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Making a Splash at Sotheby's Australia



Alexander Koester 1864-1932, *Ans Ufer (Enten)*. Estimate AUD\$50,000-70,000

A fine oil painting by renowned German artist Alexander Koester, famed for his paintings of ducks, will be offered for sale by Sotheby's Australia in Melbourne on 29 July 2014 as part of their sale of Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design. Recently in New York Sotheby's sold a work by the artist for US\$455,000 against presale estimates of US\$150,000-200,000 (*Enten in Teich (Wilde Jagd)*), lot 101, 9 May 2014).

Born in Neustadt, Germany in 1864, Alexander Koester was a skilled and versatile artist who earned a living painting commissioned portraits. Initially painting across portraiture, genre, still life and landscape, Koester's works became focused on the watery landscapes and ducks of Klausen, where he settled in 1890. By the turn of the 20th century, his love for painting ducks had become his specialisation and established his reputation, earning him the moniker 'Duck Koester' or 'Enten-Koester'.

The present work, *Ans Ufer (Enten)* (estimate AUD\$50,000-70,000) dates from the midpoint of Koester's career in the years prior to World War I. It combines the close observations of his early

Naturalist works with the Impressionist brushwork techniques he developed. It is offered from a private collection in Queensland.

Koester's duck paintings remain his most sought-after subjects, winning him a gold medal at the 1904 St Louis World's Fair as well as other accolades throughout Europe. *Ans Ufer (Enten)* is just the second of Koester's duck paintings to be offered in the Australian market.

AT A GLANCE

ALEXANDER KOESTER 1864-1932

Ans Ufer (Enten)

oil on canvas

70 x 106 cm

Estimate AUD\$50,000-70,000

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Exhibition in Melbourne, 24-29 July 2014, 10 am – 5 pm
Level 9, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Auction in Melbourne, 29 July 2014, 6 pm
Level 2, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

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