

The Hunger for 20th-Century **Artworks Continues**

by Jeanne Schinto

Skinner, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts

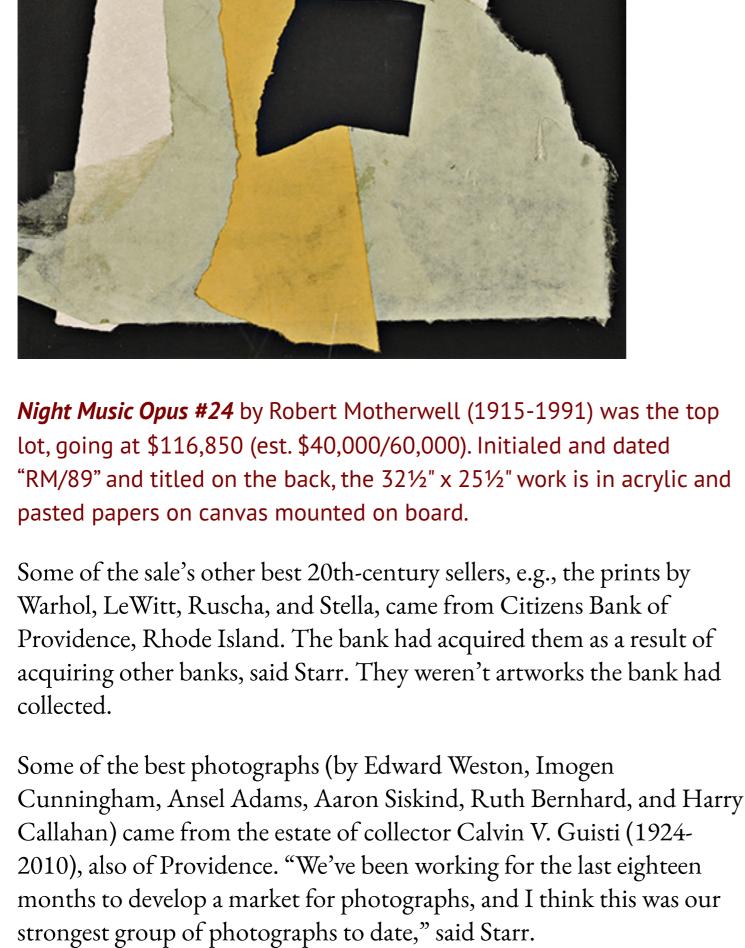
Photos courtesy Skinner

Twentieth-century works were once again in high demand at Skinner. Prints by Andy Warhol, Edward Hopper, Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein,

Ed Ruscha, and Frank Stella all did well at the fine art sale in the auction house's Boston gallery on September 11. So did a collage in acrylic paint and torn, pasted papers on canvas by Robert Motherwell. Titled Night

Music Opus #24, the black, green, and mustard-colored abstraction had been owned by the Dedalus Foundation from 1991 until 2003, after which it went into a private Massachusetts collection. Estimated at \$40,000/60,000, the 1989 work sold on the phone for \$116,850 (with buyer's premium). Its new owner is a dealer, said Skinner department head Robin S.R. Starr. Hopper's Evening Wind was signed, titled, and inscribed with a price from days long gone by, "\$30." Estimated at \$15,000/20,000, the etching on heavy wove paper sold on the phone for a fair price for today, \$67,650. "The impression we had was very strong," Starr said of the 1921 print that, like the Motherwell, had come from a private collection. "However, it had been in a fairly 'moisture-rich' environment and had quite a bit of foxing. Given its condition, we were very conservative with the estimate."





Two standouts among the paintings lots were by 20th-century artists from the Middle East. An oil on canvas by Reuven Rubin, a well-known Romanian-Israeli artist who became Israel's first ambassador to Romania, went to a phone bidder for \$61,500, just over the low estimate. Titled Fisherman, the painting shows a silver-bearded man in black outline with a net full of brightly colored fish. There were overseas competitors for this work, which was reminiscent of Chagall's work, but

the successful bidder was in the United States, said Starr.

Read all the stories, complete with all their photos and captions, along with

all the news and features every month. board by Saliba Douaihy of Lebanon. Subscribe! Given the painting's fields of color Click to go to our subscriptions page. (mainly aqua with strips of yellow, orange, red and black) it is not surprising to learn that Douaihy spent the 1950s among some of the New York Abstract Expressionists including Mark Rothko and Ad Reinhardt. The painting sold to a dealer for \$49,200 (est. \$40,000/60,000).

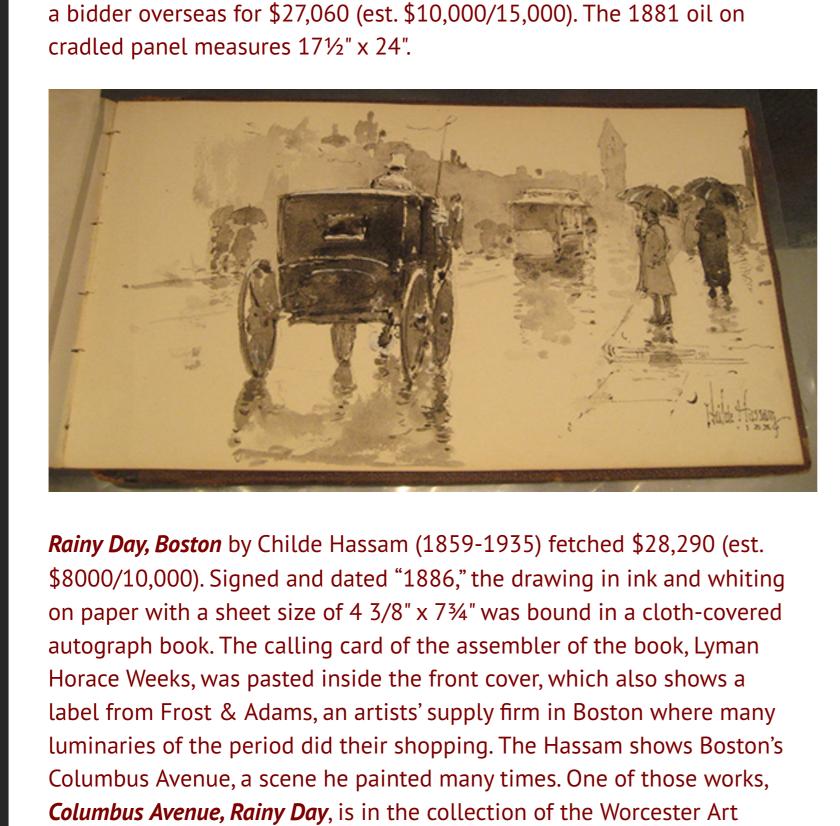
Asked to comment on today's market trends, a gallerist friend said,

wide swaths of the 19th century. "A lot of the nineteenth-century

two affectionate couples, one young, the other old, in a room

European works are struggling," Starr said. Nonetheless, a special one

The genre scene, titled *Past and Present* and beautifully painted, went to a bidder overseas for \$27,060 (est. \$10,000/15,000).



Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts. That oil on canvas is dated 1885.

Schinto photos.

time for dinner at eight.

website (www.skinnerinc.com).

paper is 17 3/8" x 23 3/8".

Past and Present by José Jiménez y Aranda (Spanish, 1837-1903) went to

bound in a book," said Starr. "How do you display it?" Presumably the buyer, who paid \$28,290, has the answer to that question. In past years these September art sales at Skinner often had catalogs that were phone book size. The selling started at noon and didn't end until late in the evening, sometimes with only a minimal break. Those days are past, just as phone books are now passé. This sale was under 500 lots total; the approximately 135 lots of prints and photographs took only two hours or so to get on and off the block, giving everyone a nice long

Crying Girl by Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) realized \$35,670 (est.

\$15,000/20,000). The image size of the 1963 color offset lithograph on



This Pop Art piece is a wool Aubusson weaving in white, gray, and black.

Titled **Zebra**, the 58¾" x 83¾" wall hanging by Victor Vasarely (1906-

1997) sold for \$15,990 (est. \$7000/9000).

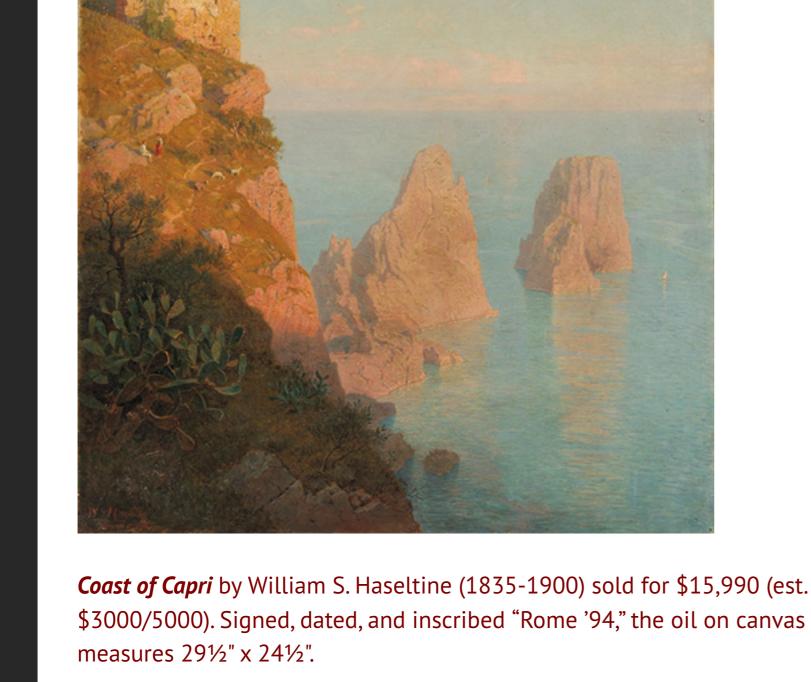


A phone bidder took this White Mountains view with a red glow of fire

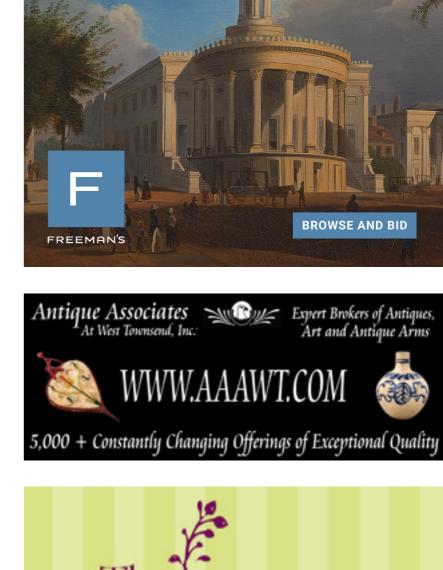
or reflected light by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902) for \$22,140 (est.

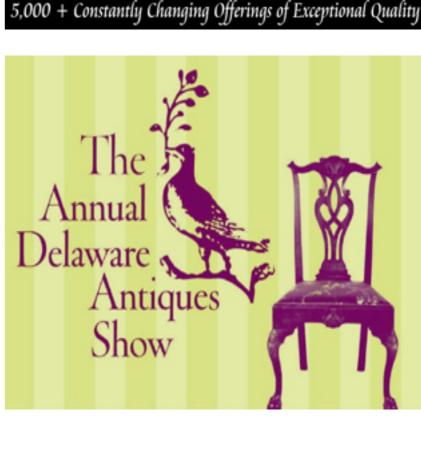
10,000/15,000). The $7\frac{3}{4}$ " x $13\frac{1}{4}$ " oil on cardboard was signed and

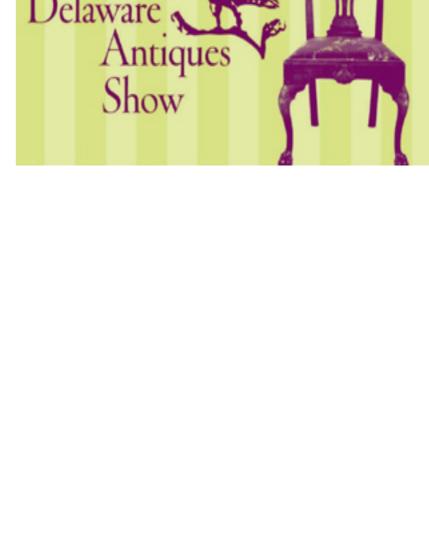
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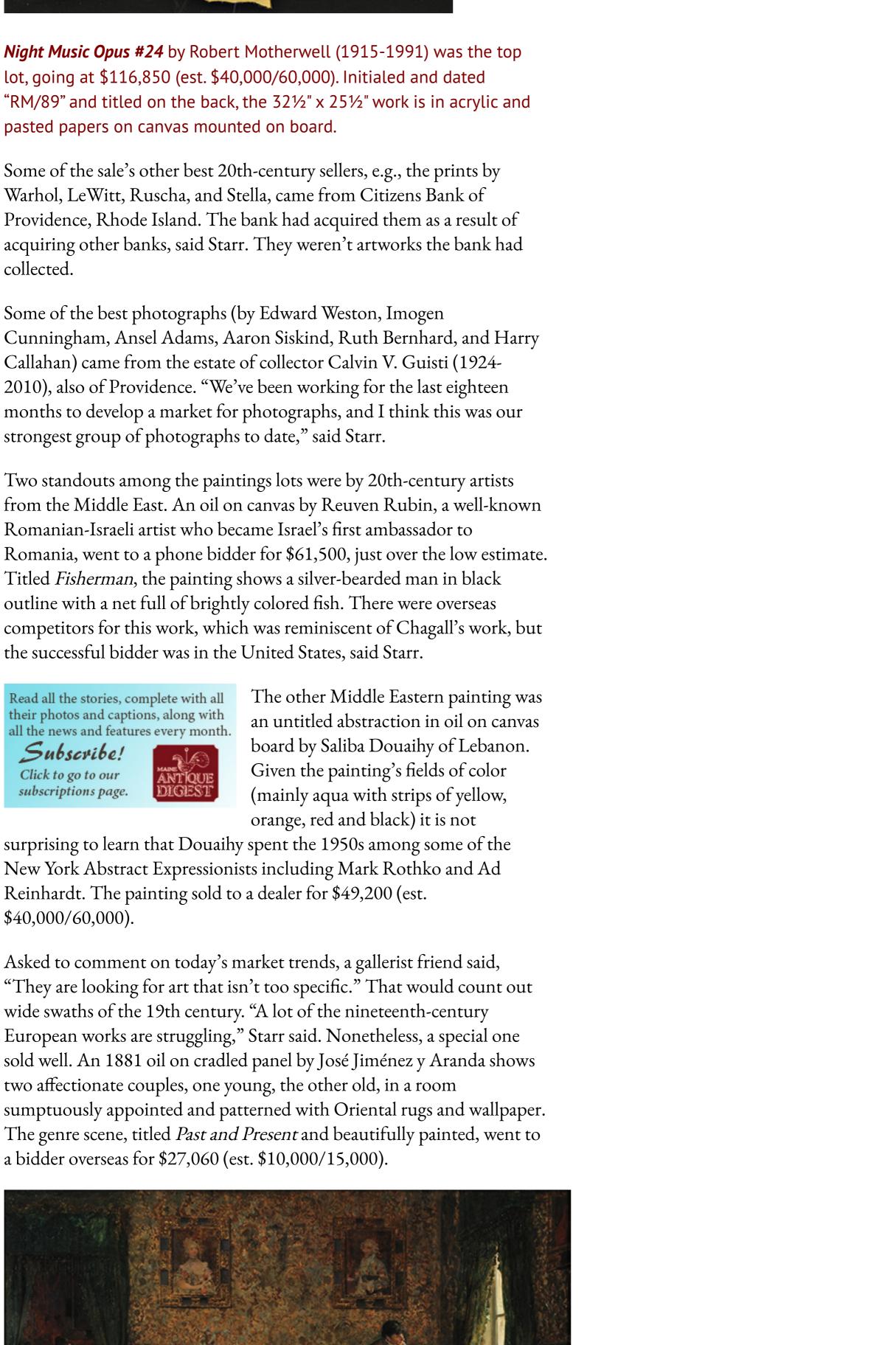
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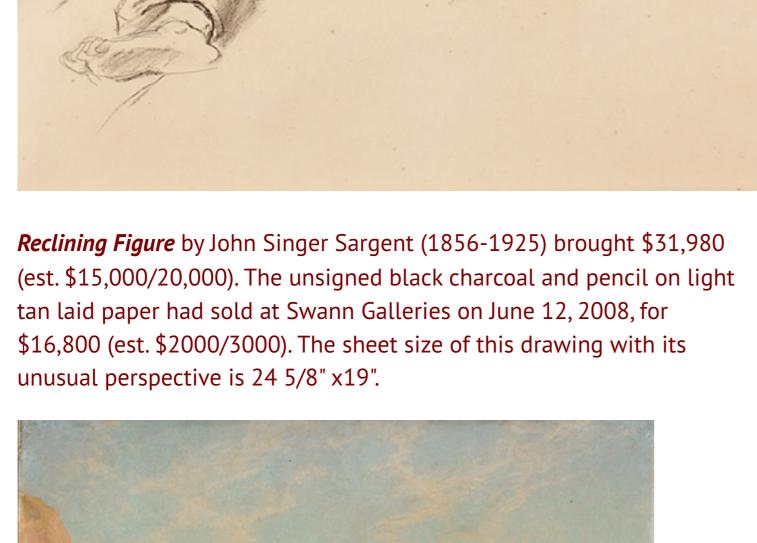




Several exceptional 19th-century works by Americans inspired bidders too. One was Rainy Day, Boston by Childe Hassam. Signed and dated "1886," the little drawing in ink and whiting was bound in a clothcovered autograph book assembled by Lyman Horace Weeks (1851-1942), an American genealogist, historian, and editor whose papers reside at the New York Public Library. The book contains 12 original sketches in all, but none of the other artists represented are nearly as well known as Hassam. "We gave it a conservative estimate because it was breather before the paintings and sculpture went up at four. I'd characterize the process as much more civilized, with everything over in What's different is that lately, in addition to the live sale, there is an online-only segment that ends a few days later. The online-only lots (with estimates typically \$1500 or less) do not appear in the print catalog but can be previewed in person along with the live auction's offerings. For more information, contact Skinner at (617) 350-5400 or see the

Ship by Ed Ruscha (b. 1937) went to a phone bidder for \$28,290 (est. \$7000/9000). From a 1986 edition of 30, this lithograph in brown on paper has an image/sheet size of 45" x 33 7/8".

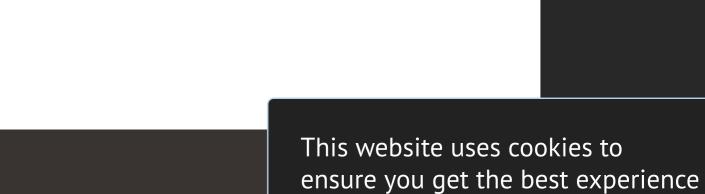




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