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THIS SECTION

Exceptional pieces of American art on block

DALLAS — Heritage Auctions' Nov. 12 American Art sale will offer 150 paintings, works on paper and sculpture for sale – including some exceptional pieces from the Hudson River School, extraordinary Western Art, Modernism and Illustration Art.

The auction includes 17 oil paintings by Mort Kunstler, commemorating the launching of the space shuttle Columbia on April 12, 1981. The paintings were commissioned by the Rockwell International Corp.

"We hand-curated this sale to offer the best of the best," said Aviva Lehmann, director of American Art for Heritage Auctions in New York. "We worked tirelessly to source stellar artworks from private collections across the country and anticipate collectors will be pleasantly surprised at what we've uncovered."

In addition to the remarkable Impressionistic tour de force of *Normandy Mother and Child* 1892 by Theodore Robinson, considered to be one of America's greatest Impressionists, the sale will offer some iconic Western Art.

One of the most sought-after lifetime castings of Frederic Remington's iconic *Bronco Buster No. 17* (est. $200,000-$300,000), the fine example of a Roman Bronze Works casting, was sourced from a private California collection. Bolstering the Western Arts category is Walter Ufer's harmonious *A Ride in Autumn* (est. $300,000-$500,000), which exemplifies the vibrancy and poignant realism of the Taos School.

Selling from the Hudson River School, George Inness' breathtaking *Evening Glow* from 1883 is considered by many collectors as a turning point in the artist's career and stands as one of the finest "aesthetic" paintings ever accomplished.

To The Vanquished is considered one of Joseph Christian Leyendecker's best *Saturday Evening Post* covers to ever come to the auction block (est. $100,000-$150,000). Stevan Dohanos' *The Vacationers*, his *Saturday Evening Post* cover from 1951, is also crossing the block at a $50,000-$70,000 pre-sale estimate.

Green Meadow, 1957 (est. $80,000-$120,000) by Milton Avery and a rare appearance at auction of Morton Schamberg's *Untitled*, from the Machine series, 1916 (est. $40,000-$60,000) lead the Modernism offerings.

Above: *Normandy Mother and Child (Marie Trognon and Baby)*, 1892, by American Impressionist Theodore Robinson is estimated at $300,000-$500,000 at the Nov. 12 Heritage Auctions' American Art auction. The sale offers a broad slice of the most recognizable names in American Art.

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Conservationists often unsung heroes in art world

BY JULIA HENRI

A lifetime of skill, study and creative problem-solving goes into the care of our most beloved and venerable works of art, but most of all there is passion.

Alexa Beller is a professional conservator, and her world comprises pigments, grounds, supports, paint brushes, art tools and mediums. Dedicated and disciplined, Alexa is also a talented artist in her own right. Curious, she is fascinated by the history and stories surrounding each work of art and often takes on the role of sleuth and forensic scientist when analyzing how a painting was first created, exhibited and then passed down through many centuries in time.

Alexa Beller recently joined the conservation team as an intern at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Mass., after graduating with a master's of science degree in Art Conservation from Winterthur at the University of Delaware.

"Most recently, I assisted with the Puvis mural restoration at the Boston Public

SEE ALEXA BELLER ON PAGE 3

Above: Alexa Beller at work on the 1940 Grandma Moses painting titled *Wood Interior* at the conservation lab at Winterthur. (Photo by Gerrit Albertson)

Goldtone images on glass shine at John Moran

BY SUSAN EMERSON NUTTER

MONROVIA, Calif. — John Moran's Sept. 10 Decorative Art Auction kept buyers on their toes with an interesting mix of Modern and Contemporary artworks, furnishings, sculpture, unique automaton pieces with some automobiles thrown in for good measure. Approximately 300 lots made up this event, with some strong final bids being placed.

The top two automobiles sold were from different eras and different makers, but both were well received. A vintage 1970 Dodge Charger 500, a two-door, sport hardtop built in St. Louis, came in at $25,200 (est. $25,000-$30,000). Prices include a buyer's premium. Wearing its original "Top Banana" yellow paint, this single-owner California car had a V8 engine, two-barrel carburetor, automatic transmission and an odometer that read 34,159 miles.

A 1957 Chevrolet 150 two-door sedan built in Los Angeles and dressed in bright red paint came in at $16,800 (est. $18,000-$25,000). It too had a V8 engine and an automatic transmission, as well as an Edelbrock carburetor, Weiand intake, Mallory ignition and B&M shifter. Its odometer read 39,888 miles.

Artwork offered this day included several orotones on glass under glass, the work of Edward S. Curtis (American, 1868-1952). For those unfamiliar with orotones, www.therainbowman.com explains it well stating:

"The goldtone process was not created by Curtis, but he refined the technique to the extent that he eventually was considered the greatest master of the process. In fact, Curtis named these images after himself, calling them Curt-Tones. In simple terms, a goldtone is a positive image on glass, while most photographic prints are a positive image on paper. The process Curtis used was to take a clear plate of optical glass and spread a liquid emulsion onto the surface of the plate. He then projected his negative onto the glass to create a positive image. The highlights and shadows, however, could not be seen unless there was some type of backing on the image. Mixing a combination of banana oils and bronzing powers to create a sepia or a goldtone effect, Curtis then spread this mixture onto the dried emulsion.

"The final process involved backing the glass image so that all the chemicals bonded together. For those familiar with early photographic processes, there was a similar technique known as an ambrotype which was also an emulsion on glass; however, this process used black paint or cloth as backing. The framing of the goldtone was the final element of the completed piece, which was also necessary in order to crate and ship the finished photographic work. When viewed next to a paper print, the Curt-Tone/goldtone/orotone truly has a three-dimensional quality that transcends our normal perception of a photograph."

The top two orotones by Curtis that sold this day

Above: A bid of $25,200 won this 1970 Dodge Charger 500 two-door Sport hardtop "Top Banana" yellow.

SEE MORAN ON PAGE 10