

# AUREL SCHEIBLER

Ernst Wilhelm Nay

TEFAF Curated – La Grande Horizontale

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Sleeping Woman II, 1942, gouache and watercolour on paper



Woman at Cliff, 1944, gouache and watercolour on paper

**Maastricht** – As part of the Curated Section at TEFAF Maastricht 2017, Aurel Scheibler in collaboration with the Ernst Wilhelm Nay Foundation in Cologne is pleased to present a rarely seen group of drawings and gouaches by the German artist Ernst Wilhelm Nay (1902-1968) from the period of 1942 to 1945 accompanied by a painting from 1967.

Locating these works in an environment showing art of the highest quality extending from prehistory to the current day seems more crucial today than ever. That they are timeless character yet manifest the particular time of their genesis thus becomes more than evident.

As a cartographer and soldier in occupied France, Nay met with encouragement and friendship, while in his own country he was ostracised and prohibited from working and exhibiting. This situation put him in a position to create compelling works which, as Siegfried Gohr describes in his essay, hover between threat and utopia. About 300 works on paper and 40 oil paintings have been preserved from that period of time. The gouaches and watercolours, most of them small format, and the drawings on sketchbook paper are like sublime miniatures from another era. In his gouaches dating from 1942 to 1945 Nay struggled for a colourfulness that was visionary and singular both for him and his era, linking up as it does with the painting of the Danube School. The resulting works are among the major treasures of 20th century art. Yet a public and institutional engagement with Nay's period in France is still outstanding, seventy years after these works were made.

In the painting shown here from the year 1967, *Metablau*, the figurative and, in this case, the motif of reclining is like an anchor to a primal form which Nay sought to track down in his late works. It links his art with the great world cultures of the early history.