

KUNKEL FINE ART

Zeichnungen, Gemälde und Skulpturen
des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts



WILLI BAUMEISTER

(1889 - Stuttgart - 1955)

Poetry with combing on blue-green, 1954

Tempera on hardboard

34.2 : 47.7 cm

Signed and dated lower left: "Baumeister 54"

Provenance:

Galleria del Fiore, Mailand (1955)

La Medusa, Studio d'Arte, Rom (1956)

Pietro Campilli, Rom

Private Collection, Germany

Literature:

Will Grohmann: *Willi Baumeister, Leben und Werk*, Cologne 1963, cat. no. 1629, ill. p. 348

Peter Beye and Felicitas Baumeister: *Willi Baumeister, Werkkatalog der Gemälde (catalogue raisonné)*,

Ostfildern-Ruit 2002, cat. no. 2090

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With his participation in the First German Autumn Salon in 1913 in Herwarth Walden's Sturm Gallery in Berlin and the execution of wall paintings for the Cologne Werkbund Exhibition in 1914, Willi Baumeister already attracted a great deal of attention as a young artist. In the 1930s, he took the step towards a non-representational conception of art, which for him was synonymous with the transcendent dimension of spiritual freedom. After years of defamiation during the Third Reich, Baumeister became one of the most important representatives of German post-war modernism.

The painting *Poetry with combing on blue-green* (1954) is characteristic of Baumeister's mature creative phase. The impasto application of paint and the individually varied design using different colour zones and pictorial elements lend the work a haptic, relief-like character. The joy of experimenting with different painting materials and utensils enables the artist to work in a way that is both lively and unconventional. At the same time, the striving for clarity and harmony is reflected in the balanced composition of a few colourful forms, which mediate between earth and sky as well as between the archaic beginnings of art and the abstractions of the present. Baumeister thus opens up to the viewer a spiritual space similar to poetry, full of atmospheric sublimity.