



19th & 20th Century Paintings and Works on Paper (29 Jun 2021)

Tue, 29th Jun 2021

Viewing:

Viewing by appointment only.

Fri 25 June, 10am to 5pm

Sun 27 June, 11:30am to 4pm

Mon 28 June, 10am to 5pm

Please contact the [Department](#) to book an appointment.

Lot 9 §

Estimate: £2000 - £3000 + Fees

MARIE-LOUISE VON MOTESICZKY (AUSTRIAN 1906-1996)

Property from the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust

MARIE-LOUISE VON MOTESICZKY (AUSTRIAN 1906-1996)

Still-life with cyclamen

signed with initials and dated *M.M.67.* (upper right)

oil on canvas, unframed

35.5 x 45.3 cm (14 x 17 7/8 in)

EXHIBITED:

Munich, Galerie Günter Franke, *Marie-Louise Motesiczky*, no. 53 (ex-catalogue)

LITERATURE:

I. Schlenker, *Marie-Louise von Motesiczky 1906-1996, A Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings*, New York, 2009, p. 357, no. 206, illustrated

Motesiczky's still-lives are typically intimate and invariably feature personal, self-referential themes. The present oil is a case in point. The effulgent blooms of the pink cyclamen in a vase on the left are balanced by two flickering candles that light up the darkness on the right, very possibly a reference to her longstanding and ever-fluctuating relationship with Elias Canetti. Motesiczky called Canetti both her 'personal catastrophe' but also acknowledged that he was also one of her 'main gods'. As late as 1977 she wrote in her diary: 'completely without C. [Canetti] world makes no sense - with C endless torment' (Schlenker p. 37). In the spirit of such ambivalent thoughts, it is no surprise that Schlenker suggests that the rat in the present work also references Canetti (ibid), an allusion that Motesiczky would make more overt in *Nude with a Rat and Books* of a few years later (Schlenker no. 246). The small view of a mountainous landscape propped up on the table, probably a postcard, refers back to Motesiczky's Austrian roots, and her love of the Alps. To its right looms the sketchy form of a tribal carving inspired by an African sculpture in her collection.