

Copley Fine Art Will Present Sporting Sale On July 24-25

PLYMOUTH, MASS. — On Wednesday, July 24, and Thursday, July 25, Copley Fine Art Auctions will host its Sporting Sale. The sale will offer the opportunity to see and take home paintings and bird carvings. The auction will take place at the Hotel 1620, located on Plymouth's waterfront.

Copley principal Stephen O'Brien Jr said he is excited about this year's offerings, "The A.B. Frosts are coming straight from the Reed family. Henry M. Reed was the world's leading authority for one of America's greatest illustrators. The three sporting Frosts are world-class. The bird carving session is incredibly dense, and I am going to be encouraging our clients and bidders not to blink. There are dozens of museum-quality works to choose from."

In 1967, Reed first published *The A.B. Frost Book*, which continues to be the definitive text on the artist. Reed owned dozens of Frost's works, and purchased the gouache "Fall Woodcock Shooting" from the John T. Dorrance Jr collection in 1989 (\$70/90,000). It has descended in the family and will be on offer for the first time since the Dorrance sale. "Grouse Shooting," another major work, painted circa 1895, will also be available (\$25/35,000).

Two works by painter Edmund Osthaus will be included. A rare oil painting depicting a covey of quail comes out of the John E. Veneklasen collection (\$25/35,000), and a classic sporting dog oil titled "On Point, Up Hill," will be available (\$30/50,000). The latter is one of several works from the Jim and Diane Cook collection.

Other works by sporting art masters include a duck hunting watercolor by Ogden M. Pleissner (\$20/40,000), the watercolor "Fishing on the Battenkill" (\$20/30,000), also by Pleissner, and the classic upland watercolor "Grouse on a Winter Morning" by Aiden Lassell Ripley (\$25/35,000).

The original oil painting for "Winter Marsh - Canvasback" by Roland Clark will be included (\$10/15,000). This iconic work was made into a print by the Derrydale Press in 1938. Two notable oil paintings by Harry Curieux Adamson, "Autumn Along the Oxbow - Mallards" (\$20/30,000) and "Afternoons in Butte Sink - Spring" (\$9/12,000), will be available as well. A polychromed wood carving by Massachusetts artist Alexander Pope Jr depicting woodcock and upland plover joins the offering (\$10/15,000). Additional paintings and works on paper will cross the block by Lynn Bogue Hunt, Percival Rosseau, Eric Sloane, Robert Farrington Elwell, Maud Earl and George Browne, among others.

A selection of prints and



The Harmon "Dust Jacket" plover trio



Osthaus "On Point, Up Hill"

works on paper by Frank W. Benson will come to market, including "Three Geese," Benson's rare final lithograph (\$3,5/4,500), and an ink wash depicting Canada geese from 1904 (\$5/8,000). Many of these prints are from the collection of a direct descendant of the artist and appear on the market for the first time.

Additionally, a number of bronzes from noted contemporary artist Walter Matia will be available, as well as new works from Chet Reneson, Ewoud de Groot and pieces by John Swan, Luke Frazier, Peter Corbin, Arthur Shilstone, Roger Cruwys and Brett Smith.

Copley will again present a selection of antique decoys, which will be led by approximately 200 decoys from Session One of the Dr Morton D. Kramer estate. Selections from the collections of Ted and Judy Harmon of Decoys Unlimited, Rusty and Dianna Johnson, Donald Kirson, Grant Nelson, Dr S. Lloyd Newberry, Herb Wetanson and others round out the sale.

In all, more than 425 American bird decoys will cross the block. Diverse offerings of carvings from virtually every major carving region will be on display. Makers represented include Crowell, Ward, Safford, Hudson, Wilson, Mason, Laing, Wheeler, Perdew, Boyd, King, Shourds, Holly, Blair, Dilley, Verity, Combs and McNair, among others.

The collection of Dr Morton D. Kramer, built over a half-century, will be featured in a single-owner session of more than 30 lots of Wards, led by the Earnest-Purnell humpback pintail drake (\$60/90,000), one of the finest pairs of 1936-model canvasbacks known (\$30/50,000 and \$20/30,000), a Bishops Head Canada goose (\$14/18,000) and a rare flying canvasback pair (\$8/12,000). Lawson offerings will include his early wood duck, long-tailed duck and hooded merganser pairs (\$4/6,000 each) from 1966 to 1971.

McNairs set to cross the block include a presentation box of dove decoys (\$4/6,000), a dove-tailed merganser drake (\$2/3,000) and more than a dozen other carvings. Where Kramer was not able to connect directly with the maker, he emphasized provenance, as demonstrated by the Mackey-O'Brien Burr feeding plover (\$8/11,000), the Starr Turned-head mallard drake (\$6/9,000), the Hillman-Horn Turnstone (\$6/9,000) and two teal by Charles T. Wilson (1848-1921) and John W. Williams (1845-1909) from the J. Evans McKinney collection (\$5/8,000 and \$7/10,000).

Offered will be three works by A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952), the Harmon "Dust-Jacket" plover trio, an offering in association with Ted and Judy Harmon's Decoys Unlimited, Inc. This is the most significant offering of Crowell decoys since Copley's sale of six decoys from the Harry V. Long collection for \$1.8 million in 2009. Other premier Crowells on offer include a flying tern (\$20/30,000), two ducks with carved wing tips: a black duck (\$14/18,000) and a mallard (\$5/8,000) and the long open-bill calling decorative yellowlegs (\$50/70,000).

Another top New England lot will be the Charles Safford (1877-1957) Swimming Canada goose (\$60/90,000). First discovered in the 1940s in a



The Safford swimming goose



The Earnest-Purnell humpback pintail drake



Frost "Grouse Shooting"

Newbury, Mass., hunting camp, this decoy is a rigmate, the Safford sleeping goose and will cross the auction block for the first time. A half-dozen Gus Wilson (1864-1950) decoys are topped by a Monhegan Island eider (\$25/35,000) exhibiting the maker's classic sculpture. A small group from Connecticut includes a rare, possibly unique, gull (\$30/50,000) by "Shang" Wheeler (1872-1949).

Long Island, known for its shorebirds, will be represented by a large flock of snipe. The George W. Combs Sr (1911-1992) flying pintail decoy (\$50/70,000), made in 1934, is considered to be the finest flying decoy known to exist. Also from the Combs estate is an early sleeping black duck (\$20/30,000) attributed to a member of the Verity family. The top Verity shorebird is a rare Purnell-Aitken running plover (\$18/24,000). A recently rediscovered calling golden plover with a split tail by John Dilley (\$18/24,000) is one of five choice lots by the maker.

Dr James McCleery provenance accompanies several lots in the sale, including a merganser (\$30/40,000) by Joe King (1835-1913), one of the region's earliest makers, predating even Harry V. Shourds (1861-1920). Another McCleery collection selection is the Ira Hudson (1873-1949) bufflehead hen (\$30/40,000).

Other Southern stars with notable provenance include the James Best (1866-1933) Swimming Swan from the collections of Henry Stansbury and Davison Hawthorne (\$20/30,000). A black duck (\$15/20,000) by Nathan Cobb Jr (1825-1905), marked with the maker's "N" signature, is poised to garner attention with Dr S. Lloyd Newberry well into his production of a forthcoming book on the carver and region. The black duck, out of Washington, DC, lawyer and early collector William Butler's collection, is illustrated in *Fleckenstein's Southern Decoys*.

Originating north of the border are several Canadian treasures, including two petite rigmate hooded mergansers (\$25/35,000 each) by Sam Hutchings (1894-1995) featuring the maker's stylish crests and signature cross-hatched surface carving. Also from the Toronto area comes one of the nation's best namesake goose decoys, a circa 1883 hollow model from the Charles H. Gooderham rig (\$16/22,000) by George Warin (1830-1905).

Items will be available to preview Wednesday, July 24, from 5 to 7 pm and Thursday, July 25, from 8:30 to 10 am. The live auction will begin at 10 am on Thursday, July 25.

Hotel 1620 is at 180 Water Street. For information, 617-536-0030 or www.copleyart.com.

Antiques in the Church Yard

July 4th

Stevens Memorial United Church
8 Shady Lane, South Salem NY 10590

Pancake Breakfast
9am to 11am
\$6 Adult \$4 Child

Rain or Shine 9am to 4pm.
Admission \$9 with this ad \$7

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