



PROANTIC  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Kurt Mühlenhaupt (1921-2006), Myself, Circa 1975



240 EUR

Signature : Kurt Mühlenhaupt (1921-2006)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 36 cm

Width : 32 cm

#### Description

Kurt Mühlenhaupt (1921 Klein Ziescht - 2006 Berlin), Myself,

c. 1975. Woodcut, 32 cm x 29

cm (image), 36.5 cm x 32.5 cm (sheet size),

signed in pencil lower right and

titled "Selbst." in the center.

- the right

margin area somewhat bumped, slight traces of creasing

- Inversion

-

Kurt

Mühlenhaupt depicts himself as a black figure

transcending the black picture

frame. By doing so, he reverses the aesthetics of

the woodcut. Instead of

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forming the lines of the otherwise bright face, the areas left standing are worked into the wood, giving the face an overall black appearance. This "anti-aesthetic," characteristic of Mühlenhaupt's art, introduces a new kind of realism to the picture. The eyes, beard, and cigarette stand out against the darkness, portraying Mühlenhaupt as an alert observer of a dark world.

#### About the artist

Kurt

Mühlenhaupt was born and raised in a leafy colony in the Tempelhof district. He initially completed an apprenticeship as a model maker. After being drafted into the Wehrmacht, he was wounded in the war. In 1943, he took Emmi Stahlmann's art course at the West Private Art School. During the final days of the war, he was called up again, this time as a "cripple," and was wounded once more, leaving a lifelong mark on him. From 1946 to 1949, Mühlenhaupt studied at the University of the Arts Berlin under Maximilian Debus. After Karl Schmidt-Rottluff rejected him, Mühlenhaupt experienced a deep crisis that led to his admission to the Buch mental hospital. After being released, he earned a living by breeding animals until opening a junk store in 1958. The following year, he opened the artists' pub "Leierkasten" in Kreuzberg. Starting in 1963, he organized picture markets in front of his store, which evolved into the Kreuzberg art market. In 1965, he set up a printing press, and by 1969, he was living exclusively off of art. In 1971, he founded the group of Berlin painter-poets with

Günter Grass, Aldona Gustas,  
Robert Wolfgang Schnell, and Wolfdietrich  
Schnurre. He acquired several farms  
to use as studios and moved to  
Bergsdorf-Zehdenick in 1990, where the  
Mühlenhaupt  
Museum is located today.