Links to sporting and spirit worlds

By Virginia Bohlin GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Copley Fine Art Auctions, which has been holding sporting art and decoy auctions in Boston and Plymouth for the past five years, is heading to the Big Apple this month.

The Newbury Street gallery will hold an inaugural winter auction on Jan. 17 at 11 a.m, at Wallace Hall at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on Park Avenue, with previews from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. next Saturday and Sunday.

Among the 160 works of art being offered are original works by some of the world's finest sporting artists, with "Guarding the Catch," a painting by the English-born American artist Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait (1819-1905), expected to be the top seller. The 1850 oil of an early evening beach scene with an obedient dog guarding a fisherman's catch has a \$125,000-\$175,000 estimate.

Ogden M. Pleissner (1905-83), a New York and Vermont artist best known for his watercolors of New England scenes, is represented by a number of works, including "Orchard Cover," depicting a sportsman in a snow-covered scene about to shoot a grouse (\$40,000-\$60,000).

Other important offerings include "Western Bay," a watercolor by Salemborn Frank W. Benson (1862-1951); "Setter and Ruddy Duck," an oil by Louisiana-born Percival Leonard Rosseau (1859 -1937); and "Across the Canyon," an oil by Andover-born William Harnden Foster (1886-1941), which was the cover image for the October 1930 issue of National Sportsman. Each painting has a \$30,000-\$50,000 estimate.



Highlighting the more than 200 decoys, bird carvings, and bronzes in the sale are a circa 1915 Hudsonian curlew (\$60,000-\$90,000) by A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952) of East Harwich; a circa 1917 feeding Canada goose (\$40,000-\$60,000) by John Tax (1894-1967) of Osakis, Minn.; and a circa 1890 canvasback drake (above, \$30,000-\$50,000) by Lee Dudley (1860-1942) of Knotts Island, N.C.

A rare circa 1840-60 rattle, used by a Northwest Coast shaman (tribal mem-



ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES





"Guarding the Catch" (a detail), Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait's 1850 oil painting of a dog guarding a fisherman's catch, is expected to bring \$125,000-\$175,000 at Copley Fine Art Auction's inaugural winter auction next week in New York. An offering considered one of the finest examples of a Lee Dudley canvasback, carved around 1890 on Knotts Island, N.C., this drake has a \$30,000-\$50,000 estimate. A circa 1840-60 rattle used by a Northwest Coast shaman to contact ancestral spirits is shown with its handle and close up. It will be auctioned by Skinner Saturday (\$20,000-\$30,000).

may have signified the doorway

through which the spirit entered into

the American Museum of Natural His-

tory, the Smithsonian, and the National

Two other Northwest Coast offerings

of note are a 76-inch-high polychrome

carved wood totem pole and a large 19-

inch carved mountain sheep horn feast

an 1883-84 ledger of 15 drawings of In-

The auction's expected top seller is

Examples of this type of rattle are at

and returned from the spirit world.

Museum of the American Indian.

ladle (each \$10,000-\$15,000).

ber acting as a medium between the visible and invisible worlds) to contact spirits, is a highlight of Skinner's American Indian & Ethnographic Art Auction Saturday at 10 a.m. at its Boston gallery. The estimate is \$20,000-\$30,000.

The rattle, whose sound was said to open communication with ancestral spirits called upon by the shaman for strength and guidance in challenging endeavors, is carved in two pieces with a mask-like face on each side. A hole through the center from back to front

> Trotting horse weather vane is among the contents of an 18th-century Bradford home to be auctioned Wednesday by Leo

> Legare in Nashua.

dian battles and of ceremonial and other scenes by the Southern Arapaho artist Mad Bull. The estimate is \$60,000-\$80,000.

Highlighting other ethnographic art offerings are a rare African Songe carved wood stool, its square seat supported by a female figure's looped arms, and a circa 200-700 AD pre-Columbian woven Peruvian poncho. Each has a \$10,000-\$15,000 estimate.

A first for antiques shows in New England takes place this weekend when Steampunk, a modern take on Victorianism, is exhibited at the Boston Antique & Design Show and Sale at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington.

Bruce and Melanie Rosenbaum of Sharon, the creators of ModVic (Victorian home restoration and Steampunk home design) will be showing objects that Bruce describes as "combining the best of Victorian high design and craftsmanship with modern functionalism and usefulness.'

The creations range from a computer workstand made with antique finds, to Steampunk clocks and guitars, to late 1800s/early 1900s gadgets and appliances that have been adapted by modern technology to 21st-century lifestyles and use.

The two-day show runs Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10-4. Admission is \$10 for a weekend pass, \$7 for Sunday only.

Contents of an 18th-century Bradford house will be offered at Leo Legare's auction Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Nashua.

"This was an old Yankee family that rarely threw anything away," Legare said. "Many of the items we found hadn't been unpacked for years.'

Found in the attic wrapped in old cloth was a painting expected to be one of the auction's top sellers. It is an oil painting of Venice by the Fairhavenborn artist Lemuel D. Eldred (1848-1921), whose works are in the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon.

Highlighting the furniture are a Queen Anne mahogany dressing table or lowboy, a Chippendale figured birch four-drawer chest, and a Sheraton tall post bed. A 36-inch horse weather vane is among the folk art finds.

Oriental rugs, sterling silver, glass, china, dolls, and books are also being auctioned along with items from two New Hampshire estates.

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SUNDAY'S CHILD



Jonique hopes for a family, siblings, and to be a nurse

Hi! My name is Jonique, and I want to be a nurse when I grow up.

Jonique is a sweet, smart 14-year-old. She tends to be quiet at first, and needs time to warm up to new people, but once she feels comfortable, she can't help but show her beautiful smile and good sense of humor.

An eighth-grader whose favorite subject is science, Jonique hopes to be a nurse. She is taking French as a second language, and likes to read (the Harry Potter series is a favorite) and draw. She would like more opportunities to try activities such as singing and acting, and to go swimming.

Jonique is generally respectful and obeys the household rules in her foster home. Her social worker is seeking a single mother or a two-parent family for Jonique, parents who will provide her with loving nurturance, structure, and, when necessary, accountabilitv.

Jonique, who is of Cape Verdean and Caucasian descent, would like to have siblings and would do well with other children her age or older. She has an older sister and some contact between them would be beneficial. Legally free for adoption, Jonique is waiting to blossom with a caring family by her side.

What does adoption cost?

It costs little or nothing to adopt a child from foster care. Unlike international or private adoptions, there is no adoption agency fee. There are also a number of free post-adoption support services available to families statewide, including support groups and respite care. Children with special needs who are adopted from the foster care system are eligible for ongoing financial and medical assistance after adoption. These children are also eligible for a tuition waiver to attend a Massachusetts state col-

"Western Bay" (a detail), a watercolor painted in 1922 by the Salem-born artist Frank W. Benson of the coastline at his summer home on the island of North Haven, Maine, and depicting a great blue heron on the rocks, will be offered at the Copley Fine Art Auctions' sale with a \$30,000-\$50,000 estimate.

lege or university.

To learn more about Jonique, and about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call home."

