Coupe, as well as a 1955 Ford Thunderbird. Also included is a Large Gilt Bronze Figure of an Immortal, a notable oil painting by Joseph Henry Sharp, and a 14k yellow gold charm bracelet.

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