

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

APRIL 2016

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WESTERN ART

C O L L E C T O R



Dreams of Taos

Coming off a hit \$13 million sale in 2015, the Scottsdale Art Auction returns with strong examples from Taos and the CAA.



Oscar E. Berninghaus (1874-1952), *The Advance Scouts*, oil on canvas mounted on board, 40 x 30"
Estimate: \$250/350,000



Victor Higgins (1884-1949), *The Red Door*, oil on canvas, 20 x 24"
Estimate: \$200/300,000

On April 2, the *Scottsdale Art Auction* will bring to bidders an impressive array of artworks ranging from thrilling cowboy imagery to tranquil scenes of Native American life in Taos, New Mexico. The sale will attempt to top last year's sales total of \$13.7 million, its second best total in the history of the auction.

The annual sale is known for its deep appreciation of the West and the many facets of artwork it has produced over the last two centuries. It is a joint venture between partners Brad Richardson, owner of The Legacy Gallery in Arizona, Wyoming and Montana; Michael Frost, owner of J.N. Bartfield Galleries in New York; and Jack Morris, co-owner of Morris & Whiteside Galleries in South Carolina.

"With Michael in the Northeast, me in the South and Brad in the West, I like to think

we are bringing in the best Western art from around the country," Morris says, adding that the partners are very selective on which lots they choose to sell at the annual auction. "We only take about 20 percent of the pieces we look at. We choose very carefully. Last year we sold 92 percent of the lots we offered, and that's because we offer buyers top quality and sellers receive top dollar. No matter what the economy looks like there is always a buyer for the best."

Taos artists will have a strong showing at this year's sale. Highlights include Eanger Irving Couse's *Trout Stream* (est. \$125/175,000), Oscar E. Berninghaus' *The Advance Scouts* (est. \$250/350,000), Joseph Henry Sharp's *The Old Arrow Tree* (est. \$100/150,000), and Victor Higgins' *The Red Door* (est. \$200/300,000).

"When people look at representational art,

they frequently miss the abstract qualities. Obviously there's a building and trees and figures...all these things we understand representationally," Morris says of *The Red Door*. "Look just a little harder and you'll see the painting is essentially a geometric painting with this wonderful abstract composition. It's what makes the piece so powerful."

Additionally, the sale will feature two important works by Taos artist Walter Ufer: *Frank Archuleta, Taos Indian*, which is estimated to sell at \$400,000 to \$600,000; and *Trailing Homewards*, which will likely leave the auction block at \$500,000 to \$700,000. "These are some of the best Ufer pieces that have come to market in many years," Morris says. "*Trailing Homewards* is really special because it's very painterly and not a stereotypical Ufer, although it has all



Walter Ufer (1876-1936), *Frank Archuleta, Taos Indian*, oil on canvas, 36 x 30" **Estimate: \$400/600,000**



John Clymer (1907-1989), *Return from the Hunt*, oil on board, 30 x 40" Estimate: \$250/350,000

the ingredients of one of Ufer's landscapes with Indians and pack horses. In this one you can see that the horse is not excited to move forward because the reins are being pulled tight by the figure leading...The brushwork is just spectacular."

Other noteworthy works being offered are Charles Schreyvogel's *Mounted Indian Warrior* (est. \$225/325,000), Wilhelm Kuhnert's wildlife piece *Im Morgengrauen* (est. \$200/300,000), Frederic Remington's ink wash *Indian Soldier* (est. \$50/75,000), and eight bronze works by Native American painter and sculptor Allan Houser, one of the most highly regarded Native American artists in the country.

The top Houser piece is likely to be *Smoke Signal*, a 57-inch-tall bronze figure with a variety of textures on the figure's skin and clothing, estimated to sell between \$100,000 and \$200,000. If it falls within those ranges it



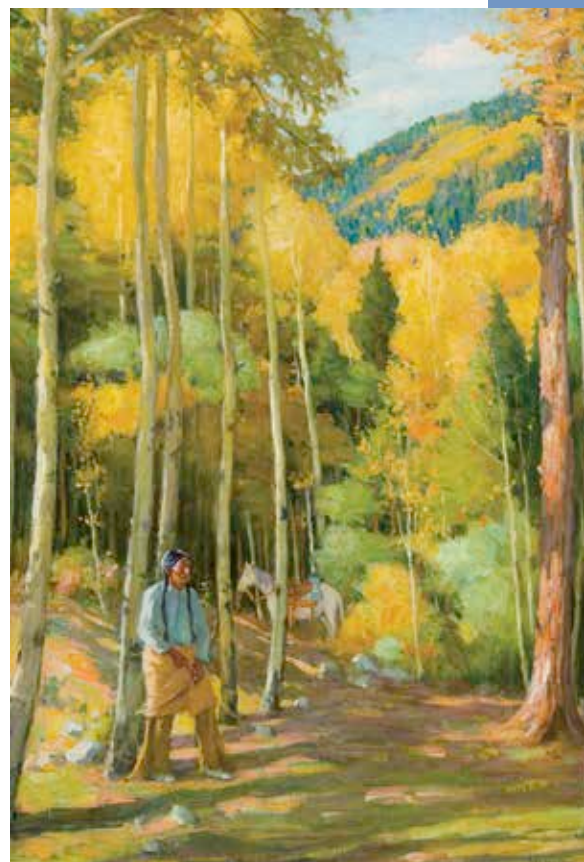
Eanger Irving Couse (1866-1936), *Trout Stream*, oil on canvas, 20 x 24 1/4" Estimate: \$125/175,000



Charles Schreyvogel (1861-1912), *Mounted Indian Warrior*, oil on canvas, 20 x 16"
 Estimate: \$225/325,000



Martin Grelle, *Warrior's Prayer*, oil on canvas, 48 x 36" Estimate: \$125/175,000



Joseph Henry Sharp (1859-1953), *The Old Arrow Tree*, oil on canvas, 24 x 17"
 Estimate: \$100/150,000



Kyle Polzin, *Champion of the West - A Tribute to "Buffalo Bill" Cody*, oil on canvas, 25 x 37"
 Estimate: \$30/50,000