

Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC



George GROSZ (1893 - 1959)

Cat and mouse

Reed pen, pen and ink and pencil on paper

13 1/4 x 20 1/8 in (33,7 x 51,1 cm)

1936

Signed and dated "Grosz 36" bottom right and annotated "43 cat & mouse" bottom center.

Stamped on the reverse "GEORGE GROSZ NACHLASS" and numbered 4-105-2

The present work is a variation of the drawing in: O. Henry, "The Voice of the City," The Limited Editions Club, New York 1935, page 63

PROVENANCE

Studio of the artist, Bayside, Long Island (NY), 1936
The Estate of George Grosz, 1959

LITERATURE

George Grosz, "The way of all Flesh/Der Weg allen Fleisches", exhibition catalogue of Nolan Judin, Berlin/New York, illustrated page 48

EXHIBITED

The way of all Flesh/Der Weg allen Fleisches, January 27 - March 2, 2012, Nolan Judin Gallery, New York/Berlin
Of Mice and Men, October 5 - December 5, 2020, Popcorn Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Los Angeles

AUTHENTICATION

As per photo certificate signed and dated "Ralph Jentsch, Berlin/Rome, October 10, 2019," this work will be included in the forthcoming catalogue raisonné of works on paper by George Grosz in preparation by Ralph Jentsch, managing director of the George Grosz Estate.

NOTES

The innocent game of cat and mouse comes to a brutal finale in the present work. Grosz expertly juxtaposes the violence of the cat's success with a playful backdrop, complete with a butterfly floating through the air. This perennial power struggle has dire consequences, especially as considered within the context of the political events of 1936, three years after Hitler was elected Chancellor of Germany and the artist emigrated to the United States of America.

Vanessa Fusco

When Grosz came to New York in 1933, living first in Hotels in Manhattan and at a private home in the Village before renting November 20 in Bayside on Long Island a house with a studio, he roamed, like he had done in Berlin, the city by day and night, filling one sketch book after the other with whatever his observing eye discovered as noteworthy. In the evenings, back in his small hotel rooms and then later in the year in his studio, Grosz executed in large drawings and watercolors.

In regards to the drawing in O. Henry, "The Voice of the City" of which the present work is a variation, Ralph Jentsch remarks: It was in 1934 that George Macy, publisher of the limited Edition Club in New York, gave Grosz the assignment to illustrate O. Henry's selected short stories, published a year later under the title "The Voice of the City and Other Stories". The scene, a mouse attacking a bird, is an illustration for the chapter "The Assessor of Success". The portrayal of an aggressive cat and a helpless, inferior creature like a mouse or bird, stands in place also for human behavior: The power of the fittest prevails.

Courtesy of Ralph Jentsch



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"George Grosz gave a fantastic testimony of Berlin life during a terrible period, divided between fascism and communism. He was active in the communist party but had an anarchist's fascination for the characters of underground life. Military figures, prostitutes and violence abound, and fascinate the viewer [...] this meant he instinctively rooted his art in the common people. It also explains, I think, why caricature and graphic design in magazines and newspapers held such an appeal for him."

Quote of Mario Vargas Llosa
'You nourish yourself with everything you hate', George Grosz, in TATE ETC. Magazine (Spring 2007)