George Grosz (Berlin 1893 - Berlin 1959)

Schieber, 1923
Pen and ink on yellow Velin paper

Verso: drawing of female profil

455 x 248 mm.

Signed in pencil lower right, verso Estate stamp

With a fax certificate by Ralph Jentsch.

Artist description:
George Grosz was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1893. After studying art in Dresden and Berlin he began

contributing cartoons to German journals such as "Ulk" and "Lustige Blatter".

On the outbreak of the First World War Grosz was conscripted into the German Army. A strong opponent of the war, he was eventually released as unfit for duty. However, the following year, desperate for soldiers, Grosz was called up again. Kept from frontline action, Grosz was used to transport and guard prisoners of war.

After trying to commit suicide in 1917, Grosz was placed in an army hospital. It was decided to execute Grosz but he was saved by the intervention of one of his patrons, Count Kessler. Grosz was now diagnosed as suffering from shell-shock and was discharged from the German Army.

In 1917, Grosz joined with John Heartfield in protesting about the German wartime propaganda campaign against the allies. This included anti-war drawings such as "Fit for Active Service" (1918), in which a well-fed doctor pronounces a skeleton fit for duty.

After the Armistice Grosz was active in left-wing politics and contributed to communist journals published by Malik-Verlag. He also joined with artists such as John Heartfield, Otto Dix, Max Ernst, Kurt Schwitters to form the German Dada group. Grosz's drawings often attacked members of the government and important business leaders. Grosz was taken to court several times but although heavily fined, managed to escape imprisonment. Grosz's collected drawings, "The Face of the Ruling Class" (1921) and "Ecce Homo" (1927), earned him an international reputation as a politically committed artist.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s Grosz directed his attacks against Aldof Hitler and the Nazi Party. In 1932 Grosz was forced to flee from Nazi Germany and after settling in the United States became a naturalized citizen in 1938.

His memoirs, The Autobiography of George Grosz was published in 1955. George Grosz returned to Germany in 1959, saying "My American dream turned out to be a soap bubble". He died shortly after his arrival following a fall down a flight of stairs.