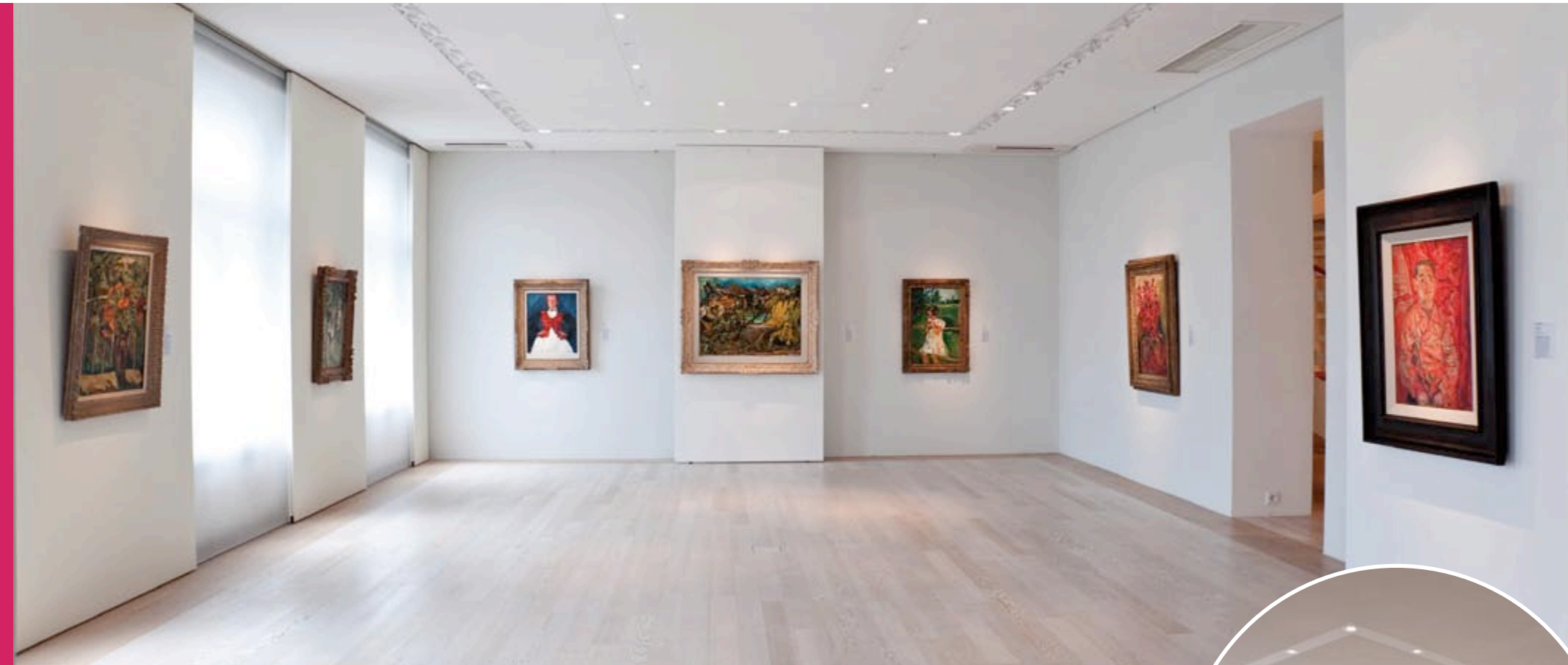




Raimund and Silke Thomas

MUNICH'S MODERN ART PIONEER

Galerie Thomas continues its vision begun 45 years ago, and adds a new contemporary gallery to Munich's art scene.



"MY IDEA FOR OPENING THE GALLERY STARTED WITH A CURIOSITY FOR EVERYTHING THAT WAS NEW, TO PRESENT OPENINGS THAT WERE FULL OF LIFE, AND FOR PEOPLE WHO DID NOT WISH TO THINK IN THE CONVENTIONAL WAY."
— RAIMUND THOMAS

For forty five years, Galerie Thomas, based in the heart of Munich in the Maximilianstrasse, has been one of the world's leading art dealers of works by masters of German Expressionism, Classic Modernism, Post-War and Contemporary Art.

It began with the dream of owner Raimund Thomas to establish a first-class art gallery in Munich. His first show, in October of 1964, focused on modern art before it had yet caught on in the Bavarian capital. Still, Thomas knew there was a strong desire for something very contemporary.

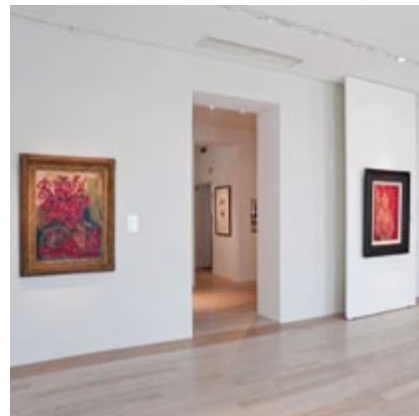
"My idea for opening the gallery started with a curiosity for everything that was new, to present openings that were full of life, and for people who did not wish to think in the conventional way," says Thomas.

Soon, the art pioneer was showing an ambitious and varied program of works by artists such as Yves Klein, Horst Antes and Gotthard Graubner, Gerhard Richter and Cy Twombly, but also objects by Joseph Beuys, to name a few.

"The gallery never tried to be dogmatic about art," says Thomas.

But very soon the young gallery owner sets his first priorities by concentrating himself on works by artists of German Expressionism and Classic Modernism.

In 1978, Thomas scored a breakthrough with his exhibition of one hundred never-before-shown works by Russian-born German Expressionist painter Alexej Jawlensky. A further milestone in the history of the gallery was the acquisition of important German Expressionist works from the legendary "Rheingarten Collection," which Thomas was able to procure in the face of stiff competition from a London gallery and a Swiss auction house.



With world-renowned events such as "The Blue Four" exhibition cycle, which began with Paul Klee and proceeding to Wassily Kandinsky, Alexej Jawlensky and Lyonel Feininger, Thomas continues the tradition of his important predecessors, gallerists Otto Stangl and Günter Franke who were both still operating in Munich at that time.

While Thomas belongs in the meantime to the international leading galleries for German Expressionism and Classic Modernism he also sets his interest on the Avant-garde.

Always on the lookout for "young art" and new movements, Galerie Thomas became known for its involvement in showing paintings by the "wild" artists of the 1980s and he exhibited works from the Berlin-based 'New Wild' group and the Italian Transavanguardia.



Jim Dine, "Colorful Parrot at Home," oil enamel paint and patina on bronze, 2007.

This pioneering spirit is, indeed, one of the distinguishing qualities the gallery owner and art dealer has displayed throughout his life. In 1967, he became a founding member of the Cologne Art Market. Later on, he opened his own art hall, the A 11 Artforum, where he realized his own personal visions, also as an art collector, in his exhibitions for a number of years.

Long before the Pinakothek der Moderne gave Munich's traditionally conservative cultural landscape a considerable boost, it was gallerists like Thomas who had been shaping the city's image as a contemporary art location with their activities. Thomas' efforts in support of the interest group founded by the Maximilian Street gallerists are an example of such activities.

For the past 15 years, Thomas has co-managed the gallery with his daughter, Silke Thomas, an art historian by profession. In 2005, Galerie Thomas celebrated forty years in the center of the art mecca of Maximilianstrasse.

The art of the twentieth century is thoroughly represented by artists of "Der Blaue Reiter" (The Blue Rider), such as Kandinsky, Jawlensky, August Macke and Franz Marc, among others, as well as artists of the "Brücke" (Bridge) such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Erich Heckel, Otto Mueller, Emil Nolde and, last but not least, the artists who taught at the "Bauhaus" such as Feininger, Klee, and Oskar Schlemmer.

"Our specializing in the Blue Rider is obviously of strong interest to visitors who come to Munich," says Silke Thomas, who adds that when you see the paintings in the gallery in Maximilianstrasse, it is an immersive experience since you are

in the middle where the members of the The Blue Rider discussed, painted and made history.

With The Lenbachhaus, known for its collection of Kandinsky and The Blue Rider artists, closed for three years for renovation, visitors seeking to appreciate the important German Expressionists will find solace at Galerie Thomas. The gallery is, after all, just a short walk from The Lenbachhaus.

For those unfamiliar with the The Blue Rider movement, it was founded by Kandinsky and Marc in 1911 in Munich as a reaction to the rejection of one of Kandinsky's paintings by the New Artists' Association of Munich. The group disbanded, however, when World War I broke out in 1914.

Galerie Thomas is also one of the leading galleries internationally for Classic Modernism, showing works by artists like Pablo Picasso and Max Beckmann, Alberto Giacometti, Eduardo Chillida and Fernando Botero. In 2007, Galerie Thomas was a co-presenter of an exhibition with monumental sculptures by Fernando Botero hosted by the Colombian Embassy in the grandiose setting of the Lustgarten in Berlin.

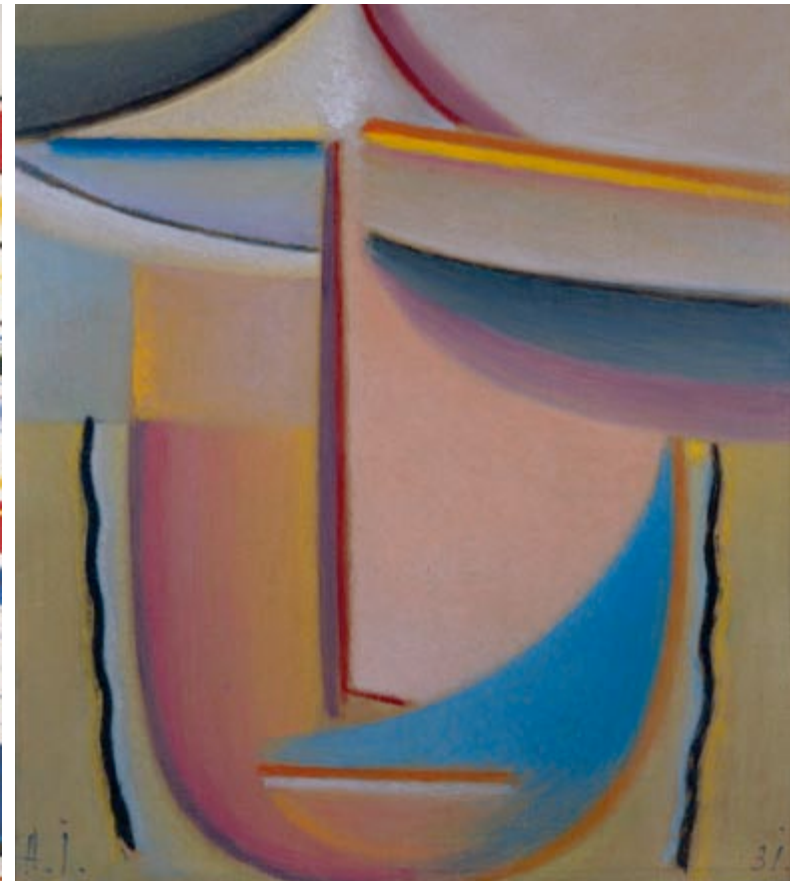
In April 2009, an exhibition of works by Chaim Soutine was lauded by visitors and critics. There had not been an extensive >>



Chaim Soutine, "Girl at Fence," oil on canvas board, 1939



Sam Francis, "When White," oil on canvas, 1963-1964



Alexej von Jawlensky, "Abstract Head: Morning Light," oil on cardboard, 1928



Emil Nolde, "Sunflowers," watercolors on paper, circa 1930



Wassily Kandinsky, "Study for On White I," watercolor and Indian ink on paper, 1920



Robert Delaunay, "Fleurs à l'arc-en-ciel," oil on canvas, 1925

presentation of the works by Soutine in Germany, the country of origin of Expressionism, since the 1981 exhibition in Muenster and Tuebingen. Works by Soutine can only be found in three German museums, and many of the paintings displayed at Galerie Thomas were from private collections and were shown to the public during this exhibit for the first time.

"What I like about it is that a German art dealer has managed to put together a one-man show with a French Master of Classic Modernism," Andreas Rumbler, CEO of Christie's Germany, is quoted as saying in the newspaper "Welt am Sonntag". "Like Alfred Flechtheim or Herwarth Walden one hundred years ago, this is brilliant," Rumbler says.

Chances such as these create amazing art moments for visitors, and for buyers it lends an even deeper commitment. Galerie Thomas has at its disposal a vast network that allows it unparalleled access to some of the world's great art and legacy of acquiring magnificent pieces. "My father has put together many collections," says Silke, "and has met many people. He knows artists or families of the well-known artists who are responsible for their estates."

A large room allows for the space in which a client can see works in a private setting. "It is good for us to have a conversation

when someone is interested in buying a piece. It is, after all, a very personal choice to buy a work of art. We like to know what your taste is, what your budget is, and then it's a matter of what your heart speaks to," says Silke.

Galerie Thomas is a welcoming space that's casual, yet informative. Consultation is another very important service offered by Galerie Thomas. "We do work with collectors on their acquisitions — we work with them on what might belong in their collection, or perhaps what they may want to sell in the long term," according to Silke.

The experts at the gallery can also document a collection with condition reports, advice on framing, restoration and on proper lighting.

Works on exhibit are always for sale, and with five shows a year at the gallery, there is always something new to discover. "We do shows that people want to see," says Silke.

Museums oftentimes request art from Galerie Thomas, and the gallery is actively involved in sales of museum quality pieces in the field of German Expressionism. At times, they are working with museums on behalf of clients, especially for those who wish to remain anonymous, says Silke.



Tom Wesselmann, "Study for Bouquet with Blue Shadow," oil on canvas, 1999



Marc Quinn, "American Sea Ice," oil on canvas, 2008

Over the past forty-five years, Galerie Thomas has presented close to 300 exhibitions in Munich and participated in more than one hundred fairs in Cologne, Munich, Basel, Maastricht, Madrid, Paris, Dubai as well as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Palm Beach and Miami.

With the gallery's historic tradition and international reach, visitors are exposed to many unseen works, and clients find sought after pieces to add to their collections. New collectors are invited to enlist Galerie Thomas to help them discover that one elusive piece to begin their art journey.

Now a new chapter for Munich art is being unveiled as Raimund and Silke Thomas celebrate the opening of a second gallery, set to open in October 2009, which will focus solely on contemporary art. It will be situated right at the museum's quarter in Munich on Türkenstrasse 16.

Bordered by Türkenstrasse and Luisenstrasse, Munich's art quarter boasts a total of seven museums, between them covering all aspects of painting, from the Old Masters to contemporary art. The new

contemporary gallery will offer yet another space to not only view great contemporary art, but to purchase it as well.

While still unwavering in their commitment to the German Expressionists and Classic Modern Art where Galerie Thomas had made its mark, the pair began enthusiastically embracing American pop art with exhibits in the past years of works by Frank Stella, Jime Dine and Tom Wesselmann and other established contemporary art.

The new space has bigger rooms with high ceilings, more conducive to showing the pop art of Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, for instance. "At Galerie Thomas, the space is more intimate. At the contemporary gallery, it is wide-open space," says Silke. Temporary walls can create three separate subdivisions to show art in the new gallery, an architectural element that allows for more creativity for exhibits. Five annual shows are planned at the new Thomas Modern.

"We did find the perfect space to show contemporary art, and we really did want to make a clearer distinction between our classic and modern art at Galerie Thomas and our contemporary art gallery" says Silke.

With its firm footing in the art of German Expressionism, its passion for the established masters of Classic modernism, and its enthusiasm for contemporary art, Galerie Thomas and its new contemporary gallery provide a true palette for discovery for both collectors and visitors seeking the unconventional. ✨

Galerie Thomas, Maximilianstrasse 25. For more information about both galleries, call +49.89.290.0080, or info@galerie-thomas.de, or www.galerie-thomas.de.