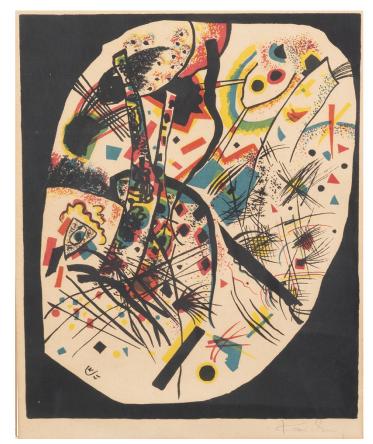


## Wassily Kandinsky, Small Worlds III, lithograph.

Despite only beginning his artistic career at the age of thirty, Wassily Kandinsky was the first European painter to employ total abstraction to widespread acclaim, which he had accomplished no later than 1913. A prominent art theorist, artist, and deeply spiritual man, Kandinsky is a preeminent modernist and one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer Wassily Kandinsky, Small Worlds III, lithograph (\$10/12,000) for sale in our Summer Fine Sale, held on Monday, June 17th.

The print consists of an irregular white oval filled with marks in various colors set against a black

field. The most noticeable of these marks are the strong black lines that meander from the top to the middle of the canvas and from the center-left to the bottom right, each culminating in a sharp point. There are also two more geometric forms, a rectangle at the



bottom facing towards the upper right, and a rhombus at the bottom left with its sharpest angle facing the center. There are two larger forms filled with additional markings and color at the left of the frame, extending from top to bottom, and several shaded areas throughout. Additionally, the work features groups of scratched lines that cross each other on the perpendicular in several areas, as well as a small eye within a triangle motif at the left. Finally, there is red, yellow, and green coloring placed behind the black marks in abstract or geometric shapes of varying sizes.

A highly spiritual man,

Kandinsky aspired to reach a

transcendental means of expression

with his works, which he believed were
hindered by overt references to nature.

As such, he aimed to create a universal
visual language that would overcome

cultural and language barriers, allowing
the artist to express their inner world in
a direct sense. We can see evidence of
this effort in this work, where Kandinsky
uses a simple palette of colors,
originating in Slavic folk art, and a
collection of marks, each reminiscent of
traditional human symbols and mark
making, to create a composition that
reaches towards a universally
understandable expression of the artist's
conception of the world.

This work, created in 1922, was created during the first year of
Kandinsky's residency at the famed
Bauhaus modernist design school,
located first in the central town of
Weimer, before its move to Dessau in
1925. One of his most productive
periods, Kandinsky was especially
interested in the geometric shapes and
the effects of forces on straight lines
during this time. The emphasis on non-

organic forms distinguishes this work
from his earlier and later periods, in
which the artist often utilizes busy
compositions and biomorphic forms.
The work on offer at Michaan's Auctions
shows evidence of these newly
burgeoning interests while retaining
features of his older works, including the
organic elements and unstructured,
chaotic compositions.

Wassily Kandinsky was born in

December of 1866 in Moscow, the son of
tea merchants and distant relative to
Sino-Siberian royalty. He was raised in
Odesa, modern-day Ukraine, before
returning to study at the University of
Moscow, eventually earning a
professorship in law and economics at
an Estonian university. He only began
painting at thirty, enrolling in the
Munich Academy, before returning to
Moscow with the outbreak of World War
I. He helped establish the Museum of

the Culture of Painting, working with
the early Soviet Union but ultimately
chose to leave the country for good due
to his spiritual beliefs, which conflicted
with the disposition of the state. He
taught at the Bauhaus School of Art and
Architecture from 1922 until 1933, when
it was closed by the Nazis. Following this
closure, he moved to the suburbs of
Paris, becoming a French citizen in 1939
and painting prolifically until his death
in 1944 at seventy-seven.

Wassily Kandinsky, Small
Worlds III, lithograph (\$10/12,000)
will be offered in Michaan's Auctions
Summer Fine Sale on Monday, June
17th. This sale features an incredible
selection, full of the season's most
esteemed items. The sale is headlined by
historically important works in the
Asian Art Department, exquisite jewelry
in the desirable Art-Deco style, and
important works from notable American

and European modernist artists. Also featured are fine examples of Persian carpets, sterling silver dishware, and an extremely rare book by an icon of American poetry.

Also on June 17th, (Michaan's
Auctions will be presenting an initial
selection from the vast estate of the
notable New York artist and antiques
dealer, Vito Giallo, who is finally
offering the most treasured items from
his Madison Avenue store, in a special
auction preceding our Summer Fine
Sale. This collection, titled "Chapter I" to
commemorate the recent publishing of

Vito Giallo's memoir, features
exceptional pieces across every
department, headlined by bronzes and
painted works in the Fine Art
Department, as well as impressive
collections of Silver & Objects de Vertu.
Also included are important collectibles,
quality decorations, and admirable
pieces in glass.

Michaan's Auctions catalogs can be viewed on our website: www.michaans.com, LiveAuctioneers, and on our Michaan's Live site. Bid live in our gallery or remotely via absentee, phone, or online.