

Copley Fine Art Auctions Will Conduct Its Summer Sale Online



Ogden M. Pleissner (1905-1983), "Quail Hunting," watercolor, 15 by 29 inches (\$40/60,000).

HINGHAM, MASS. — On Thursday, July 23, Copley Fine Art Auctions will host its sporting sale consisting of 294 lots and offering the opportunity to take home world-class paintings and bird carvings. Auctioneer Peter Cocculuto will be conducting the live sale once again; however, in light of the current COVID-19 restrictions, the auction will be conducted at Copley's headquarters and there will not be any in-person bidding.

The auction will be live-streamed and will utilize phone, absentee and internet bidding. Phone bidders are strongly encouraged to sign up early. The live auction will begin at 10 am on Thursday, July 23.

Copley principal Stephen O'Brien Jr reported, "I've been surprised by the number of big private sales we have been seeing over the last month. The market for top-notch decoys and paintings has been quite resilient. We saw this in 2008 and 2009 as well. Having something on the wall or shelf gives our clients a tremendous amount of security. You don't have to worry about losing secret keys like you do with cryptocurrencies. Most importantly, art brings our clients a tremendous amount of joy."

The auction's fine art highlights include a quail hunting watercolor by Ogden M. Pleissner (\$40/60,000) and two watercolors by Aiden Lassell Ripley: the vibrant "A Pair of Pheasants" (\$14/18,000) and "Pheasants Near the Old Farm" (\$12/18,000).

Two oil paintings by Francis Lee Jaques, created in the 1940s for Alexander Sprunt Jr's book *South Carolina Bird Life* will be available. "Inland Waterway Scene" and "Tidal Creek Scene" are two of Jaques' classics of ornithological reference, showing more than a dozen birds in their natural environment (\$10/15,000 each). Additional paintings will cross the block by Lynn Bogue Hunt,

Richard LaBarre Goodwin, Eric Sloane, David A. Hagerbaumer, Owen Gromme, Lanford Monroe, George Browne, among others.

Three works by Thomas Aquinas Daly will come up for bid, led by "Electric Mountain," a depiction of elk and one of the largest works the artist ever completed (\$8/12,000). O'Brien said, "I'd be shocked if this painting doesn't set a new world record for the artist; if it doesn't, someone will be stealing it." Additionally, a number of acrylic paintings from noted contemporary artist Chet Reneson will be available, as well as new works from Ewoud de Groot, Luke Frazier, David Allen, Gordon Allen, and Al Barker, and pieces by John Swan, Jim Morgan, Dave Chapple, Dave Hodges and David Lazarus.

Copley will again offer items from the estate of Alfred F. King III. King was the owner of The Sportsman's Edge gallery in New York City for many years, and pieces from his estate include items by Bob Kuhn, David A. Maass and Frank W. Benson. A selection of ornithological works from the collection of Eddie Woodin, including pieces by well-known bird artists C.F. Tunncliffe, Archibald Thorburn, Robert Verity Clem, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Harry Curieux Adamson and Roger Tory Peterson, will be included.

A selection of prints and works on paper will come to market, including seven prints by wildlife artist Carl Rungius, nine print lots by Frank W. Benson and additional works by Marguerite Kirmse, Roland Green, Roland Clark, Richard Bishop, William J. Schaldach, Ripley and Percival Rosseau, rounding out the fine art offerings.

Copley will again present a group of antique decoys and bird carvings. Works directly from the collections of Thomas M. Evans, Thomas K. Figge, Ted and Judy Harmon, Dr Mor-



A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952), open-bill calling decorative yellowlegs (\$60/90,000).

ton Kramer, Grant Nelson and others will be featured in the sale. In all, more than 150 American bird decoys will cross the block. Diverse offerings of carvings from virtually every major region will be on display. Important makers represented include Melvin G. Lawrence, Charles F. Coffin, A. Elmer Crowell, the Ward Brothers, Ira Hudson, Lothrop Holmes, the Mason Factory, Joseph W. Lincoln, John Dawson, Obediah Verity, "Shang" Wheeler, the Burr family, Oliver Lawson, Keith Mueller, Cameron McIntyre, Steve Weaver and Mark S. McNair, and other carvers.

The decoys to be offered are led by the O'Brien-Nelson Hollow Nantucket Curlew, carved in the late Nineteenth Century by Charles F. Coffin (1835-1919) (\$125/175,000). The sale will once again include carvings by the "father of American bird carving" A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952): an open-bill calling decorative yellowlegs (\$60/90,000), a P.W. Whittemore Rig Willet (\$25/35,000), and a rare, possibly unique, alighting tern (\$15/20,000).

Two iconic American mergansers will grace the auction: The Starr American merganser drake (\$40/60,000) by Joseph W. Lincoln (1859-1938) of Accord, Mass., and a merganser hen by John Dawson (1889-1959) (\$40/60,000). The sale will also feature two other rare works by the Accord Pond maker, a canvas long-tailed drake (\$10/14,000) and a willet (\$4,5/6,500). Two plover carvings by Melvin Gardner Lawrence (1880-1930), a sleeper (\$30/50,000) and a runner (\$20/30,000), are also on offer. Both works hail from the Thomas K. Figge collection.

Other works include an early canvas scoter (\$18/24,000) by



Charles F. Coffin (1835-1919), Nantucket Hollow curlew (\$125/175,000).

Lothrop Turner Holmes (1824-1899), a folky pair of bluebills (\$10/14,000) by Frank W. Buchner (1871-1947), a rare cork-bodied goose (\$5/8,000) by "Shang" Wheeler (1872-1949), a Mason Factory mallard (\$10/15,000) from the rig of G. K. Schmidt and an eider pair (\$8/12,000) by Capt. Merritt P. Pinkham (1861-1947), previously owned by David and Peggy Rockefeller, Donal C. O'Brien Jr, and Dr George Ross Starr Jr.

The top Ward Brothers carvings include a rigmate pair of pintails (\$12/16,000), a black duck (\$10/14,000) and a classic 1936 canvasback hen

(\$10/15,000). Contemporary works by carver Mark McNair include a cohesive rig of six shorebird species, an eider with mussel and a hollow plover with a dovetailed head.

For information, 617-536-0030 or www.copleyart.com.

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Nantucket Historical Association Opens The Whaling Museum

NANTUCKET, MASS. — The Nantucket Historical Association (NHA) has reopened the doors to the public at the Whaling Museum. The policy of free admission for the year-round community is extended as a gift through the end of the year.

NHA members are encouraged to reserve and visitors are encouraged to purchase timed tickets online at NHA.org. Extended Whaling Museum hours are from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays. Members and visitors with timed tickets will have preferred entry.

Robust safety protocols to pro-

tect the public and make the indoor experience both exceptional and safe have been implemented. To ensure social distancing, capacity will be limited initially to ten percent of official capacity. The visitor has the option to walk the entire museum all the way up to the roof deck without touching. The HVAC system has new high capacity filters installed. Sanitation stations are throughout the campus.

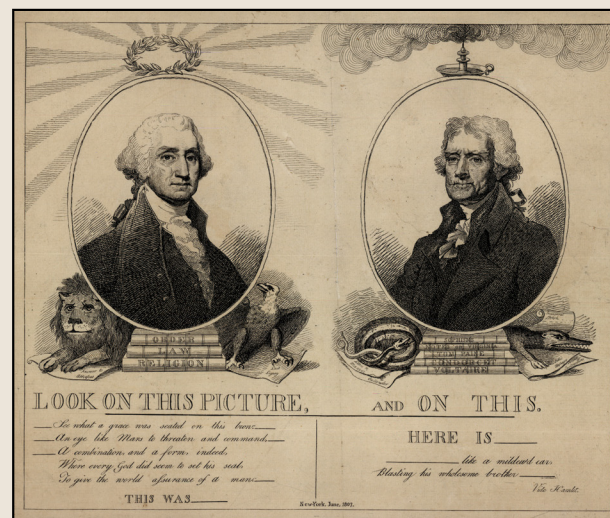
Enhancements include a self-guided audio tour available using personal devices, a Yellow "Cobblestone" Road — à la The Wizard of Oz — to guide visi-

tors through the entire museum safely, new exhibitions, as well as a brand new Discovery Center designed for families. The Museum Shop will operate as an online store. Curbside pickup is available.

The NHA Historic Properties will remain closed, but we remind islanders and visitors alike to enjoy the beautiful gardens of Hadwen House and Greater Light, or the open spaces by the Old Mill and Oldest House during daylight hours.

The Nantucket Historical Association is at 15 Broad Street. For more information, www.nha.org or 508-228-1894.

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