

Muiha

Grosvenor Gallery

27 October - 26 November 1993

Romain de Tirtoff-Erté

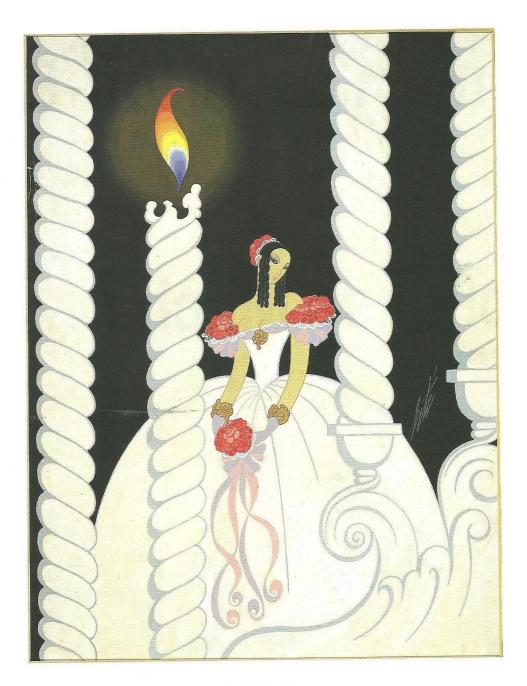
1892-1990

Alphonse Mucha

1860-1939

Grosvenor Gallery

18 Albemarle Street London W1X 3HA Telephone 071-629 0891 Facsimile 071-491 4391



6. La Traviata

INTRODUCTION

In 1963 the Grosvenor Gallery, then based in Davies Street, held an exhibition of works by Alphonse Mucha. The drawings, watercolours and lithographs presented to the public a representative selection of the work of an artist who, perhaps, summed up more completely than any other the aesthetic ideals of his period. The names of Alphonse Mucha and Art Nouveau are inseparably linked and the exhibition was a landmark in the revival of interest in works of this period. Works now on show are the balance of a substantial collection acquired from the artist's estate that has been sold over the years; the last exhibition in 1986 having sold out completely.

It was during an exhibition of Mucha works in 1967 that Eric Estorick and his late wife Salome, the gallery owners, met Jacques Damase, a writer and a critic. The meeting led to an introduction to Erté and the rest is history. Through their galleries in New York and London the Estoricks arranged sell-out exhibitions of original designs in gouache. They encouraged Erté to produce lithographs, sculpture and other multiple works which made him one of the most successful decorative artists of this century.

This exhibition provides an opportunity to compare the styles of the two great artists. Mucha is represented with some of his famous posters and panneaux decoratifs as well as drawings and less-known examples of lithographic work. The Erté gouaches contain original designs for the later graphics including the famous alphabet that was brought back by Eric Estorick from the original purchaser, Lord Beaumont. This alphabet has not been shown publicly for over twenty years.

We shall be holding regular exhibitions of theatrical designs. In May next year we will have a one-man show of the works of Arbit Blatas, who was the youngest member of the School of Paris group at the age of twenty-one. He became a colleague and friend of many great artists such as Bonnard, Vuillard, Matisse, Dufy, Van Dongen and Marquet, all of whom he was to paint and sculpt.

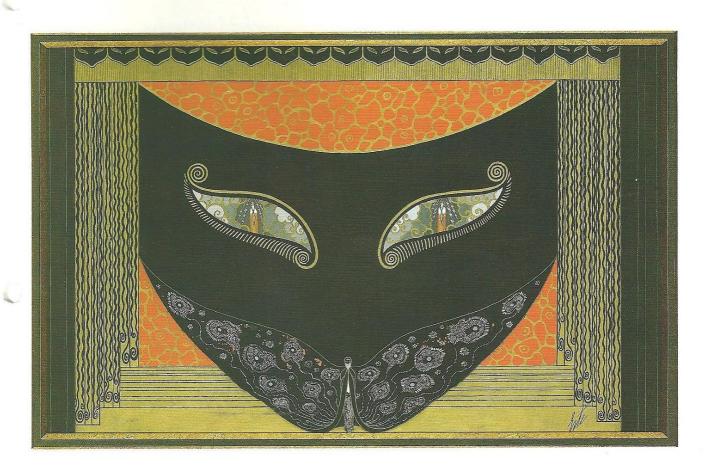
The exhibition will contain designs for operatic productions that Blatas produced in collaboration with his wife, the opera singer and stage director Regina Resnik. These works will include his famous Three Penny Opera designs as well as Carmen and Falstaff.

ERTÉ

1892	Romain de Tirtoff, son of an admiral, born in St. Petersburg, Russia.
1906	Studies painting with portraitist Ilya Repin.
1912	His parents consent to let him study in Paris. Studies at Academie Julian with historical painter Jean-Paul Laurens.
1913	Works for one month with the dressmaker Caroline. She tells him he has no talent for designing. Submits fashion sketches to Paul Poiret who hires him as one of two full-time designers. Creates costumes for his first theatrical production, "Le Minaret", featuring Mata Hari. Contributes drawings to La Gazette du Bon Ton, leading fashion magazine of Paris. First use of signature "Erté".
1914	Erté designs for Henri Bendel and Altman's in New York. Submits designs to Harper's Bazar.
1915	Harper's Bazar publishes first cover design (January) and designs on interior pages, beginning 22-year collaboration.
1916	Erté contributes work to Vogue magazine. After six months, William Randolph Hearst, owner of Harper's Bazar, signs ten-year exclusive contract with Erté.
1917	Creates costumes for revue "Marvels of the Orient", starring Maurice Chevalier and Mistinguett, at Theatre Femina, Paris.
1919-1924	Costume designs for Gaby Deslys — Theatre Femina, Ganna Walska, Chicago Opera Company, Marion Davis, "Restless Sex" (film), Exhibition at Knoedler, New York.
1925	Goes to Holywood, under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to design sets and costumes for the film "Paris". Costume and set designs for George White's Scandals. Exhibition at Madison Gallery, New York. Designs costumes for other films, "The Mystic", "Dance Madness", "A Little Bit of Broadway", and King Vidor's "La Boheme", starring Lillian Gish.
1926	Signs second ten-year contract with <i>Harper's Bazar</i> . Costume and set designs for George White's Scandals and Folies Bergere.
1927-1936	Costume designs for Lucrezia Bori, Metropolitan Opera, George White "Manhattan Mary", Majestic Theatre, New York, Folies Bergere, Bal Tabarin and various other theatres.
1937	Costume and set designs for Plaisir de France, Bal Tabarin; "Its in the Bag", by Cecil Landeau, Saville Theatre, London, and Scala Theatre, Berlin. Resigns from <i>Harper's Bazar</i> in dispute with editor Carmel Snow.
1938-1966	Costumes set designs for theatres and operas in many cities: London, Blackpool, Paris, Munich, West Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Venice, San Francisco and New York amongst others. Designs for Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" for French television, Poulenc's "Les Mamelles de Tiresias", "La Traviata" at Paris Opera House and "Pelleas and Melissande" at Teatro San Carlo, Naples.
1967	Costume and set designs for "Flying Colors", Expo '67, Montreal. Exhibition at Grosvenor Gallery, New York; this entire exhibition of 170 works was purchased by Metropolitan Museum of Art. Exhibition at Grosvenor Gallery, London.
1968	Produces the first lithographs "The Numerals" published by Sevenarts Ltd. (Grosvenor Gallery) who he appoints exclusive agents.
1969-1979	Exhibitions throughout the world including U.S.A. travelling retrospective organised by the Smithsonian Institution. Assigns his copyright to Sevenarts Ltd. to exploit his designs in other media.
1980	Costume and set designs for Glyndebourne Opera Company's performance of "Der Rosenkavalier". Erté Sculpture Collection introduced by RKP International and Dyansen Corporation, Jewelry series based on Erté designs begun by Circle Arts.
1981-1988	Books published on Erté graphics and sculptures. Major exhibitions in New York, Miami, Copenhagen, Paris and Hamburg. France awards Erté the Legion of Honour in 1985. Designs cover for <i>Playboy</i> magazine and introduces two sculpture collections, "Visions in Bronze"
1000	and "Treasures in Bronze".
1989	Designs set and costumes for two acts of the Easter show at Radio City Music Hall, and two entire shows for the musical "Stardust".
1990	Recovers from a coma brought on by kidney failure during a trip to Mauritius. Dies unexpectedly during recuperation in Hospital Cochin, Paris, on 21st April.

ERTÉ

All the works are gouache on paper



1

La Jalousie, 1926

signed, 15×9½in. (38×24cm.)

Design for George White Scandals "Le Mystere du Masque"

See illustration

\$37,500

£25,000

2 \$30,000 \$20,000

Les Enclaves de Salome, 1926

signed, 93/4×131/4in. (25×34cm.)

Design for George White Scandals

3 £33,000

L22,000

Georgie, 1917

signed, 10×7in. (25.5×18cm.)

Design for Theatre Femina, Paris "Millionaires Americaines"

4

New York — Robe, 1917 \$\frac{1}{233},\infty\$\text{Signed}, 10×7in. (25.5×18cm.)

Design for Theatre Femina, Paris \$\frac{1}{2000}\$

"Millionaires Americaines"

5

New York — Manteau, 1926

signed, 10×7in. (25.5×18cm.)

Design for Theatre Femina, Paris
"Millionaires Americaines"

La Traviata, 1935

signed, 13³/₄×10¹/₄in. (35×26cm.)

LITERATURE:
Erté's Theatrical Costumes, Dover Publications Inc., 1979

See frontispiece illustration

7

Manhattan Mary, 1935

signed, 14³/₄×10¹/₄in. (37.5×26cm.)

Design for George White, Majestic Theatre

8

Manhattan Mary, 1927

signed, 14¾×10½in. (37.5×27cm.)

Design for George White, Majestic Theatre

9

Manhattan Mary, 1927 \$30,000

signed, 14¾×10½in. (37.5×27cm.) £20,000

Design for George White, Majestic Theatre

NEW YORK WORLDS FAIR — WONDERWORLD

10

United Nations Set, 1963

signed, 11×14¹/₄in. (28×37cm.)

\$7,500 £ 5000

11

Polo Player — Male, 1964

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.) \$\mu_2\$,000

12

Polo Player — Female, 1964

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.) \$3,000 /2000

13

Journalist — Della Vangardia, 1963

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.)

\$3,000 L2000

14

Journalist — Pravda, 1963

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.) \$\int_{3,000}\$ \$\frac{1}{2000}\$

MONTREAL EXPO '67 — FLYING COLOURS

15

Clowns — 3rd Effect, 1967

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.)

16

Clowns — 3rd Effect, 1967

signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.)

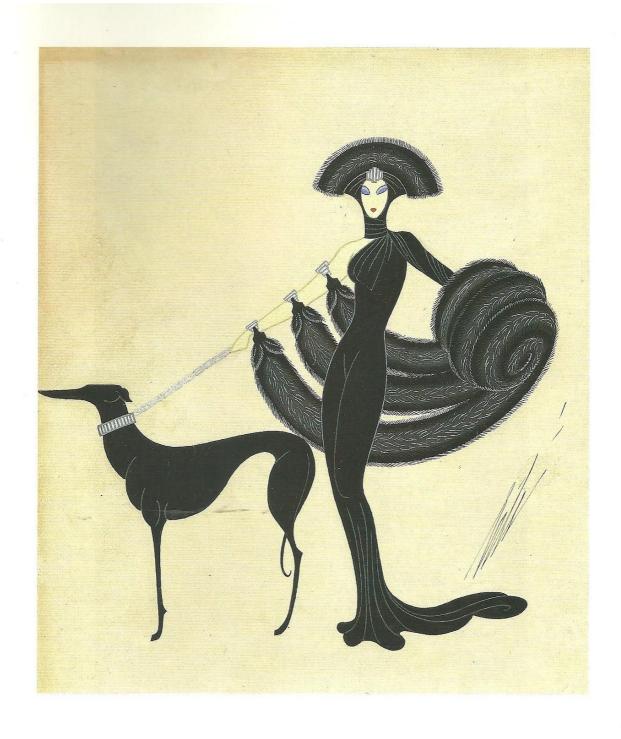
17

Vienna — Oriental Stage, 1967

signed, 16×20in. (40.5×51cm.) \$\mathbb{L}\$6,000

ABC TELEVISION PRODUCTION — SILENT NIGHT

*
18
Wooden Soldier — Follower of Minister of War, 1967
signed, 14½×11in. (37×28cm.) \$3,000 £2000
19
Girls Packing Presents, 1967 \$3,000 \$2000 signed, 14½×11in. (37×28cm.)
20 Minister of Fine Arts, 1967 \$\$\frac{1}{2}\$\infty\$ \langle 20\infty\$ \$\frac{1}{2}\$\infty\$
21
Girl Dancer for Gingerbread Horse, 196 3000 2000 signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.)
The second secon
22
Gingerbread Horse, 1967 \$3000 \$\frac{1}{2000}\$ signed, 15×11in. (38×28cm.)
23
Chocolate — Boy Dancer, 1967 \$3000 \(\frac{1}{2000} \)
signed, 16×12in. (40.5×30.5cm.)
24
Chocolate — Girl Dancer, 1967 \$ 2000
signed, 16×12in. (40.5×30.5cm.)
25 \$4,500 £3000
Entrance of Rahat Lokhoam and Halva, 1967
signed, 16×20in. (40.5×51cm.)
26 \$5,700 \$23,800
Entrance of Santa Claus, 1967
signed, 11×15in. (28×38cm.)



27 £42,000 £28,000

Symphony in Black, 1939

signed, $14\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ in. (37×26.5cm.)

Black Velvet, London Palladium

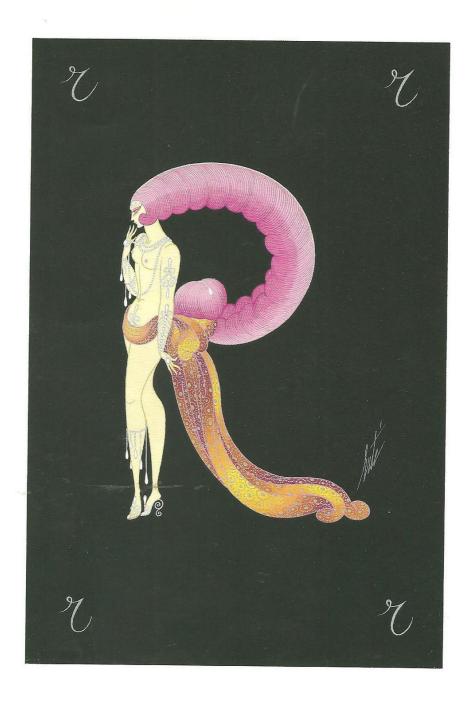
See illustration

28 \$33,000 £22,000

Fedora Costume, 1919

. signed, 11³/₄×9¹/₂in. (30×24.2cm.)

Design for Ganna Walska, Act II, Fedora — Umberto Giordano



29
The Alphabet, 1927-1967 (on application

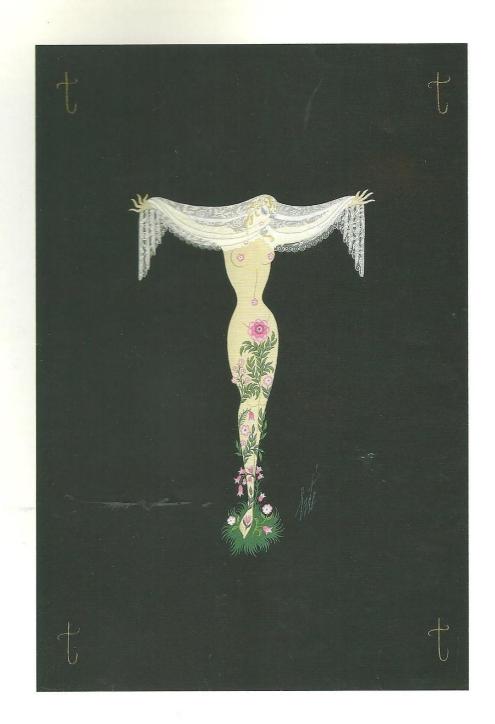
Twenty-six designs

each signed, 22×14½in. (56×37cm.)

£1,000,000

Erté conceived the idea of the alphabet using human forms in 1927. He hoped to complete it for an exhibition at the Galerie Charpentier in 1929. However, with the Harpers contract, commissions from George White, the Folies Bergere and various operas he had not made much headway and the execution of the alphabet continued until late 1932. In 1967 with the first exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery he discovered two letters were missing and finally completed the work in August of that year.

Letters R and T illustrated







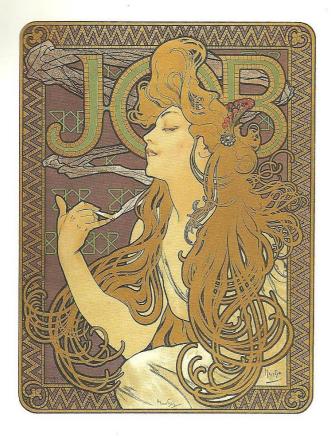
The Times of the Day: Morning Awakening; Daytime Dash; Evening Reverie; Nightly Rest

lithographs in colour, 1899, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, slight surface dirt, some staining and creases in the margins 47×20¾in. (119.5×52.7cm.)





REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 232 D.F.P. Bridges, p. 28-31 See illustration





AJ.

31

Job

lithograph in colours, 1896, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, horizontal crease in top margin, generally in excellent condition 26×18in. (66×46cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 82 Bridges, A6 D.F.P. II. 635

See illustration

\$6,000 \$4000

La Plume, Zodiac

lithograph in colours, 1896, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, horizontal crease along top edge, generally in excellent condition 25½×19in. (65×48cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 100, v.1 Bridges, C4

See illustration

The Seasons: Summer; Spring; Autumn; and

lithographs in colours, 1896, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, all signed in black crayon, all with surface dirt, tears in the image and creases 42×22in. (107×56cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 90 \$ 9,000 Bridges, p. 3-6

Nestlé's Food for Children

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, pin holes in the top corners, slight surface dirt, generally in excellent condition $28\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ in. (73×36cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 124 Bridges, A34 D.F.P. II. 646

This is one of only four posters Mucha did for the British Market

AJ. 35

Dawn and Dusk

lithographs in colour, 1899, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in green ink, small repair in image of Dawn, slight foxing $17^{1/4} \times 34$ in. (44×86.5cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 258 Bridges, p. 32-33

36 hornigned AJA

Sea Holly, Bretonne de Guerande 16,000

lithograph in colours, 1902, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in black crayon, in excellent condition 27×11½in. (69×29cm.)

37

The Quill \$5000

lithograph in colours, 1899, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, pin hole in top margin, slight surface dirt 23×10in. (58×25cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 240, v. Bridges, p. 26-27

A.C.

The Seasons: Spring

lithograph in colours, 1900, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, slight waterstains in the margins, some foxing, generally in excellent condition 28³/₄×13in. (73×33cm.)

Reference: £1;500

Biscuit Lefevre Utile

lithograph in colours, 1896, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, pin holes in the corners, slight creasing, generally in excellent condition 24¹/₄×17¹/₂in. (63×44cm.)

\$7500 REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 113 Bridges, C5

40AT \$ 3,000

Chocolat Masson: The Four Ages of Man

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, this is an uncut proof before lettering, in excellent condition $24\frac{1}{4} \times 17\frac{3}{4}$ in. (62×45cm.), the whole sheet

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill p. 187 Bridges, C9

41 Consigned AJA

The New York Daily News: Friendship

steel engraving in colours, 1904, very slight stains and creases 18×12in. (46×30cm.) \$3,750 £2,5∞

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 314

42

£4000

\$10 500

Lance Parfum "Rodo"

lithograph in colours, 1896, printed by F. Champennois, Paris, signed in pencil, pin holes in top corners, generally in excellent condition $17 \times 12^{1/2}$ in. (43×32cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 80 Bridges, A5

£ 7 000



F. Champenois, Imprimeur-Editeur

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, slight creases and tears in the margins and corners, generally in excellent condition

26×19½in. (66×49cm.)

£6000

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 160 Bridges, C8

\$ 9,000

44 Consigned AJA

Societie Populaire des Beaux-Arts

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, bottom left hand-corner missing, some creases and tears 25×17½in. (63×45cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 116 Bridges, A20 D.F.P. II. 641

\$ 2,500



C.S. Y.W.C.A.

lithograph heightened with white and watercolour, circa 1922, printed by V. Neubert a Synove, Smichov, this a working proof for the Y.W.C.A. poster published in 1922, signed in pencil, creases in bottom margin, surface dirt, other minor defects $32\frac{1}{2} \times 19\frac{1}{2}$ in. (83×49cm.)

REFERENCE:
Rennert/Weill, p. 356, v.
Bridges, A67, V.
Henderson, p. 73



48

Three Seasons

lithograph in colours, circa 1898, Spring and Winter signed in pencil, in excellent condition $24\frac{1}{2}\times16$ in. (62×40cm.) 4

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 192 \$ 6,000 Bridges, p. 8



Salon des Cent

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, tear in left hand corner, other very minor defects, generally in excellent condition 26×17½in. (66×44cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 148 Bridges, A19

\$ 6000

\$ 4,500



The Coming Year

lithograph in colours, 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, very slight creasing in the corners, in excellent condition 40×15in. (102×38cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 184
Bridges, C7



Paris 1900

lithograph in colours, 1899, printed by S. Czeiger, Wien, signed in pencil, some sellotape marks, very slight creasing, generally in excellent condition 40×28in. (102×71cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 248 Bridges, A45 D.F.P. II. 649 T

The Coming Year

lithograph in colours, *circa* 1897, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, this is a working lithographic proof without the borders, in excellent condition 29½×15in. (75×38cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 184, v. Bridges, C7, v.

\$ 90



Toutes les Oeuvres de Mucha. Femme aux Coquelicots

lithograph in colours, 1898, printed by F. Champenois, Paris, signed in pencil, minor surface dirt, vertical and horizontal fold marks with corresponding defects

25×18in. (64×46cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 218, v.1 Bridges, p. 25

55

Salammbo

lithograph in colours, 1896, printed for l'Estampe Moderne, in excellent condition $15\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ in. (39×23cm.) £1,500

REFERENCE:

X2,250 Henderson, p. 23



Revue pour les Jeunes Filles

lithograph in black and white, circa 1895, this is a lithographic proof, signed in pencil, horizontal fold mark, other creases and tears 44×25½in. (112×65cm.)

Rennert/Weill, p. 57, v. Bridges, A9

AJ.

The Stars: Evening Star

lithograph in black and white and watercolour, circa 1902, a working lithographic proof, in excellent condition

23×10in. (59×25cm.)

REFERENCE:

Rennert/Weill, p. 297, v.

AJ.

Krinogen

lithograph in colours, 1928, printed by K. Kriz, Karlin, signed in black crayon, creases, some tears and sellotape marks £2000 48×34in. (122×86cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 371 Bridges, A72

\$ 3,000

The Arts: Dance and Painting

lithographs in colours, 1898, printed by F. Chamenois, Paris, both signed in pencil, minor creases and scuffing mainly in margins $23\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ in. (60×38cm.)

REFERENCE:

Rennert/Weill, p. 211 Bridges, p. 19-22

£750 \$1,250

Atelier Mucha

lithograph in black and white, 1897, signed in pencil, in excellent condition $13 \times 9^{1/2}$ in. (33×24cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 381 Bridges, A13

58 A T

\$3,750 ta,500

Study for The Slav Epic

Indian ink and pencil, Prague, 1912, signed $12\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ in. (32×26.5cm.)

Design for a Diploma

pencil, pen and ink, signed \$2,250

£1,500

Study for a Mural

pastel, *circa* 1890, signed \$\int_{7.500}\$ 18½×49in. (47×124cm.)

60 AJ

Sketch for a Panneau Decoratif Possibly Peasant Girl for Normandie Panneau

watercolour, circa 1903, signed 10×17½in. (26×45cm.)

£2000

\$1,200 £800.

Book cover for Utok More

pen, black ink and gouache, circa 1929, signed 14½×11½in. (37×29cm.)

61 AT. \$3,750 £2,500

King Jiri Podesbradsky

pencil and gouache, 1915, signed 12½×13¼in. (32×35cm.)

\$3,750 £2,500.

Study of a reclining lady, reading, on a sofa

pencil, circa 1898, signed 6×11½in. (15×29cm.)



65

The Ivy
Final drawing for the Paneau Decoratif, "The Ivy" pencil and watercolour, Paris, 1901 12³/₄×12in. (32.5×30.5cm.)

REFERENCE: Rennert/Weill, p. 280 Bridges, p. 41-42

\$45,000

See illustration

ALPHONSE MUCHA

10/0	All M. M. I. I Y M C C C C
1860	Alphonse Marie Mucha, born at Ivancice in Moravia, son of a minor official at the local court.
1877	Graduated from Brno Gymnasium and went to Vienna to work under Kautsky, Burckhardt and Briochi on decor for Ringtheater. Attended evening courses in art.
1881	Mucha returned to Moravia. By chance found himself at Hrusovany and obtained a job decorating new Castle Emmashof of Count Khuen Belasi with murals. Count Khuen became his patron.
1883	Count Khuen gave him a small allowance to enable him to go to Munich Art Academy.
1887	Arrived in Paris. Studied at Academie Julian under Lefevbre, J. P. Laurens and Boulanger. Became friendly with Strindberg and Gauguin, shared a studio with Gauguin, the three often ate out together.
1889	Count Khuen committed suicide and Mucha's allowance stopped. He started doing illustrations for various magazines including <i>Le Figaro Illustré</i> and <i>La Vie Populaire</i> . Started his own studio in the Passage Stanislas with Whistler teaching painting and design.
1892	Illustrated his first book, <i>Scènes et Episodes de l'Histoire d'Allemagne</i> by Professor Seignobos, this was followed by many others including <i>Ilsée</i> by Robert de Flers, a magnificent example of Art Nouveau illustration.
1894	Sprang to fame overnight with his poster for Sarah Bernhardt's "Gismonda". Under a six-year contract he produced for Bernhardt the famous posters for "Lorenzaccio", "La Dame aux Camélias", "La Samaritaine", "Medée", "Hamlet" and "L'Aiglon".
1895-1897	He produced decorative panels and commercial posters, calendars and illustrations.
1897	First one-man show at the "Salon des Cent". Became a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.
1900	Created decorations for homeland Pavilion Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Universal Exhibition of Paris.
1902	Publication of his <i>Documents Décoratifs</i> . One of the authorative statements on l'Art Nouveau. Contained designs for furniture, jewelry, lace, household objects, as well as figures with the famous arabesques he introduced which became the hall-mark of l'Art Nouveau.
1904-1906	Went to the United States to execute portrait commissions including those of Mrs. de Rothschild Weisner and Ethel Barrymore. He taught at the Women's School of Design in New York and the Art Institute in Chicago.
1906	Returned to Europe and married his pupil Maria Chytilova who was also a graduate of the University of Prague, she was 23 and he was 46. They returned to the States in the autumn of that year.
1908	He delivered the Scammon lectures in Fullerton Hall, Chicago, and the following year gave a course there in composition. This year also saw the publication of <i>Figures Décoratifs</i> in Paris, the sequel to <i>Documents Décoratifs</i> . Painted five murals for the New German Theatre in New York. They were insured for \$40,000.
1909	Chicago Industralist Charles R. Crane offered to finance Mucha's last work — twenty huge oil paintings he planned on "The Slav Epic".
1910	Returned to Bohemia and settled at Castle Zbirov with his wife. Started his journeys through the Balkans studying for "The Slav Epic".
1913	During the year of the "Armory" Show in New York he made a brief trip to Chicago to finish the portrait of Charles R. Crane's daughter, Mrs. Robert Leatherbee. Gave the press a statement on "neurotic modern art" and prophesied that "within six months there will be a general war embroiling all of the powers of Europe with England and Germany locked in a death struggle for supremacy".
1914-1918	Continued to work on "The Slav Epic".
1919	Designed first Czech stamps and bank notes, and the State Coat-of-Arms, and every other type of decorative object relating to the new State.
1920	Made his fourth trip to the U.S.A. First pictures of "The Slav Epic" shown at the Brooklyn Museum, N.Y.C., attracting 600,000 people, also shown in Chicago.
1922	Returned to Zbirov where he then remained, continuing "The Slav Epic".
1936	A Mucha exhibition held at the Musée du Jeu de Paume in Paris.
1939	Mucha died in Prague.

