

MOÏSE KISLING: AN ARTISTIC JOURNEY FROM KRAKOW TO PARIS AND BEYOND

2 JUNE 2024 •



Moïse Kisling, born into a Jewish family in Krakow, Poland, defied his father's hopes for a future as an engineer, instead nurturing his ambition to become an artist. While studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, Kisling found inspiration and guidance from Jozef Pankiewicz, his mentor who had been influenced by Impressionism in Paris and considered the city the ultimate artistic paradise. Encouraged by Pankiewicz, Kisling set his sights on Paris, the epicenter of the art world, where the early 20th century saw the blossoming of various modern art movements, from Fauvism to Cubism. Around 1910, Montparnasse emerged as the hub of artistic activity in Paris.

Kisling, accompanied by a group of artists driven by their deep passion for art, settled in Paris from various corners of the world. They shared living spaces in attic lofts and cottages on the Left Bank of the Seine, coming from diverse cultural backgrounds and speaking different languages. Through this convergence, they gradually established a flexible, diverse, liberated, and creative microcosm.

The multitude of artistic styles they represented defied easy classification, leading art historians to collectively refer to them as the "School of Paris." Among the prominent figures of this movement were, among others, Pablo Picasso from Spain, Moïse Kisling from Poland, Marc Chagall from Russia, Chaïm Soutine from Belarus, Tsuguharu Foujita from Japan, and Amedeo Modigliani from Italy.



Moïse Kisling (1891-1953)

Jeune garçon, circa 1928

Estimate: 60000 / 90000 €

Kisling's artistic journey initially bore the influence of Paul Cézanne, André Derain, and the Cubist movement, with a profound emphasis on the structural aspects of imagery. He employed simplified forms, a subdued color palette, and dedicated himself to the depiction of figures, landscapes, and still lifes. However, a transformative change occurred after 1915, leading Kisling towards Expressionism. By the early 1920s, his painting style reached its maturity, combining precise

drawing with vibrant colors. His distinctive style often presented subjects in a clear and unembellished manner, highlighting the elegance of smooth, rounded forms and a vivid color palette. Moïse Kisling and his friend Amedeo Modigliani primarily depicted figures in their works. Their subjects, often portrayed without expression, ranged from friends and spouses to actresses, models, boys, and girls. Kisling's characters featured distinctive round faces, almond-shaped eyes, and delicate cherry-like mouths, a style perhaps influenced by the European tradition of doll-making. While some of his works depicted characters with pupils removed and entirely blackened eyes, an approach likely influenced by Amedeo Modigliani. Kisling's method of handling shadows set him apart, using strong contrasts and intricate details of light and shadow. This distinctive technique brought his characters to life, enhancing their three-dimensional presence.

Artist of the week: Moise (Moses) Kiesling

8-9 may 2013 at the auction of impressionist and modern auctions, the largest among the other "Russian" lots will be exhibited portrait and still life work of Moses Kiesling, a brilliant representative of the Paris school

first week of May is always an important time in the art market, because in this period the major auction houses Sotheby's and Christie's hold auction of Impressionist and Modern Art - an innovative European art of the late XIX - early XX century. Be sure to participate in these auctions work of artists of the Paris School, one of the brightest representatives of which was Moses Kiesling. "Prince of Montparnasse" (so titled French monograph about him Jacques Lambert), the hero of many studies and monographs, and is very popular on the art market in Europe and America and not enough known in Russian artist presented at upcoming auctions "Portrait of Madame Judis» (Sotheby's, May 8) and still life "Flowers in a green vase» (Christie's, May 9).



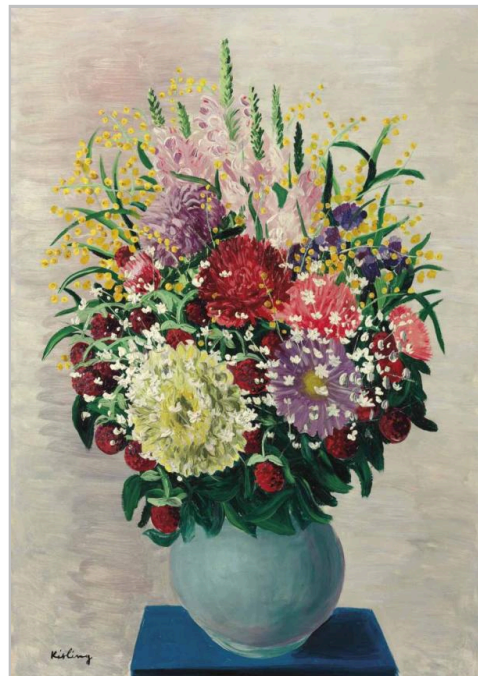
Moise Kiesling Portrait of Madame Judis. 1946

Oil on canvas. 55,6 x 38,1

Estimate: 30 000-40 000 dollars

Sotheby's. 08.05.2013. Lot 298

Source: sothebys.com



Moise Kiesling Flowers in a Green Vase. 1936

Oil on canvas. 55 x 38

Estimate: 60 000-80 000 dollars

Christie's. 09.05.2013. Lot 340

Source: christies.com

Moses Moise (Moses) Kiesling (in Montparnasse his name was Kiki) was the son of a tailor Krakow January 21, 1891. Art education at the School of Fine Arts in Krakow under the supervision of Joseph Pankevicha fairly well-known Polish artist. Pankevich traveled extensively in Europe, tried to work in the style of the major artistic movements of the time - Impressionism, and then different kinds of modernism (including expressionism, cubism, fauvism in part). He persuaded the young Kiesling that true art is created in Paris. Having followed his advice in 1910 Kiesling went to Paris, where he settled on the street Beaux Arts.

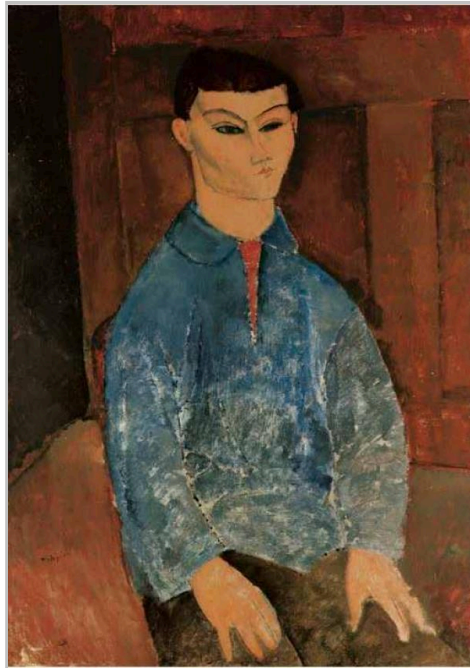
first time in France Kiesling was left without the help of his teacher: Pankevich provided him with a letter of recommendation to the Shalom Ashe (1880-1957), Jewish writer and playwright, he was able to find a patron to Kiesling, who agreed to pay him a scholarship to 150 francs a month the entire first year of residence in Paris.

second half of 1911, when the term of the agreement for the scholarship came to an end, Kiesling went to Sulphur - known to many artists town in the Pyrenees, where people came to work and master of the previous generation -

H. Matisse, A. Derain, and contemporaries Kisling - for example, by Pablo Picasso .

In 1912, Kiesling was lucky: in the same Sere he met with Adolf Basler, his first agent, which has agreed to purchase the work for 300 francs a month.

The following year, he returned to Paris, Kiesling settled in Montmartre, at No. 3 on the streets of Bar-Joseph, in the workshop, he spent 27 years, and before 1920 he shared it with Amedeo Modigliani.



Amedeo Modigliani

Sitting Moise Kisling. 1916
Oil on board. 104,8 x 74,9
Estimate: 6 000 000-8 000 000
Result: 5616000 dollars
Christies. 01.11.2005. Lot 44
Source: christies.com

Moise Kisling quickly entered the circle of artists of Montparnasse. At first, he was helped in this friendship with M. Jacob and their own artistry. Bang in the entire forehead, haircut "on Joan of Arc" and the eternal overalls he owed the nickname "Eskimo mechanic".

art historian Jean-Paul Krespel Kiesling calls "exception to the general masses artists, most of them are not quite so eccentric, or at least the originals - a practical joker who loved to hit only the imagination of his friends. " Among Picasso, C. Van Dongen, Modigliani, **O. Tsadkina** and **Survage** Kiesling starred in the famous "Yastrebtsova evenings" in the house **Sergei Yastrebtsova (better known under the pseudonym of Serge Fehr)** , and his cousin **d'Ettingen** , which was one of the central figures in the literary and artistic life in Montparnasse until 1914. Together with F. Leger, I. Ehrenburg, Modigliani, Braque J., L. Syurvazh and O. Zadkine he appeared at parties **Maria Vasilyeva** ; was a regular at the best establishments of Montparnasse, like " Rotunda "and" Jockey ". Popular were his own tricks that he arranged every Wednesday right in his workshop, they visited Modigliani, **Soutine** , A. Derain, H. Grice, J. Paskin, etc.

became famous Kiesling, however, not only for its bonvivantism. Fame (with the help of the press) got his duel with the artist L. Gottlieb, held on June 12, 1914. Gottlieb volunteered to be seconded itself Diego Rivera, and this gave the event a special interest in the eyes of the public. The reason for the duel was not disclosed, so far we only know that it was a "matter of honor." Artists have agreed to fight to the first blood. Fight took place on the outskirts of Paris, a large gathering of witnesses and reporters. Kiesling was even slightly injured and proudly showed his wound photographers.

hard to believe that this way of life does not affect his work routine. To his creativity and the fabric of life Kiesling always treated very seriously. About Modigliani, with whom they had shared studio, Kiesling disapproving used to

say: "When you get to live two hundred francs a month, and one hundred ninety spend on booze and drugs - you find yourself in poverty».



Moise Kisling Still-life with fruit. 1912

Oil on canvas. 65 x 81

Estimate: 50 000-70 000 euros

Result: 88,179 euros

ArtCurial. 24.10.2012. Lot 386

Source: artcurial.com

outbreak of World War II, apparently caught Kisling in Belgium, where he went in 1914 to go along with his agent A. Basler. At the first opportunity Kiesling returned to Paris and joined the Foreign Legion, which included fought until 1915, was seriously injured in the Somme, he was forced to return from the front.

In 1915, for their courage on the front of Moise Kisling received French citizenship.

Next, in 1916 became Kisling special. After returning from the hospital in Paris, to his own surprise, he became the owner of the inheritance 25,000 francs left him dead in the First World American sculptor Chapman, a friend Kisling times the pre-war Montparnasse fun exploring the institutions. Starting out as a volunteer in the French army, Chapman prudently made a will in which the plug and Kiesling. After receiving an inheritance Kiesling made a little trip to Spain.

the spring of 1916, he met with Rene Gros, a student of the Academy of Arts Ranson, the daughter of the commander of the Republican Army. Their wedding is August 12, 1917 was one of the most memorable celebrations of Montparnasse. Her celebrated for three days, moving from restaurants and other establishments in the studio Kisling, where guests danced to the then fashionable gramophone. Recall that Max Jacob sang a song, imitating artists from kafeshantanov and Modigliani decided to depict the ghost of "Macbeth", wrapped in a sheet with the marriage bed (by the way, the main element of the bride's dowry), for which he was put out. In the postwar years, almost to the end of the 1930s in Montparnasse and weeks went by without any costume or receiving the ball, and few of them did without Kisling ...

But not lived Kiesling only the art and fun in 1918's Gran Shomer, he opened a restaurant serving Polish cuisine "Vajiha", according to Crespel, who had some popularity.

In November 1919, in the gallery "Drouot" a very successful first solo exhibition Kisling: it showed the early stuff, time, hobbies Cézanne, Cubism - in other words, the time of the search of his identity. Stylistically, the work has not yet determined the early period presented to the public a "set" of genres that will prevail in the works Kisling all subsequent years - still life (mostly floral), the landscape and, of course, nude.



Moise Kisling Provencal landscape. 1918

Oil on canvas. 54 x 66

Estimate: 20 000-30 000 euros

Result: 26 500 euros

Artcurial-Briest-Le Fur-Poulain-F.Tajan Paris.

10.12.2002

Lot 500 Source: [wikipaintings.org](http://www.wikipaintings.org)

Moise Kisling Portrait of Jean Cocteau. 1916

Oil on canvas. 73 x 60

Petit Palais, Geneva, Switzerland

Source: [wikipaintings.org](http://www.wikipaintings.org)

It is becoming a popular and sought-after artist Jean Cocteau him posing, M. Laurence, with the famous Kiki of Montparnasse. His exhibitions are held in numerous galleries in Paris and throughout Europe.

In 1920, the total studio and friendship with Modigliani, having a clear personal vision of art, have helped Kiesling develop their own artistic language - lyrical expressionism, a much more realistic than Modigliani's style, sometimes even coming to the salon and have exaggerated naturalism.



Moise Kisling Kiki from décolleté 1918

Oil on canvas. 55 x 38,1

Estimate: 40 000-60 000 dollars

Christie's. 2.11.2011. Lot 414

Source: ■

Moise Kisling Nude. 1920

Oil on canvas. 73 x 54

Estimate: 50 000-70 000 dollars

Result: 68,500 dollars

Christie's. 09.11.1999. Lot 322

Source:

As in most works by Modigliani, in the nude, and portraits Kisling dominated by elongated lines, elongated body proportions in simplified to the extreme background. His work is uneventful, there is no movement, everything and everyone - man and nature - self-absorbed. Especially highlighted people's faces - a limp and a pensive expression looking (inward), a huge, wide-eyed with languishing. Vigor of his paintings makes perhaps the only color - bright, contrasting, vibrant and glowing colors of his works practically do not mix, but only a hazy along the

lines of contour drawing. Perhaps this is a contradictory balance between tranquility and static nature of the plot and exuberance, dynamism and liveliness of colors in the works Kisling catches the viewer's eye and allows you to emphasize his paintings of the total number of works by artists of the "second tier" (which some researchers attribute of our today's hero).

In 1913, Moise first arrived in Sanary-sur-Mer, a seaside town in Provence, and then come back here every summer to work on. Those summer arrivals earned him the nickname of L. Fujita "Summer Kiki", in contrast to the "Winter-Kiki" Van Dongen and just "Kiki" - Model with Montparnasse: « *Winter-Kiki envelops its splendor luxurious white beard. Spends the night in a luxurious mansion, surrounded by thousands of secular lions and lionesses. Summer Kiki sits near two frolicking boys, smoking a pipe and dreams about something in his villa in the Midi. Three Kiki - Kiki Van Dongen, Kiesling and Kiki Kiki Kiki - the world-famous celebrities and truly delicious* ».

wife of artist Rene and his sons Guy and Jean regularly lived in Sanary all 1920, and in 1932, Moise and Renee bought a house in Sanary «La Baie» with workshop and views of the Gulf of Bandol. Hence, in 1940, after the capitulation of the French army, he, along with his wife and two children fled to Spain and Portugal, and later moved to New York and then settled in California.

In New York and Washington, with the success of his show going. He has worked as a portrait painter, received a large number of orders. Stylistically, the portraits of the period are slightly different from their predecessors: they are an artist much more inclined to realism than in earlier works, but kislingovskaya otherworldly dreaminess in the look model remained the same. At the same time, the artist has written numerous still lifes with his favorite motif - mimosa.

In 1946, Kiesling returned from America to his home in Sanary-sur-Mer. In this house lived Kiesling until his death on April 29, 1953. The street on which the «La Baie», named after the artist.

Today Kiesling quite in demand and collectors, and the public, his works often appear in the catalogs of the most respectable auction houses major museums and exhibitions world.



Moise Kisling

Miriam. 1950 Oil on canvas. 162 x 97
Estimate: 800-158 105 700 dollars
Result: 191,762 dollar
ArtCurial. 21.03.2012. Lot 29
Source: artcurial.com



Moise Kisling Still life fish. 1929

Oil on canvas. 81.5 x 100
Sovcom. 25.10.12. Lot 75
Estimate: 3200 000-4 800 000 rubles
Result: 3,000,000 rubles
Source: sovcom.ru

market works Kisling has experienced in the last decade, several waves of ups and downs. The peak of his work was the beginning of the 1990s and 2006, the second, increasing in value art Kisling and today (8.21% (08.02.2013) increased yield works by the artist in 2013, according to an index Artist's ARTIMXp Painting).

Article "10 most successful investments. Russian art in the medium term, », covering the sale of the whole of 2012 and beginning of 2013, Al led the work Kisling" Miriam "as one of the examples of competent actions of the

investor.

A "Still Life with Fish" with a score of 3,000,000 rubles, a 20 th place in the [list of most expensive paintings sold at auction in Russia in 2012](#) .



Moise Kisling Bouquet of mimosa.

Around 1930

Oil on canvas. 73 x 53,6

Estimate: 000-250 180 000 dollars

Result: 446,500 dollars

Christie's. 4.11.2010. Lot 414

Source: christies.com

Kisling was a very prolific artist. The database ARTInvestment.RU recorded more than 800 works (of which more than 650 - painting), which are put up for auction in the last few years. The record price for the work Kisling was established June 19, 1989 in the course of the French auction house Ader-Picard-Tajan: for still life "Vase of Flowers" (1930) was paid 3.5 million francs, or 584,150 dollars. Of the more recent results it is worth mentioning the sale of "Bouquet of mimosa" (circa 1930) November 4, 2010 by auction house Christie's: the final price for this still life was 446,500 dollars.

As already mentioned, the work Kisling will be sold May 8 and 9 auction houses Christie's and Sotheby's. And I think we may be waiting for new interesting results.

Maria Kuznetsova, AI

Sources : ru.ecoledeparis.org , modernartconsulting.ru , eleven.co.il , artinvestment.ru , Kiki's Memoirs.

Salamandra PVV, 2011; *Jean-Paul Krespel* Everyday life in the great age of Montparnasse. 1905-1930 years. M., 2000, School of Paris. Exhibition catalog. M., 2011

The renovated

Permanent event at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Tel Aviv, Israel

22 DECEMBER 2017



The renovated. Courtesy of Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Tel Aviv Museum of Art presents the renovated Simon and Marie Jaglom Collection, which includes stunning masterpieces by renowned artists, among them Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Amedeo Modigliani, Henri Matisse, Moise Kisling, Marc Chagall and others.

The new display, in the pavilion named after the Jagloms since its opening in 1971, features mostly Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. These two movements developed in France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and are regarded as the heralds of Modernism. This period, which influenced the history of art heavily, was characterized by unprecedented openness and tolerance.

The Jaglom Collection includes stunning masterpieces by renowned artists—among them Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Amedeo Modigliani, Henri Matisse, Henri-Edmond Cross, Chaim Soutine and Moise Kisling—alongside works by artists like Max Liebermann, Lesser Uri and Lovis Corinth who represent turn-of-the-century German Impressionism, which blended elements of French Impressionism with features of the more academic German school, characterized by dark color, distinct formalism and uniform color palettes. Also featured are Marc Chagall, whose work combined motifs from Jewish and Russian folklore alongside historical and autobiographical elements; Moshe Kogan, who was murdered in Auschwitz; and works that have not been on display for a long time, among them Portrait of a Woman by Eugen Spiro and A Girl against a Red Background by Moise Kisling.

The renovated display offers the public a fantastic opportunity to enjoy world-renowned masterpieces in their new, colorful setting. A new booklet is available free of charge at the entrance to the pavilion, with annotations about a selection of these important works of art.

The renovation of the pavilion was made through the generosity and cooperation of the Simon and Marie Jaglom Foundation.

Email

Share

Tweet

Share

Pin

Share



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Tel Aviv Museum of Art is a municipal museum, one of Israel's leading artistic and cultural institutions. The museum comprises various departments: The Department of Israeli Art, which holds a comprehensive collection of local art from the beginning of the 20th century to the present; the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art, which encompasses international works from the mid-19th century to the present; the Department of Prints and Drawings; the Department of Photography; the Department of Architecture and Design; and the Old Masters Department, with art from the 16th to the 19th century.

Museum profile

Location
Tel Aviv, Israel

Founded in
1932





1. The renovated. Courtesy of Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2. The renovated. Courtesy of Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Moïse Kisling – Israeli Artist

Home / Moïse Kisling – Israeli Artist



Moïse_Kisling international artist

French-Polish Artist Born 1891 Krakow, Austria-Hungary – Died 1953 Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, France

[View his Art Work](#)

Moïse Kisling is a Polish-born artist, who was a central member of the School of Paris of the first half of the 20th century. The artist is famous for surreal portraits and post-impressionistic landscapes. His works are fragile and bright. Kisling was a part of the artistic society of Paris of that time. He was a friend of Amedeo Modigliani, both artists had a major influence on each other's style.



Early Life

Born to Jewish family in Krakow, Kisling studied at the Academy of Fine Arts there. His departure to France was the merit of his professors, especially, by Józef Pankiewicz. Pankiewicz during his creative life experimented in various artistic directions (from impressionism to cubism), he advised to the young painter to go to Paris.

In Paris, Kisling settled in Montmartre and did not miss a single more or less significant event in the bohemian environment.

Moreover, often he himself became the initiator of these events. Once, photographs of the bloody face of a young artist were in many Parisian newspapers and magazines. This happened after a duel with his colleague Leopold Gottlieb, whose second was famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera. None of the duelists, fortunately, was seriously injured, but this story, which went beyond the usual limits even in extravagant Montmartre, received the wide publicity.

With the outbreak of World War I, Kisling enrolled in the Foreign Legion. He was seriously wounded in the Battle of Somme (1916). The artist was granted French citizenship. In 1940, because of the occupation of France, the painter moved to New York, however, only for 6 years.

Over the years,

His artistic style developed, unique shapes and forms appeared. Female portraits, nudes and almost fovistic landscapes made the painter widely known.

The artist lived on the strict schedule: started his work at exactly 9 am, always broke for lunch, and then painted again until the evening. However, the schedule did not prevent him from maintaining relationships with friends and colleagues. Frequent guests of Kisling's Montparnasse studio were his friends Pablo Picasso and Amedeo Modigliani, whose studio was next door.

The artist simplified and rounded the forms, at the same time showing his heroines in a very "earthly" way. His landscapes are often compared to the works of Marc Chagall. Blocky figures with wide-set limbs and half-closed eyes give to the works a slightly dollish appearance.

Although





Kisling was the highly passionate artist, one of his main values was family. Rene, whom he met in 1916, was by his side throughout his life. After coming back to France from the USA, Kisling finally settled with Rene and children in his own house in the town of Sanary-sur-Mer. There the artist lived until his death in 1953. Nowadays the street, on which he lived, is named after him.

You can find a large selection of his artwork in [Kings Gallery](#).

Kings Gallery is a leading fine art gallery established in Jerusalem in 1995 that strives to collect and sell the highest quality historic and contemporary Israeli and International art.



10 Shlomzion Hamalka st, Jerusalem 9414610
+ (972) 50 258 8951

 [Accessibility Statement](#)

Links

[HOME](#)

[ARTSY](#)

[COLLECTIONS](#)

Info

[SUBMIT YOUR ART](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[VISIT](#)

[ABOUT THE OWNER](#)

Social

[FACEBOOK](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[LINKEDIN](#)

NTL OF NYC © 2025. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

