LOT 96
ALEXEJ VON JAWLENSKY
1864 - 1941
KÖPFE: 6 LITHOGRAPHIEN (ROSENBACH 18-23)
The rare complete set, comprising six lithographs, one of a few handcoloured examples heightened in blue, green, yellow, and pink watercolour, 1922, each plate signed in pencil, numbered 60, from the edition of 100, with title page inscribed 'Diese Mappe ist mit besondere Liebe für Herrn Otto Ralfs von wir koloriert', and 'Eigenhändig koloriert', and signed twice, printed by Vereinigte Druckereien, published by Nassauischer Kunstverein, Weisbaden, on smooth cream japan(?) paper, framed, with original blue canvas-covered portfolio with gold lettering and justification sticker inside the front cover, numbered 60 in ink and inscribed as Otto Ralfs' copy
each sheet: approx. 498 by 400mm  19 5/8 by 15 3/4 in
portfolio: 513 by 415mm  20 1/8 by 16 3/8 in

ESTIMATION 80,000-120,000 GBP
EXPOSITIONS
Berlin, Akademie der Künste, John Cage und … Bildender Künstler, 30th March - 17th June 2012;
Salzburg, Museum der Moderne, John Cage und … Bildender Künstler, 14th July - 7th October 2012.

NOTE DE CATALOGUE
Rosenbach states that copies 1-20 were printed on kaiserlich japan paper, and 21-100 were printed on Bütten.

The complete hand-coloured portfolio of this series is extremely rare; no other examples have been offered at auction in the last twenty years.

Concerning these Köpfe, Jawlensky wrote:
I painted these ‘variations’ for some years, and then I found it necessary to find form for the face, because I had come to understand that great art can only be painted with religious feeling. And that I could only bring to the human face...They are technically very perfect and radiate great spirituality’. (Alexej von Jawlensky in letter to Pater Willibrord Verkade, June 12, 1939).

Otto Ralfs, to whom this particular portfolio is dedicated, was an important collector and gallery owner whom Jawlensky visited in Braunschweig in 1923, and several times thereafter. This first visit is recorded in the gallery’s guestbook, Gästebuch Otto Ralfs, which also includes the sketches and texts of Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, and Lyonel Feininger. This is now kept in the Stadtischen Museum, Braunschweig.