



Heinrich Kühn (Austrian, born Germany, 1866–1944)

The Artist's Umbrella (Der Malschirm)

1908

Photogravure

Alfred Stieglitz Collection

AIC accession number: 1949.863

Stieglitz Estate number: N/A

Inscriptions: Signed recto, lower right, below image, in graphite: "Heinrich Kühn -"; inscribed verso, upper right, sideways, in graphite: "1" [encircled]; verso, lower left, sideways, in graphite: "191" [underlined]

Dimensions: 22.8 x 28.5 cm (image); 33.1 x 40 cm (paper)

Print thickness: 0.244 mm

Surface sheen: Low gloss (3.2 GU @ 85°)

Paper tone: L*84.76, a*3.32, b*15.55

Mount: Unmounted

Mount tone: N/A

Ultraviolet-induced (UV) visible fluorescence (recto): None

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry:
N/A

Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometry:
N/A

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This print is a photogravure on an unevenly trimmed cream paper. Photogravure is an intaglio method of printing photographic images in ink. A plate mark, an embossed contour of the plate that occurs during printing, can be seen around the image area and further emphasizes the actual printing process. In this print, marks made by wiping ink from the plate can be seen in the right margin. The paper substrate is thick but also soft and fibrous; as a result, dirt and dust have become embedded within the fibers. The artist signed the work in graphite just below the image area. The inscription “191,” inscribed in graphite on the verso of the print, likely refers to an exhibition number and corresponds with this work’s entry in the catalog of the 1910 *International Exhibition of Pictorial Photography*, which Alfred Stieglitz helped curate. Some fingerprints in ink appear at the corners, likely from the manipulation of the paper during the printing process. When the surface of the print is viewed under high magnification, the fibers from the paper are visible and the printing ink sits directly on the surface, with no intermediary binder. The print is extremely matte and does not fluoresce when exposed to long-wave UV radiation. The printing ink is most likely carbon or an oil-based material and cannot be detected by XRF spectrometry.