



Press Release

The Wegerich Fine Art Collection forges a partnership with Boxen1.com, Germany's most popular boxing portal

9 August 2021: Boxen1.com, Germany's largest boxing portal with up to 75,000 views per day, has joined up with the Wegerich Fine Art Collection, which specializes in contemporary boxing-related art, to introduce a new section devoted to "Boxing in Art": each week, an artwork from the Wegerich Collection will be introduced on its social media channels.

The pieces, which will be introduced weekly, will be published on Boxen1.com using both logos. The goal of this joint initiative is to introduce the subject of "boxing and art" to a broader audience and highlight it as a unique fine art genre.

The first artwork which Boxen1.com will show its followers is a painting of the rematch between Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin by famous boxing artist Richard T. Slone. This middle-weight world championship bout took place on 15 September 2018 at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, with Alvarez winning by majority decision. The original artwork was featured on the cover of the well-known British boxing magazine "BoxingNews," as well as in the American boxing magazine "The Ring," a publication which is considered by fans to be the "boxing bible."

Combat sports like boxing are portrayed in the visual arts far more frequently than in other disciplines. Since ancient times, visual artists have been fascinated by sports like wrestling and boxing, and they are joined today by writers, photographers and directors. All have been inspired by the protagonists of these bouts, including great artists like the painters George Bellows and George Grosz and the sculptor Renée Sintenis. Bertold Brecht and Belgian art historian Jan Hoet, curator of the Documenta IX exhibition, were also self-proclaimed boxing fans. While perhaps not as significant from the perspective of art history, the artists who paint today's sports legends are no less successful and one of the best-known among them is Richard T. Slone, a British painter living in Las Vegas. Slone has been the official painter of the International Boxing Hall of Fame since 1997 and his works have appeared on the cover of the American boxing magazine "The Ring" on numerous occasions. Working as an independent artist as well as in works commissioned by boxing promoters, he has portrayed many of the greatest boxers of recent decades, including Muhammad

Ali, Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather and many others, among them boxers who are famous in Germany. For example, he designed the cover art for *The Ring* portraying the bout between Wladimir Klitschko and David Haye in 2011.

The Wegerich Fine Art Collection owns many of his works, as well as a large number of historic pieces which appeared on the cover of the *The Ring* in the 1930's and 1940's, including an original cover image from 1936 portraying Max Schmeling, whom *The Ring* hailed at the time as the "man of the hour" after his historic victory over American boxer Joe Louis.

These works will now be gradually introduced to a broader audience of boxing fans.

Jonny Orban of the boxing portal Boxen1.com commented as follows: "We are very pleased to be working together with Ingo Wegerich. Boxing has always been a part of art and culture, although it has frequently flown "under the radar," which is a big shame. We are therefore all the more excited to present the works of the Wegerich Fine Art Collection to our readers and followers."

Ingo Wegerich commented as follows: "I am also very pleased to be working with Boxen1.com. Art and boxing have a very long tradition. These works portray big fights and great fighters and are therefore part of contemporary history: anyone who sees them can feel the emotion. The Wegerich Fine Art Collection hopes to focus public attention on art and boxing and Boxen1.com is an ideal partner for this endeavor, with up to 75,000 views per day."

About the art collection: the Ingo Wegerich Fine Art Collection

The Ingo Wegerich Fine Art Collection is an art collection specializing in contemporary boxing-related art. What makes this collection unique is that its pieces, all of them originals, are not only of high artistic quality but also have relevance as contemporary history, as they show major historic bouts and fighters who have inspired many. One need think only of the boxing matches in the 1930's, when Joe Louis faced off against Max Schmeling and millions of people sat in front of their radio sets following the match. Many of the originals were also featured on the covers of international boxing magazines or on the covers of the official programs for the fights. In other words, these pieces not only tell a story, but are themselves contemporary history. The collection is one of the most extensive of its kind and includes artwork from the 1930's to the present. Many of the more recent pieces were signed by the fighters themselves, in some cases right after the fights they portray, making them even more historic and valuable.

About the boxing portal: Boxen1.com

BOXEN1.com is a German-language boxing portal designed for all fans and lovers of professional and amateur boxing. Boxen1 has up to 75,000 visitors per day on its website and up to one million visitors per month. No other German-language boxing website today has more daily views than Boxen1.com. In September 2019, BOXEN1 received the German Boxing Award "HERQUL" in the category of "best print and online reporting." BOXEN1 is a non-profit company through and through, ensuring that its reporting is absolutely objective. All of its employees are volunteers, from the editor-in-chief down to the copy editors. Boxen1 earns no advertising revenues from ads or banners and has therefore been completely ad-free from the beginning. Boxen1 maintains relationships with all major German boxing promoters, including Sauerland Event, SES Steinforth, EC Boxing, Petkos Boxpromotion, Wiking Boxteam, Agon Sports, Huck Sportpromotion, World Boxing Super Series (WBSS) and others. Boxen1 also has a partnership with the German sports TV channel "Sport1," as well as with the streaming portals DAZN (www.dazn.com) and ranfighting (www.ranfighting.de).

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