

WHY WE CHOSE THIS MASTERPIECE

Rudolf Stingel (b. 1956)

Stingel counts as one of the most relevant living artists at the moment and, other than most of his contemporaries, he already enjoys vast academic recognition: Stingel's importance as an artist has been widely recognized among museum and institutions internationally and his work adorns the Francois Pinault Collection, the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Tate Modern, London, the Beyeler Foundation, Basel, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Whitney, New York, to name a few. This institutional 'backing' as it is often referred to is an essential pillar for future market stability and price growth. In fact, Stingel boasts with a solid primary and secondary market since over two decades. Represented by major galleries like Gagosian, Paula Cooper Gallery and Massimo de Carlo, his works are sold to the most important collectors around the globe.

Oil on canvas

Born in Merano in the South Italian Tyrol, and spending much of his childhood in Vienna, Rudolf Stingel's introduction to art was defined by a unique hybridity of Baroque and Rococo aesthetics. Today, these influences echo throughout Stingel's work and transform his monochrome works in mysteriously flamboyant and theatrical visual experiences. Especially his paintings in oil capture this sentiment and form up to 86% of his total auction turnover of 243 million USD since 2000. With over 90% of Stingel's paintings turnover sold within the last fifteen years, his auction market shows growth and significant upward potential within the next five years.

2006-2015

Nine out of ten of the most successful sales at auction are paintings created between 2006 and 2015, showing a clear market preference for this period. While the average price for all of his works is over 690 thousand USD, the average price for paintings from 2006 to 2015 almost doubles and reaches over 1.1 million USD. Unsurprisingly, a work from 2006, 'Untitled (After Sam)', sets the artist auction record at 10.5 million USD. Yet, it is important to note that many of Stingel's most successful sales still happen on the primary market, which is the market for art sold directly from the artist to the first owner via a gallery or advisor. Other than the secondary market, which is the market from the first or any subsequent owner to the next and which includes auctions, primary market transactions are not public and lack complete data. Thanks to Artemundi's extensive network, however, we were able to obtain relevant sale prices from primary market transactions that further confirm the significant built-in gain at which the present artwork is offered.

Untitled

With a scarcely visible fleeting perspective, this oil on canvas by Stingel encapsulates the style he became famous for: the monochromatic *Untitled* from 2009 depicts in black and dark grey tones an ornamented space that seems to disappear into a far away and hardly perceivable horizon. The ornamented pattern strongly recalls Rococo designs that he often incorporates in his creations and that transform his works in timeless art historical interpretations. Although the work is massive in scale, the perspective that Stingel provides to the viewer seems reduced and creates the impression of an even bigger space beyond the canvas. Here, Stingel consciously challenges the notion of painting and creates a work that is both fine art and conceptual creation.

(Sources: Artemundi 2025, Artprice 2025)