

Preface

The present exhibition *The Lure of Still Life* is a cisalpine and transalpine enterprise, organized by Jacopo Lorenzelli of Bergamo and Eckard Lingenauber of Düsseldorf and Paris. Allow me to start with some words about them.

For chronological reasons I will begin with Lorenzelli, whose grandfather Bruno, founder of the gallery in 1950 and father Pietro Lorenzelli I knew during many decades. Both have passed away. Pietro, called Popi by his friends, dealt on a large scale in flower pieces and still lives. Despite his much too short life he became a most important collector in an incredible number of fields, among them the one to which this exhibition is dedicated. He also formed extensive collections of Roman Antique glasses, Pre-Columbian Pottery, numismatics, keys from antiquity onwards, old German stoneware and African sculptures. On top of that, Pietro Lorenzelli published a series of catalogues and books, practically a whole library. These international important collections formed the most fruitful milieu in which Jacopo Lorenzelli grew up, taking part from early years in the study and publishing of them. It has left a mark on him.

Since his early activities I have followed Eckard Lingenauber, who started as a dealer in 1974. Like the Lorenzellis he is fascinated by flower-pieces and still lives of the seventeenth century. I have lived by now quite a long life with this same fascination. From the beginning, the early, formative years of the masters have captivated my mind. To me in a way it is the same as with many people active as collectors or dealers. I may just say, that I have very much enjoyed following Eckard Lingenauber, going from strength to strength.

I believe the joint-venture of Lingenauber and Lorenzelli to be a promising one.

The acquisition of just a single Old Master still life, or the creation of a whole collection of such works of art has become a need during the last half century to an increasing number of people on both sides of the Atlantic. Typical of many of those who are collecting in the field, is that they become more and more dedicated students of it. This enhances the enjoyment of their treasures.

The *Lure of Still Life* offers a gorgeous choice of much of the finest, most attractive Dutch, Flemish, Italian and German paintings. When you visit the exhibition take your time. You will be richly rewarded.

Göteborg, January 1995

Ingvar Bergström