

# Ingo's gallery



I KNOW of a few collectors, but all in all I think it's the biggest [boxing art] collection in the world," says

Ingo Wegerich of the Frankfurt-based Wegerich Fine Art Collection.

"From LeRoy Neiman I have four artworks, and people have more from Neiman. I didn't say [my collection is] the most expensive. [There exist elsewhere] old artworks from George Bellows and Thomas Eakins, for which you maybe pay millions for a single artwork.

"Mine is all originals. *Ring* [Magazine] covers from the '30s up to the *Boxing News* covers now – there's no other collection in this volume."

Wegerich, a 54-year-old lawyer from Lubeck, Germany, will have a total of 97 artworks by the conclusion of the coming International Boxing Hall of Fame weekend. He has already paid the respected Richard T. Slone for the painting Slone is planning to commemorate his friend Ricky Hatton's induction into the IBHOF, and has booked to be in Canastota in June, such was the impression made on him by the atmosphere surrounding Hatton's fight with Manny Pacquiao in 2009 – the

**The Instagram account for the Wegerich Fine Art Collection will soon pass 70,000 followers because, its owner believes, there is a growing interest in boxing art that he hopes to satisfy via staging exhibitions in Germany, the US, and the UK**

**BITTEN BY THE BUG: Wegerich started buying boxing artwork in 2017 and now believes he has the world's biggest collection**

second occasion Wegerich had travelled to Las Vegas to attend a big fight.

"I knew about Richard, and I met him the first time I was in Las Vegas, for the [in 2008, Bernard] Hopkins-[Joe] Calzaghe fight," Wegerich explained.

"I'm a boxing lover and an art lover. The first piece I bought was the [in 2017, first Saul Alvarez] Canelo-[Gennady] Golovkin artwork, which was a *Ring* cover. When I was there for Canelo-Golovkin I contacted him, and we negotiated the price. Primarily he sells to the fighters. I'd seen the *Ring* cover [of Canelo-Golovkin], but it's totally different – when you see a huge artwork in front of you, showing you these emotions, it's really unbelievable.

"I love art – I go to art museums – but I'm not an art collector collecting [numerous] famous artists. It just started with the first piece. I try to have artworks that are on a cover. You have a lot of *Ring* covers; a lot of *Boxing News* covers. A lot of official programme covers; ticket artworks; fight poster artworks; official Hall of Fame artworks. I have 30 Hall of Fame artworks in my collection.

"I met Floyd Mayweather; Mike Tyson; I met Canelo and Golovkin, and then I found out that Golovkin was unhappy that he hadn't had an opportunity to buy [the painting that started my collection]."

Wegerich has also already made plans to attend the fight in February in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia between Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk. If that fight will determine the finest heavyweight of the modern era, among his growing collection is one from the finest heavyweight of all time.

"One is painted by Muhammad Ali himself," he says. "It's called Two Religions, and he said it was a comparison of Christianity and Islam. It's the most political artwork from him.

"It's the most expensive artwork in my collection. [But] I bought it for much less than it's worth. Someone asked me if I wanted to sell it and I said I would sell it for millions. I don't want to sell it. Ali is a very historic person. I paid high five-figures. Nobody was interested in the auction of this piece, so I was able to buy it for this money but I would never sell it for this money. It was an online auction, from Bonhams [in New York].

"From 1933 is the oldest artwork in my collection. I [also] like getting some artworks signed. Normally you don't sign an artwork, but I think it's different – it's a historical piece. It's a fight that's really happened – it's not only art; it's not only boxing; it's got a lot of history about it. The signature of a fighter on this piece – it's like a historic document."

Photos: MALTE PLUTAT





**TALENTED ARTISTS:**  
The work of Slone  
and Neiman have  
long been held in  
high regard



## Different strokes for different folks

"If you're a boxing fan and you love the dynamic and emotions, then Richard [Slone] is better [than LeRoy Neiman]," believes Ingo Wegerich. "This is why boxing people love him. Neiman has his own style, and is very colourful. Neiman is [historically] more an artist. Richard painted a Ring cover for the 50 year [anniversary of Muhammad] Ali-[Joe]Frazier. He painted in memory of Neiman in the style of Neiman. The question is which style you love."

