

Max Moser, Autumn in the Forest, 1946, tempera on paper, 31.2 x 43.8 cm, signed lower right „Moser“, inscribed verso „ORIGINAL VON MAX THEO MOSER. / – MITTENWALD. / = HERBST IM WALD = / TEMPERA 1946.“, unframed. Condition: overall still good, but with some creases and missing pieces that could be repaired.

The picture was provided – in museum quality – with a new passe-partout (50 x 65 cm) of the company HALBE. A fitting frame – in museum quality – with museum glass (anti-reflective, very high UV protection, anti-static, abrasion resistant) of the company HALBE can be provided on request.

Little is known about the life and work of Max Theodor Moser (Glauchau 1880 – 1965 Innsbruck). He seems to have spent some time in Munich, but lived and worked for most of his artistic career in Tyrol and Innsbruck. In 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917, and 1919, he created watercolor illustrations for the influential magazine *Jugend*, which were then used as vignettes in the magazine to illustrate poems and stories. Some of these vignettes were auctioned in Berlin in 1912.

On November 28, 1928, the Innsbrucker Nachrichten newspaper praised him: "The watercolors on display at Czichna by the painter Max Moser, Innsbruck, reveal a great joy of color, which may not always fully conform to the given mood, but all the paintings, such as the delicately painted 'Nockspitze' or 'Aus dem Stubai,' point to an aspiring, independent talent." And for the publication *Alpenheimat. Familienkalender für Stadt und Land* (Alpine Homeland: Family Calendar for Town and Country), he created the monthly pictures for 1940 and 1941.

During the Nazi era, Moser behaved in an extremely conformist manner. In 1939, he participated in the annual exhibition of the Association of Visual Artists of Tyrol at the Taxishof in Innsbruck, and in 1940, 1943, and 1944, he participated in the Gau art exhibitions of Tyrol-Vorarlberg. And on April 11, 1938, the Innsbrucker Nachrichten newspaper reported: "Artistic decoration of an Innsbruck restaurant. The banquet hall of the Großgasthof 'Grauer Bär' in Innsbruck was decorated with a 2.5-meter-high painting by the academic painter Max Moser, Innsbruck, depicting the Führer."

This tempera painting from 1946 appears to have been created during an autumn excursion to Mittenwald, not far from Tyrol. The play of light and shadow from the low autumn sun is rendered in an almost impressionistic manner. It appears to be early autumn in the mountain forest, as browned leaves on the ground contrast with the green-yellowish leaves on the trees.