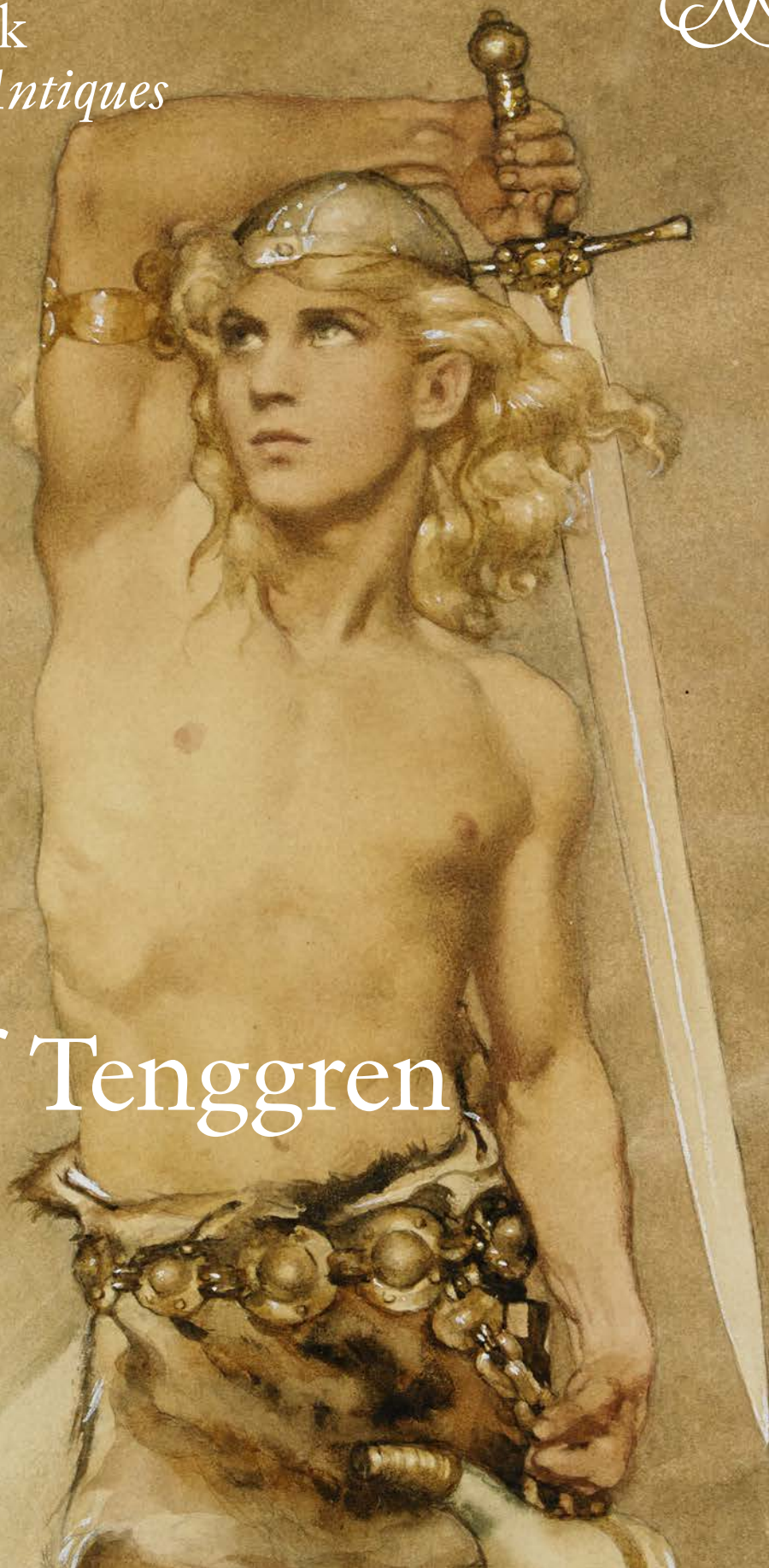


Stockholms  
Auktionsverk  
*Fine Art & Antiques*



Gustaf Tenggren







Lot No 2252 Susannah and the Elders, 1919





# Gustaf Tenggren

at Fine Art & Antiques  
Auction 3 December 2014

  
Stockholms  
Auktionsverk  
*etabl. 1674*

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## Fine Art & Antiques

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Lot No 2269  
Siegfried, 1932



Photo from 1919. Gathering at the home of Gustaf Tenggren's sister and brother-in-law, Ester and Arvid Gustafsson. To the farleft Gustaf Tenggren and his mother Augusta. Behind them on the wall several paintings by Gustaf Tenggren, among others "Walpurgis Night" and "Little Red Riding Hood". Probably the last photo taken before his departure to the United States in the summer of 1920.

# Gustaf Tenggren – an unknown celebrity

By: *Lars Emanuelsson*

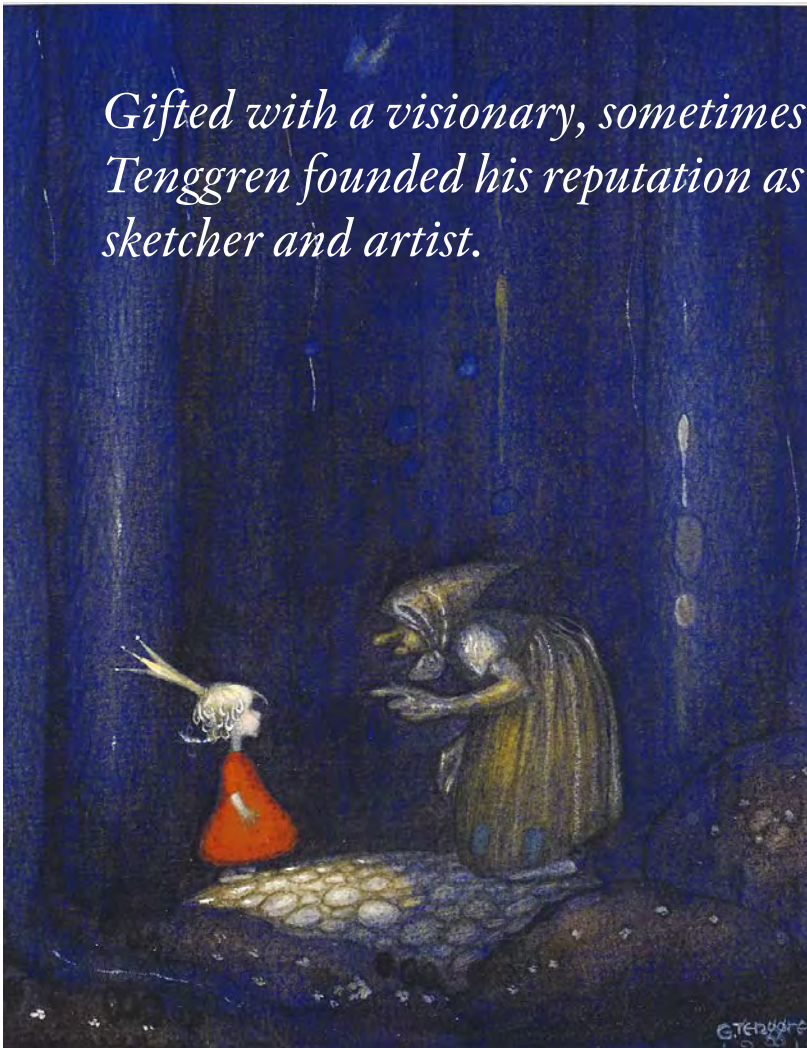
Taking into account the attention lavished on other world-famous Swedes such as Greta Garbo, Björn Borg, Abba and Ingmar Bergman, it seems strange that Gustaf Tenggren – in Sweden – created barely a blip on the celebrity radar. Especially as his career is truly remarkable.

BORN IN 1896 in a dilapidated soldier's cottage in the parish of Måra in Västergötland, Western Sweden, Gustaf moved with his family to a suburb of Gothenburg immediately before the turn of the last century. With eight people living in a one-room apartment, it soon became necessary for Gustaf to start making a contribution to the family finances. After four years in school, he found work as an errand boy, but gradually began an apprenticeship as a lithographer. With the assistance of a scholarship, he started studying at the Slöjdföreningen (Swedish Society of Industrial Design) school at the age of 13, moving on to Valand Academy of Art three years later. During his last year at school (1916–17), he had already made a start on his career as an artist and illustrator.

After several completed commissions in Copenhagen, he took the final leap to the United States in the summer of 1920. He had family in Cleveland, Ohio, as two of his sisters had previously settled there. It was there that Tenggren founded his reputation as a unique sketcher and artist, gifted with a visionary, sometimes bizarre imagination. The image world he created was a cocktail of strange creatures from the fairy tales of his Swedish childhood, Caribbean pirates, mythological heroes from the world of antiquity, and Arabian merchants and slave girls from *The 1,001 Arabian Nights*. Tenggren's move to New York City was the next logical step, and he quickly established himself there as a worthy competitor to the best-known illustrators on the American market.



*Gifted with a visionary, sometimes bizarre imagination, Tenggren founded his reputation as a unique sketcher and artist.*



Lot No 2254 *The Princess and the Witch*, 1918

at that time: N. C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish and J. C. Leyendecker. A range of illustrated books, calendars, lucrative advertising commissions, portraits and magazine illustrations generated plenty of income, and made his name famous during the 1920s.

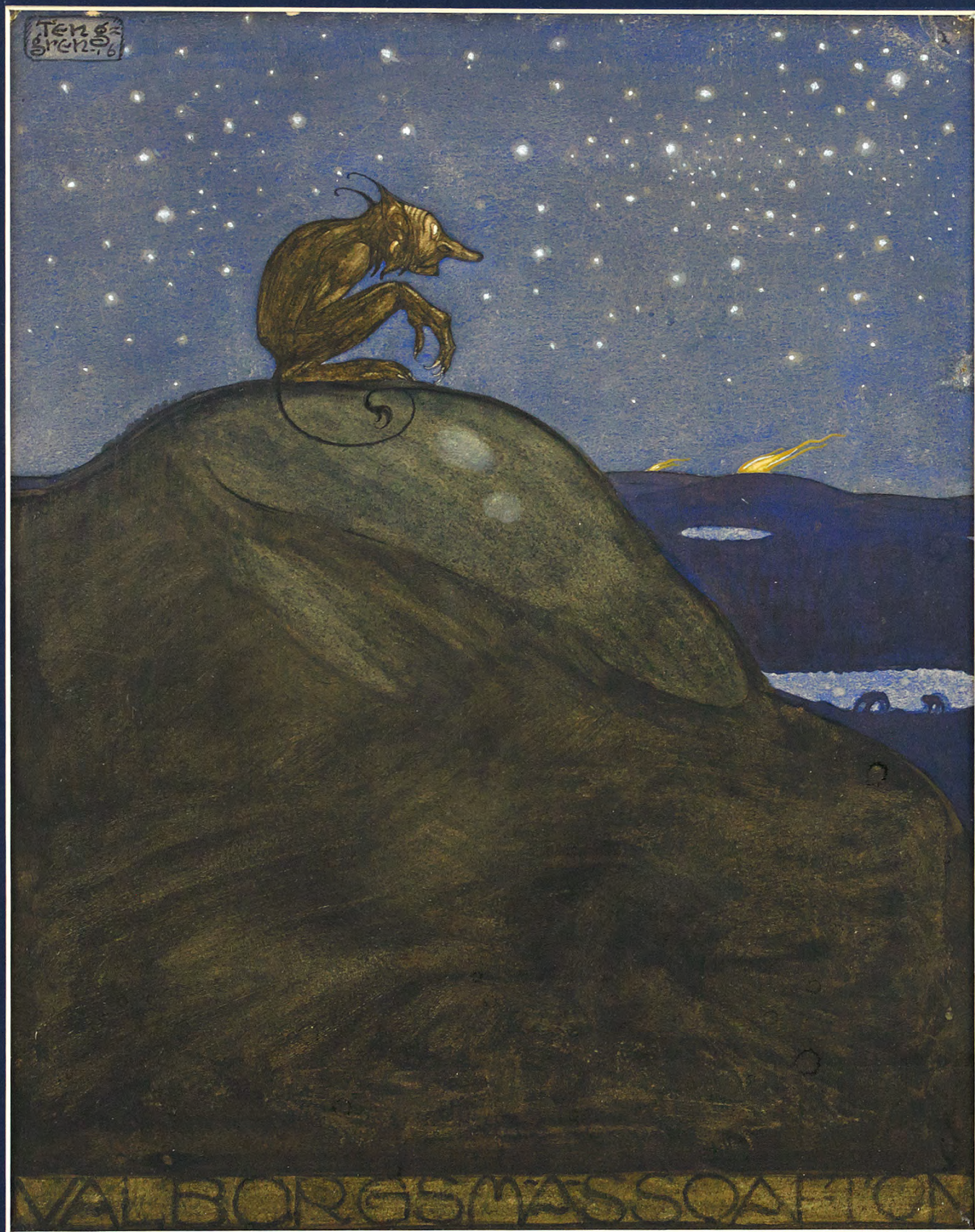
BY THE TIME HE WAS HEADHUNTED by Walt Disney in 1936, he had actually developed into a star artist with the status of a legend. During the three years he was employed at the studio, he worked on a number of Disney's most famous films, including *Snow White*, *Pinocchio*, *Bambi* and *Fantasia*.

After parting company with Disney in 1939, he entered into a long-term working relationship with the Artists and

Writers Guild, the book agents of the Western Printing publishers. From the 1940s onwards, he produced a string of million-selling picture books for children, many of them sold with the prefix 'Tenggren's' – Tenggren's *Mother Goose*, for example. His long series of *Little Golden Books* were huge commercial successes. At the turn of the millennium in 2000, one of them – *The Poky Little Puppy* – had actually sold 15 million copies, making it the best-selling illustrated children's book of all time in the United States.

At the time of his death in 1970, he had illustrated 50 books in as many years in the United States, and had become an institution in American children's book culture.









Lot No 2273 *The Fairy*, 1917

Lot No 2274 *Walpurgis Night*, 1916



GUSTAF TENGGRÉN  
1896–1970

Tenggren

- |      |  |      |   |      |  |
|------|--|------|---|------|--|
| 2252 | "Susannah and the Elders"<br>1919. Watercolour. 23x21 cm<br>30,000 – 40,000 € 3,200 - 4,300  | 2264 | "The House Gnome's Bundle"<br>Illustration for the series<br>"Bland Tomtar och Troll" 1917.<br>Watercolour. 21 x 21 cm<br>25,000 – 30,000 € 2,700 – 3,200           | 2275 | "It was an old man in a<br>pilgrim costume"<br>Illustration for the series<br>"Bland Tomtar och Troll" 1920.<br>Watercolour. 23 x 22 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950 |
| 2253 | "Self Portrait"<br>1914. Watercolour. 18 x 12,5 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950  | 2265 | "The Donkey Lettuce"<br>Illustration for Grimm's Tales 1917.<br>Watercolour. 28,5 x 22,5 cm<br>18,000 – 20,000 € 1,950 – 2,200                                      | 2276 | "Judas"<br>1918. Watercolour. 22 x 15 cm<br>10,000 – 12,000 € 1,080 – 1,300  |
| 2254 | "The Princess and the Witch"<br>1918. Watercolour. 20,5 x 17 cm<br>30,000 – 40,000 € 3,200 - 4,300   | 2266 | "The Fiddler"<br>1918 . Watercolour. 11,5 x 10 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950  | 2277 | "Flying Troll with Girl"<br>Watercolour. 29,5 x 29 cm<br>20,000 – 25,000 € 2,200 – 2,700   |
| 2255 | "Huldra by the Forest Source"<br>1918-19. Watercolour. 12 x 11 cm<br>6,000 – 8,000 € 650 - 860   | 2267 | "Girl in the Woods"<br>1918. Watercolour. 28 x 20 cm<br>25,000 – 30,000 € 2,700 – 3,200   | 2278 | "Faun and Nymph"<br>1914. Watercolour. 23 x 27 cm<br>12,000 – 15,000 € 1,300 – 1,620   |
| 2256 | "The Demon"<br>1918-19. Watercolour. 12 x 11 cm<br>6,000 – 8,000 € 650 - 860   | 2268 | "Little Red Riding Hood"<br>1916. Watercolour. 32,5 x 28 cm<br>20,000 – 25,000 € 2,200 – 2,700  | 2279 | "Fairytale creatures"<br>1915. Watercolour. 30,5 x 23,5 cm<br>20,000 – 25,000 € 2,200 – 2,700  |
| 2257 | "The Nix"<br>1918-19. Watercolour. 12 x 11 cm<br>6,000 – 8,000 € 650 - 860   | 2269 | "Siegfrid"<br>Cover of the book<br>"The Ring of the Nibelung" 1932.<br>Watercolour. 30,5 x 23,5 cm<br>150,000 – 200,000 € 16,200 – 21,500                           | 2280 | "Village Scene from the South Sea"<br>1918. Watercolour. 31 x 21,5 cm<br>10,000 – 12,000 € 1,080 – 1,300   |
| 2258 | "The Maid of Orléans"<br>Poster for the silent movie<br>"Joan the Woman" by Cecil B.<br>De Mille. 1919. Watercolour. 47 x 40 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950 | 2270 | "Spring"<br>Sketch for the calender at<br>Berwind-White Col Company 1924.<br>Watercolour. 22,5 x 16,5 cm<br>18,000 – 20,000 € 1,950 – 2,200                         | 2281 | "Cafe Scene"<br>1918. Watercolour. 22,5 x 28 cm<br>12,000 – 15,000 € 1,300 – 1,620   |
| 2259 | "The Adultresse"<br>Poster for the silent movie<br>"Intolerance" by D.W.Griffith 1919.<br>Watercolour. 47 x 39,5 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950             | 2271 | "Snow-white and Rose-red"<br>Illustration for Grimm's Fairy Tales<br>1918-19. Watercolour. 30 x 21,5 cm<br>30,000 – 35,000 € 3,200 – 3,800                          | 2282 | "Willy Grebst at the Cafe"<br>1917. Ink wash. 27,5 x 21,5 cm<br>10,000 – 12,000 € 1,080 – 1,300  |
| 2260 | "The Cemetary"<br>Watercolour. 19,5 x 17,5 cm<br>8,000 – 10,000 € 860 – 1,080  | 2272 | "The Adventure of Blanka-Mareta"<br>Illustration for the series"<br>Bland Tomtar och Troll" 1918.<br>Watercolour. 30,5 x 23,5 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950 | 2283 | "Landscape from Catalina Island"<br>1936. Watercolour. 47 x 32,5 cm<br>25,000 – 30,000 € 2,700 – 3,200   |
| 2261 | "Pirates II"<br>1921. Watercolour. 47 x 32,5 cm<br>30,000 – 40,000 € 3,200 - 4,300   | 2273 | "The Fairy"<br>1917. Watercolour. 31,5 x 29,5 cm<br>25,000 – 30,000 € 2,700 – 3,200   | 2284 | "Cowboys"<br>1917. Indian ink. 36 x 28 cm<br>12,000 – 15,000 € 1,300 – 1,620   |
| 2262 | "Pirates I"<br>1919. Watercolour. 37 x 46,5 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950  | 2274 | "Walpurgis Night"<br>1916. Watercolour. 35 x 27,5 cm<br>15,000 – 18,000 € 1,620 – 1,950   | 2285 | "Willy Grebst in the Wild West"<br>1918. Ink wash. 29 x 26,5 cm<br>10,000 – 12,000 € 1,080 – 1,300   |
| 2263 | "Battle scene at sea"<br>1914. Ink wash. 53 x 31 cm<br>15,000 – 20,000 € 1,620 – 2,200   |      |   | 2286 | "Rich man and Lazarus"<br>1919. Watercolour. 25 x 22 cm<br>25,000 – 30,000 € 2,700 – 3,200   |
|      |  |      |   | 2287 | "The Pawnbroker"<br>1917. Watercolour. 28,5 x 23 cm<br>18,000 – 20,000 € 1,950 – 2,200   |





Lot No 2286 Rich man and Lazarus, 1919



Lot No 2261 Pirates II, 1921



Lot No 2287 The Pawnbroker, 1917



Lot No 2256 The Demon, 1918-19





Lot No 2253 *Self Portrait*, 1914