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PRESS RELEASE

Phillips Presents
The Enduring Image:
Photographs from the Dr. Saul Unter Collection

**A Selection of Iconic 20th Century Images to be
Featured in the Spring Photographs Auction on 9 April**



Edward Steichen

Gloria Swanson, New York, 1924

Estimate: \$400,000-600,000

NEW YORK - 14 MARCH 2018 -Phillips is pleased to announce that its first New York Photographs auction of the year will feature *The Enduring Image: Photographs from the Dr. Saul Unter Collection*. This impressive private collection of 29 works will be offered in the *Photographs* sale on 9 April at 450 Park Avenue. Spanning the 20th century, the group includes works by Edward Steichen, Rudolf Koppitz, Man Ray, Robert Capa, and Alfred Eisenstaedt, among other masters of the photographic medium.

Rachel Peart, Photographs Specialist, said, “Dr. Unter’s collection brings together a remarkable group of works from over six decades, which encompass the range of the human spirit. His discerning eye in acquiring photographs with the connecting thread of humanist influence has led to the formation of a truly impressive and cohesive collection, underscoring his personal belief that the act of photographing is an expression of the human will to endure.”

Leading the collection is Edward Steichen's iconic image of Gloria Swanson (illustrated page 1), one of the most celebrated portraits of the 20th Century. Few photographers have had as long, rich, and as varied a career as Edward Steichen, characterized throughout by an extraordinary intensity of vision and a devotion to the ever-changing craft of photography. Portraits were a constant throughout his career and his remarkable talent for photographing people is most apparent in the work he executed for Condé Nast beginning in the early 1920s, of which Gloria Swanson is a prime example. This photograph was the result of a 1924 sitting for *Vogue* magazine and was later published by *Vanity Fair* in 1928 to coincide with the release of the film *Sadie Thompson*, starring and produced by Swanson. She received an Academy Award nomination for the role, and Steichen's portrait became the definitive image of the star. Early prints of this image appear infrequently on the market and in the past 25 years, only five other early prints have appeared at auction.

Rudolf Koppitz's masterpiece, *Bewegungsstudie (Movement Study)*, will also be offered from Dr. Unter's collection (illustrated right). This print is remarkable for its large size, masterful print quality, extensive exhibition history, and direct provenance. More than other prints of this image, the example offered here delivers a remarkable range of detail and tonal subtlety. The faces of the dancers are rendered with great clarity, as are their delicately arched feet, which are frequently obscured in other prints. The dancers' black robes, which at first seem absolutely black, show detail in their folds upon prolonged examination, giving them a sense of three-dimensionality and movement. As evidenced by the array of printed labels affixed to the reverse of the print, it has been featured in nine exhibitions in Europe and America between 1928 and 1932, a testament to Koppitz's ambition in widely publicizing his work. Koppitz later gave this print to his assistant Alfred Ernst, an accomplished photographer in his own right. Stylized, graceful, and mysterious, *Bewegungsstudie* has remained Koppitz's best known work. This masterful, large-format multiple-gum print represents the ideal presentation of this timeless image and it is clear that Koppitz regarded this print highly and that it met his own exacting standards.



Rudolf Koppitz
Bewegungsstudie (Movement Study), 1924
 Estimate: \$200,000-300,000



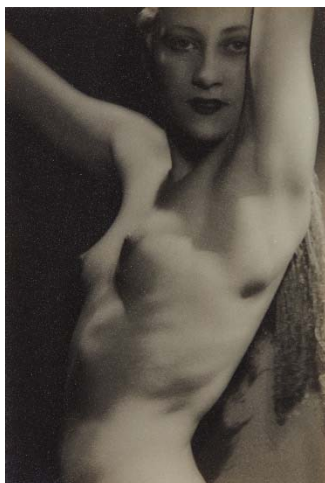
Robert Capa
Death of a Loyalist Soldier, 1936
 Estimate: \$80,000-120,000

Also hailing from the collection of Dr. Saul Unter is Robert Capa's *Death of a Loyalist Soldier*, the photographer's most famous image. In September 1936, Capa photographed the Spanish Civil War while on assignment for *VU* magazine. The photograph reached a much larger audience when it was published in *LIFE* magazine the following year as the lead image in a six-page spread addressing the seriousness of the Loyalist fight against fascist forces. Its appearance in *LIFE* not only propelled Capa to the top ranks of photojournalism, it also signaled a shift in American opinion about the conflict. *Death of a Loyalist Soldier* has remained one of the most unforgettable images within our visual culture.

Additional Highlights from
The Enduring Image: Photographs from the Dr. Saul Unter Collection



Andreas Feininger
The Photojournalist (Dennis Stock), 1955
Estimate: \$12,000-18,000



Man Ray
Nude, 1927
Estimate: \$50,000-70,000



William Klein
Woman + Cigarette Holder, Ball, Waldorf, New York, 1955
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



Carl Mydans
Gen. Douglas MacArthur with Gen. Richard Sutherland and Col. Lloyd Lehrbas walks through the surf to the beach at Lingayen, Luzon, the Philippines, 1945
Estimate: \$15,000-25,000



Alfred Eisenstaedt
Children at a Puppet Theatre, Paris, 1963
Estimate: \$15,000-25,000

Auction: Monday, 9 April 2018 | 10am & 2pm EDT

Auction viewing: 31 March - 8 April

Location: 450 Park Avenue, New York

[Click here for more information.](#)

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