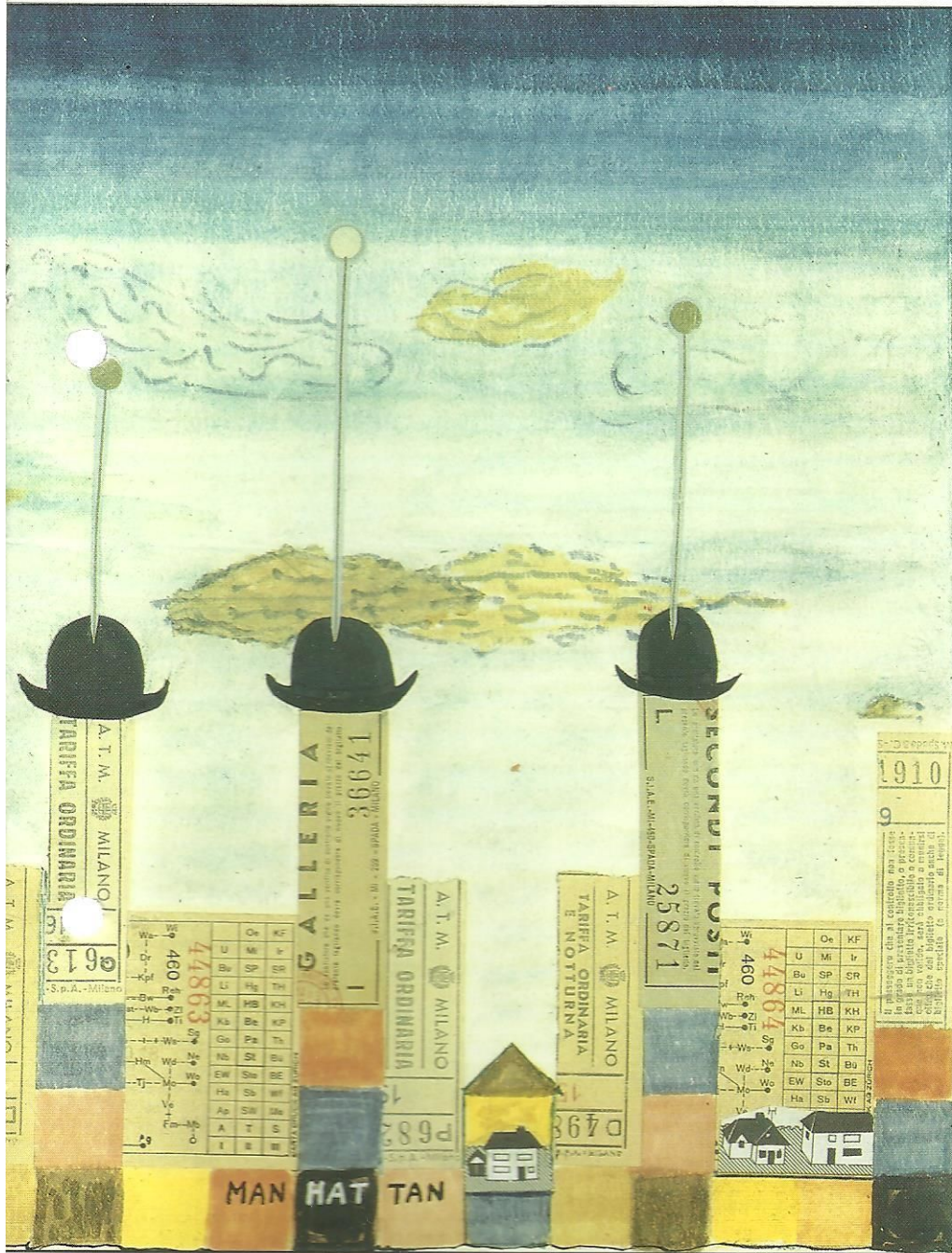


KOLAR - MESENS - SCHWITTERS



Grosvenor Gallery
 December 7th - December 22nd 1994

In 1960 shortly before moving to Davies Street, the last exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery premises at 30 Old Bond Street was of collages by Schwitters, Kolar and Mesens. Some 34 years later an additional collagist Adolf Hoffmeister, has been added and the artists require less introduction

Kurt Schwitters needs no introduction and the present exhibition includes three collages including an early photomontage of 1924 probably last seen at the Marlborough Fine Art exhibition "Art in Revolt" in 1959.

E L T Mesens Poet, writer and collagist was, together with his lifelong friend Rene Magritte, one of the main promoters of the Surrealist Movement in Belgium where he edited various surrealist magazines as well as writing many pamphlets on topical happenings of that time.

In 1936 he came to London and, with Roland Penrose, organised perhaps the most seminal exhibition then mounted in this country: The International Exhibition of Surrealism. He stayed on in England, in 1938 opened the London Gallery in Cork Street and he edited the London Gallery Bulletin, one of the key documents of the surrealist movement. The Gallery could not survive selling the surrealist work to which Mesens had remained faithful for 25 years and it finally closed in 1951.

By 1954 he had resumed making collages and had successful shows in Paris, Brussels, Milan, London (at the Grosvenor Gallery) and New York. His poems were published in 1959 with ten drawings by Magritte.

Mesens used any technique and any materials to hand in his collages, not saving unique items, but rather using commonplace odds and ends. The effect has been described by Brunius as the absence of any premeditation, of a magic distilled by the banal. His wish to have no individual style became so focused that it becomes a manifestation of anti-style - it is the spirit, the humour and the imagination of the artist that become the recognisable constant.

The Exhibition includes six of his works from 1960-62

Adolf Hoffmeister was born in Prague and by the age of 17 he was secretary of 'Devetsil' the group which was the hub of Czechoslovakian avant garde literature and art. In 1939 he fled from the Nazi occupation to the USA. Returning after the war he became Ambassador to Paris from 1948-51 and subsequently a Professor at Prague Art Academy. His work overlaps the border of Art and spreads into cartoon, advertising and related fields. He was the first artist to use typography as a total compositional medium regardless of the meaning of the actual words, concentrating on the purely visual image. The exhibition includes six of his works made in 1957-1960.

Jiri Kolar had a one man exhibition at the gallery in 1964, "Visual Images of a Poet". Since that date he has had no less than 26 museum exhibitions - the Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris in 1971, The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York in 1975 and 1978, the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin in 1980 and more than 100 one man exhibitions in commercial galleries throughout the world.

Kolar works in several different collage techniques of his own invention. Frequently starting with a coloured reproduction of an art work, a photograph, a sheet of music or other printed matter he applies a surrealistic, romantic, sometimes Baroque imagination to create entirely new sensations. The results vary from an extension of the beauty of the original to disturbing explorations. There is perhaps a basic human instinct in the counterpoint of destruction and creation, in destroying a given substance in the process of reforming the fragments into new visual complexities. The hallucinatory effect in his work is a mixture of dreams and nightmares, innocence and morbidity.

The exhibition includes examples of important work from the early 1960's through to recent work and contains examples of several of the different techniques.

ADOLF HOFFMEISTER (1902-1973)

1. **Hommage to Picasso** c.1957 £650
12¼ x 8½
Pen Ink Collage and Red Wash
2. **Hommage to Chagall** c. 1957 *Inv 1120* £650
12¼ x 8½
Pen, ink, collage
3. **Phileas Fogg - Sensation** 1959 £750
14¼ x 10¼
Collage, ink and gouache
4. **Phileas Fogg in Person** 1959 £750
14¼ x 10¼
Collage, ink and gouache
5. **Time Time Time** 1959 £500
14¼ x 9¾
Collage, ink and gouache
6. **Off to the Races** c. 1960 £500
14¼ x 9¾
Collage, ink and gouache

JIRI KOLAR (b. 1914)

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| 7. | The Beach c.1959
16¾ x 11¼
Crumplage on cloth
Exhib: Soloman R Guggenheim Museum, New York, "Jiri Kolar"
1975 | £1,250 |
| 8. | Beach scene through window c. 1959
16¾ x 11½
Crumplage on cloth
Exhib: Soloman R Guggenheim Museum, New York, "Jiri Kolar"
1975 | £1,250 |
| 9. | The Queen on Horseback 1959
9¾ x 7
Crumplage on cloth
Exhib: Soloman R Guggenheim Museum, New York, "Jiri Kolar"
1975 | £900 |
| 10. | Dream of Flying 1960 <i>Inv. 1117</i>
10½ x 16
Prollage | £1,000 |
| 11. | Profile 1960 <i>? Gift to A Mottle</i>
9 5/8 x 7½
Inter collage | £850 |
| 12. | String Block 1967-8 <i>Inv. 1118 (RCD)</i>
5½ x 4¾ x 1½ | £300 |
| 13. | Apple 1967-8 <i>Inv. 1115</i>
3 dia
Cloth collage object | £500 |
| <i>Inv. 1140</i> 14. | Mirror Collage c.1968
6¾ x 9
Rollage on Mirror | £1,250 |
| 15. | Minimal Intervention Collage 1968
10¼ x 7 | £750 |

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| 16. | Moonscape 1968
8½ x 7½
Prollage/Inter collage | £850 |
| 17. | Nude 1968 ^{? sold Inv AC 037}
5 x 8¼
Collage
Exhib: Soloman R Guggenheim Museum, New York, "Jiri Kolar"
1975 | £800 |
| 18. | Birds for Hans Sach 1969
9 x 13
Inter collage | £1,000 |
| 19. | Cylinder 1969 ^{Inv. 1118 (RCD)}
13L x 4 dia
Chiasmage Object | £600 |
| 20. | Cube 1969 ^{? Inv. 1121 ? 1118 (RCD)}
4 x 4 x 4
Rollage/chiasmage surfaces | £500 |
| 21. | Musical Collage 1970
9¼ x 7¼
Stratification Collage | £850 |
| 22. | The Three Graces 1970 ^{Inv 1117}
12½ x 8½
Inter collage | £1,000 |
| 23. | Frightened Madonna 1971
10¾ x 17¼
Prollage | £1,400 |
| 24. | Le Tems Souppert 1988 ^{Inv. AC 037}
10 x 7½
Inter collage | £750 |
| 25. | Bonjour Monsieur Gauguin 1990
20 x 20
Collage on Chiasmage on Wood | £3,500 |

E L T MESENS (1903-1971)

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| 26. | Allées et Venues 1960
8½ x 11¼
Collage | £2,500 |
| 27. | Contradictaires 1960
11½ x 8½
Double sided collage and ink | £2,500 |
| 28. | Manhattan 1960 (NV 1162)
12 x 13
Collage, crayon and wash | £3,000 |
| 29. | Homme-Table ne sachant sur quel pied danser 1961
18½ x 15½
Collage with gouache (NV 1162) | £1,750 |
| 30. | Nostalgie 1961
8 x 10½
Oil paint on coloured wash | £1,000 |
| 31. | C'est ainsi que je t'aime 1962
8½ x 11½
Collage, watercolour and crayon | £1,500 |

KURT SCHWITTERS (1887-1948)

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| 32. | Collage with Childrens Heads 1922
Collage
8½ x 6¾ | £35,000 |
| 33. | Stage 1947
Collage
6 x 4¾ | £20,000 |
| 34. | Able 1947
Collage
6¾ x 5 | £25,000 |

All Measurements are in inches

"I was born the twenty-seventh of
November nineteen hundred and three
without God without master without
King AND WITHOUT RIGHTS"

E L T Mesens

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 1995

Art from South Africa c.1960
Dumile - Kumalo - Stern - Skotnes
February 15th - March 10th

Henry Moore - Alexander Calder
Drawings and Sculpture
March 15th - April 13th

El Lissitzky
Watercolours and Lithographs
April 20th - May 26th

Russian Art of the 1960's
Drawings, Paintings and Sculpture
June 7th - June 30th

