



The Leslie Milner
Collection



Leslie Milner 1927 – 2009

Leslie Milner, was born in Lithuania in 1927 and moved to South Africa with his family at the age of six. After matriculating in 1948, he joined the family business, "Milly's", and embarked upon a career defined by industry and innovation. Over the course of the next decades he travelled extensively, pioneering many areas of South African foods. He established a frozen food plant, a pickled cucumber factory and South Africa's first smoked salmon factory which, in addition to supplying the local market, exported to Germany, Australia and Canada under the name of "King Solomon". Following the sale of the Milly's chain in 1984, he relocated to Johannesburg. Five years later, Leslie and his wife, Dorothy, purchased a small factory called New York Bagels in London's Kentish Town which grew to become a leading producer of fresh and frozen bagels. This became the namesake for the landmark deli and bakery in Sea Point, once the location of an old Milly's store, which they opened upon their return to South Africa.

Leslie Milner's interest in art was stimulated in the 1950s, when he met Solly Disner, a sculptor and poet of Polish origin who lived above his small factory in Hatfield Street. Disner was also an art dealer and, through him, Leslie was introduced to the leading Cape artists of the time. He would sometimes accept art in lieu of rent and purchased some of his finest paintings from Disner, including important works by Maggie Laubser, Paul du Toit and Maurice van Essche, but his first acquisition was notably Irma Stern's *Still Life with Tiger Lilies and a Melon*. His wife recalls how furious she was with him when he brought the painting home, as they still had no curtains or chairs. He formed enduring ties within the art world, including with Gerard Sekoto who he often visited in Paris.

Leslie did not speculate in art. He trusted his instincts and made choices motivated by the sheer enjoyment his collection provided. Consequently many of these paintings have never been seen outside the circle of Milner's family and friends. He was well-known for his pioneering work in the food industry, but many people will be surprised to discover his passion for art.

He passed away in March 2009 after a short illness at the age of 81.

Property of the Estate Late Leslie Milner

203

Sydney Carter

SOUTH AFRICAN 1874-1945

Near Groot Constantia

signed, a label attached to the reverse reads "This water colour sketch was given to me as a Christmas present in 1943 by the artist, Sydney Carter. It was painted where the Old Cape Farm Stall is today just across the road therefrom.

*** Versfeld, 22/1/1987"

watercolour

22 by 28,5cm

R2 000 – 4 000

204

George William Pilkington

SOUTH AFRICAN 1878-1958

Sailing

signed

oil on canvas

29 by 39,5cm

R8 000 – 12 000



205

205

Pranas Domsaitis

SOUTH AFRICAN 1880-1965

Karoo Landscape

signed

oil on board

47 by 62cm

R70 000 – 100 000

LITERATURE

cf Elsa Verloren van Themaat, *Pranas Domsaitis*, Struik, Cape Town, 1976, p 57 where a similar landscape is illustrated. 'His painting was symbolic, the subjective use of colour was emotive, and the forms provided the framework. A house, for example, loses its historical and architectural significance and becomes only the symbol of a dwelling – white rectangles with dark dashes of paint capture the essence of windows and doors. The form is simplified and the colours rich in the variety of tone. In Europe village

scenes always interested him, as did now the dwellings of the Blacks. His landscapes were inherently South African, but had a universal quality of time and place. Those of the Karoo were the essence of all its villages and hills, but they are also reminiscent of the Baltic lowlands. There is a sense of eternity in the rhythmic flow of planes; in the low and wide horizons which had the effect of placing the beholder in the landscape, making him conscious of his insignificance; the huge skies, and in the sense of melancholy and heaviness.' p 16

206

Jacob Hendrik Pierneef

SOUTH AFRICAN 1886-1957

Sandfontein, C.P. (Nilant 21)

signed, dated 1929, and inscribed with the title in pencil in the margin
linocut

13 by 17,5cm

R6 000 – 9 000

207

**Maggie (Maria Magdalena)
Laubser**

SOUTH AFRICAN 1886-1973

*Seascape with Boats, House and
Seated Woman Holding a Baby*

signed and dated 26

oil on board

44 by 49cm

R400 000 – 600 000

LITERATURE

Dalene Marais (comp) *Maggie Laubser,
her paintings, drawings and graphics*,
Johannesburg, 1994, cat no 599, p 196,
illustrated

This painting was acquired by Leslie
Milner circa 1954

207



208

Irma Stern

SOUTH AFRICAN 1894-1966

*Still Life with Tiger Lilies,
Fruit and a Melon*

signed and dated 1944

oil on canvas

56,5 by 41,5cm

R1 200 000 – 1 600 000

Irma Stern had a penchant for painting tiger lilies. Marion Arnold in *A Feast for the Eye*, Cape Town 1995, illustrates two further still lifes with tiger lilies, see pp 133 and 145. The still life illustrated on p145, executed in 1947, closely resembles this work in terms of composition and use of colour.





209



211

209

Enslin Hercules du Plessis

SOUTH AFRICAN 1894-1978

Still Life with Flowers and a Jug

signed

oil on canvasboard

60 by 44cm

R50 000 – 70 000

210

Jean Max Friedrich Welz

SOUTH AFRICAN 1900-1975

Portrait of a Woman

charcoal

59 by 44cm

R4 000 – 6 000

211

Maud Frances Eyston Sumner

SOUTH AFRICAN 1902-1985

Still Life on a Dressing Table

signed

ink and watercolour

41 by 31cm

R25 000 – 40 000



212

Maud Frances Eyston Sumner

SOUTH AFRICAN 1902-1985

Still Life with Flowers and a Candle

signed

oil on canvas

59,5 by 72cm

R180 000 – 240 000



213



214

213

Wolf Kibel

SOUTH AFRICAN 1903-1938

District Six

watercolour

46 by 60cm

R20 000 – 40 000

214

Lippy (Israel-Isaac) Lipshitz

SOUTH AFRICAN 1903-1980

Still Life with a Figurine and a Violin

signed, dated 1940 and inscribed 'Monotype'

in the margin

monotype

37 by 26cm

R3 000 – 5 000



215

215

Lippy (Israel-Isaac) Lipshitz

SOUTH AFRICAN 1903-1980

Woman Resting in an Interior

signed, dated 1944 and inscribed 'Monotype'

in the margin

monotype

34 by 51cm

R8 000 – 12 000



216



217



218



219



220

216

Maurice Charles Louis van Essche

SOUTH AFRICAN 1906-1977

Harlequin

signed
oil on board
60 by 29,5cm

R50 000 – 70 000

218

Maurice Charles Louis van Essche

SOUTH AFRICAN 1906-1977

Two Seated Women

signed
oil on canvas
32 by 45cm

R70 000 – 90 000

220

Walter Whall Battiss

SOUTH AFRICAN 1906-1982

Mombasa Market

signed, inscribed with the title in pencil
on the reverse
oil on canvas
25 by 20cm

R35 000 – 50 000

217

Maurice Charles Louis van Essche

SOUTH AFRICAN 1906-1977

Coastal Village

signed
oil on board
49 by 59cm

R90 000 – 120 000

219

Maurice Charles Louis van Essche

SOUTH AFRICAN 1906-1977

A Group of Five Figures

signed and dated 64
gouache
46 by 60cm

R25 000 – 40 000



221

221

May (Mary Ellen) Hillhouse

SOUTH AFRICAN 1908-1989

*Still Life with a Teapot and
Flowers on a Checked Tablecloth*

signed, dated 54
oil on canvas
50 by 60cm

R60 000 – 90 000

222

Robert Broadley

SOUTH AFRICAN 1908-1988

Landscape with Mountains

signed
oil on canvasboard
49 by 60cm

R12 000 – 16 000

223

Nerine Constantia Desmond

SOUTH AFRICAN 1908-1993

Ou Riviersdal

signed and dated 67, inscribed with
the date and title on the reverse
oil on board
55 by 75cm

R6 000 – 8 000

224

Nerine Constantia Desmond

SOUTH AFRICAN 1908-1993

Cape Cottages

signed and dated '45
watercolour
26 by 37cm

R2 000 – 4 000



226



227

225

Nerine Constantia Desmond

SOUTH AFRICAN 1908-1993

Vineyards at Simondium

signed, inscribed with the title, 1933, and the artist's name on a label on the reverse
oil on board
19,5 by 29cm

R4 000 – 6 000

226

Gregoire Johannes Boonzaier

SOUTH AFRICAN 1909-2005

Abstract Vista

signed and dated 1956
oil on board
43,5 by 38,5cm

R60 000 – 90 000

227

Terence John McCaw

SOUTH AFRICAN 1913-1978

Houses at Arniston

signed
oil on canvas
28 by 38,5cm

R25 000 – 35 000



228

228

Gerard Sekoto

SOUTH AFRICAN 1913-1993

Head of a Man

signed and indistinctly dated 44

gouache

49 by 31,5cm

R50 000 – 80 000

Lelsie Milner befriended Sekoto when he lived in Paris



229

229

Gerard Sekoto

SOUTH AFRICAN 1913-1993

The Two Women

inscribed on the reverse with the

artist's name and title

gouache

47,5 by 31cm

R60 000 – 90 000



230



231

230

Eleanor Frances Esmond-White

SOUTH AFRICAN 1914-2007

Hatfield Street Vendor

signed and dated 49, inscribed with
Hatfield Street on the reverse
oil on board
29 by 36,5cm

R60 000 – 80 000

EXHIBITED

Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Festival, 1952

231

Johan Engela

SOUTH AFRICAN 1915-

Through the Trees, Camps Bay

signed, a label on reverse inscribed
with the title
gouache
21 by 27,5cm

R3 000 – 5 000

232

Sidney Goldblatt

SOUTH AFRICAN 1919-1979

Abstract in Orange

signed
oil on board
26 by 31cm

R3 000 – 4 000

233

**Jan (Johannes
Wilhelmus) Dingemans**

SOUTH AFRICAN 1921-2001

Abstract

signed
oil on canvas
60 by 39,5cm

R3 000 – 5 000



234



235



236



237

234

Paul du Toit

SOUTH AFRICAN 1922-1986

Landscape with Trees

signed
oil on canvas
43 by 50cm

R50 000 – 70 000

235

Paul du Toit

SOUTH AFRICAN 1922-1986

Seascape with Full Moon

signed
oil on board
39 by 50cm

R40 000 – 60 000

236

Paul du Toit

SOUTH AFRICAN 1922-1986

Landscape

signed and dated 1949
watercolour
32 by 47cm

R7 000 – 10 000

237

Paul du Toit

SOUTH AFRICAN 1922-1986

Autumn Landscape

signed
oil on board
40 by 90cm

R60 000 – 90 000



239

241



238

Cecil Edwin Frans Skotnes

SOUTH AFRICAN 1926-2009

Cape Agulhas and Village Churchchurch, sic.

each signed, dated 75, inscribed with the title
and numbered 32/75
two woodcuts printed in colours
each 50 by 37cm (2)

R3 000 – 4 000

239

Kenneth Baker

SOUTH AFRICAN 1931-1995

A Group of Figures

signed
oil on canvasboard
41 by 29,5cm

R6 000 – 8 000

240

Lionel Abrams

SOUTH AFRICAN 1931-1997

Abstract in Brown

signed and dated 71
oil on canvas
121 by 121cm

R7 000 – 10 000

241

Godfrey Ndaba

SOUTH AFRICAN 1947-

Life in the Township

signed and dated 89
pastel
46 by 81cm

R7 000 – 10 000



242



243



244

242

Stanley Hermans

SOUTH AFRICAN 1963-

Interior with Blue Chair

pastel
68 by 98cm

R4 000 – 6 000

243

Stanley Hermans

SOUTH AFRICAN 1963-

Interior with Green Chair

signed and dated '89-'91
gouache
65,5 by 44cm

R4 000 – 6 000

244

Stanley Hermans

SOUTH AFRICAN 1963-

*Still Life with Flowers and a Candlestick
on a Table*

signed and dated 92
acrylic
41 by 54cm

R4 000 – 6 000