

The Hunting Life

Images and objects related sporting art will be available at Copley's annual sporting sale.

On July 13 and 14, Copley Fine Art Auction will offer to bidders more than 500 works related to hunting, fishing, bird decoys, bird dogs and many other subjects in the annual *Sporting Art Sale* in Hingham, Massachusetts.

The annual sale is known for its huge variety of sporting material, from carved objects such as bird decoys, to fine art such as paintings and sculpture.

Noteworthy paintings at this year's sale include works by some of the top artists on the genre. One of those artists is Arthur Burdett Frost, whose works are treasured by hunters all around the world. Available in the sale is his gouache work *Autumn Woodcock*, estimated at \$70,000 to \$90,000. Another important name is Aiden Lassell Ripley, whose watercolor *Dove Shooting* will be available with estimates of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

"The Frost painting is an important one because it is one of his original works from his *Shooting Pictures* book, published by Scribner's in 1895. We've handled plenty of these originals, of which there are 12. The provenance on the piece is quite good because it comes from a du Pont Family descendent," says Leah Tharpe, a fine art specialist at Copley. "The Ripley is from the same family. The work itself is somewhat rarer because Ripley did not do a great number of dove-hunting images. He did a lot of quail and good amount of turkey, but doves are very rare."

Two earlier artists represented in the sale include 19th-century painters Thomas Blinks, whose oil *English Pointers* (est. \$30/50,000) will be offered, and Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, whose oil work *Quail and Chicks* (est. \$20/30,000) will also be available.

For collectors of carved bird decoys, the sale will have major examples of the subjects. "We are thrilled about this sale as some of the finest decoys known to exist will cross the auction block," says Copley principal Stephen O'Brien Jr.

Many of the decoys come from the Thomas M. Evans Jr. Collection, including the *McCleery*



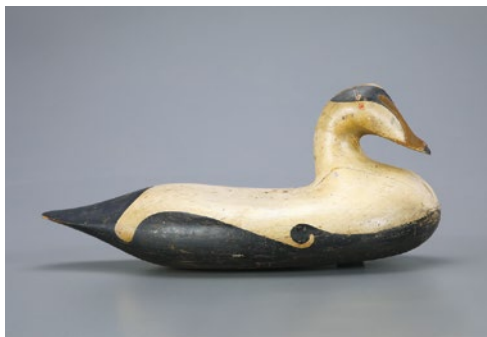
Aiden Lassell Ripley (1896-1969), *Dove Shooting*, watercolor, 17 x 24½"
Estimate: \$30/50,000



Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait (1819-1905), *Quail and Chicks*, oil on board, 10 x 14"
Estimate: \$20/30,000



Arthur Burdett Frost (1851-1928), *Autumn Woodcock*, gouache, 13½ x 21" **Estimate: \$70/90,000**



The McCleery Eider Drake, Matinicus Isle, ME, ca. 1880, 16½"
Estimate: \$800/1,200,000

Eider Drake, which is estimated at \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. The auction house notes that the work was first collected by Dr. James M. McCleery, who was among the greatest of decoy connoisseurs from any era. Of this sea duck, decoy specialist Robert Shaw writes, "This is arguably the most sophisticated of all eider decoys, with flowing lines and stylized abstract paint worthy of a Zen calligrapher."



The Earnest-Gregory-McCleery Dove-tailed Goose, Massachusetts or Pennsylvania, ca. 1880, 17½ x 29½" **Estimate: \$600/900,000**

Also from the collection are *The Earnest-Gregory-McCleery Dove-tailed Goose* (est. \$600/900,000). The sale will feature numerous other examples, including many pieces that are estimated in the high six figures.

The auction will take place live, but all bidding is remote via phone, online or absentee bidding. Previews are available by appointment by calling Copley Fine Art Auctions. ☎

Copley's Sporting Sale

July 13-14, 2023

Copley Fine Art Auctions, 65 Sharp Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(617) 536-0030, www.copleyart.com