

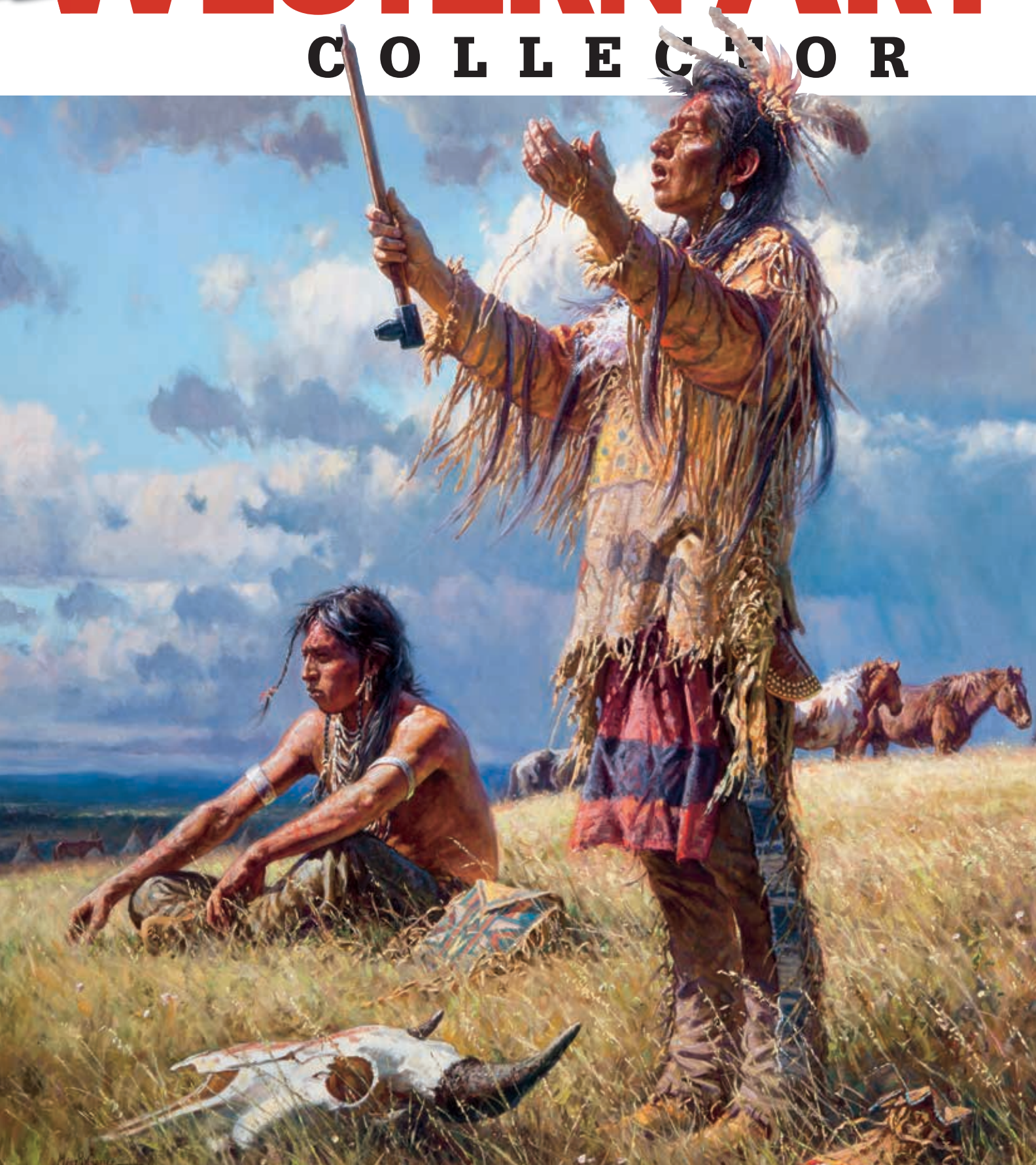
WESTERN ART

Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows

APRIL 2015

COLLECTOR

92



All-Star Lineup

Works by an impressive roster of contemporary and historical Western artists for sale at Scottsdale Art Auction April 11 in Arizona.

At last year's *Scottsdale Art Auction*, Kyle Polzin's 74-inch-tall *Mystic Warrior*, a detailed still life of a Native American headdress, was expected to sell between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Bidding climbed and hit the upper estimate early, and then crept higher and higher as a silent anticipation fell over the watching audience, a silence only broken with gasps as each new bid was called by the auctioneer, and then applause when *Mystic Warrior* hammered at \$287,500, a world record for Polzin.

Works by Howard Terpning, Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington, Ernest L. Blumenschein, Martin Grelle, and many others sold for higher prices and to wider acclaim, but the Polzin piece reinforced something deeper about all auctions, and especially about the *Scottsdale Art Auction*: sometimes magic unexpectedly materializes amid the rapid-fire stream of lots.

"The exciting thing about an auction is that you never know which piece might take off. And also, at the same time, you don't know which piece might slip through the cracks," *Scottsdale Art Auction* co-owner Brad Richardson says. "And for that reason you want to be in the room. You want to be prepared to make those bids, for the piece that might take off or, if you're lucky, for a piece that might fall through the cracks at a great price. But if you're not in the room you're missing it altogether."

This year's *Scottsdale Art Auction*, its 11th annual sale, will feature an astounding array of contemporary and historical Western works from some of the biggest names in Western art.

Major highlights of the sale include Terpning's buffalo scene *Closing on the Herd*, featuring four Native American riders staggered throughout the unique composition. The 1978 oil work is expected to sell between \$300,000 and \$400,000. Grelle has several works in the sale, including a scene of trappers trading with Native Americans on horseback titled *Snake River Culture*, which also has a presale estimate of \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Historical works crossing the auction block include Charles M. Russell's watercolor of a bear attack, *In the Nick of Time*, which has a presale estimate of \$250,000 to \$350,000; Philip R. Goodwin's sporting piece *Their Lucky Day* (est. \$125/175,000); Nicolai Fechin's portrait *Lady in Black* (est. \$175/275,000); N.C. Wyeth's pilgrim scene *The Departure of the Mayflower*



Howard Terpning, *Closing on the Herd*, oil on canvas, 26 x 44". **Estimate: \$300/400,000**





**Edgar Payne (1883-1947), *Desert Skies*, oil on canvas, 30 x 34".
Estimate: \$200/300,000**



(est. \$350/550,000); and Gerard Curtis Delano's *Canyon Exodus* (est. \$200/300,000).

A number of wildlife and horse-themed works will be available to bidders, such as Wilhelm Kuhnert's *Cape Buffalo* (est. \$150/250,000), William Gollings' winter-set *Shelter* (est. \$150/250,000), Bob Kuhn's bear scene *Prince of Prey* (est. \$30/40,000) and Oscar Berninghaus' cowboy piece *The Lookout* (est. \$80/120,000).

Kenneth Riley and William R. Leigh will have two major works each: *Kinsmen* (est. \$25/45,000) and *Little Bird, Sioux* (est. \$20/30,000) from Riley, and *Grand Canyon at Sunset* (est. \$80/120,000) and *Scouting the Crag* (est. \$200/400,000) from Leigh.

Jack Morris, one of the founding partners of the *Scottsdale Art Auction*—along with Richardson and Mike Frost—likes to remind collectors of the trendsetting nature of Western art.

"Among all the markets, be it European, American, contemporary...the strongest art market tends to be the Western art market. When Western art does well, everything does well. And people do look to *Scottsdale Art Auction* to see the general health of the art market," he says, adding the annual sale has raked in \$110 million over the last decade, and produced 197 auction and artist world records. "This show sets the tone for the second half of the year."

Morris says one of the more interesting stories at this year's auction is the Robert Parker Collection, which originated just down the street from the auction site. In the 1970s, Parker, owner of Parker Drilling, sought out Troy and Marilyn Murray, owners of Troy's Gallery in Scottsdale. He walked into the gallery and said "he didn't know anything about art, but that he wanted to learn," Marilyn remembers.

The meeting eventually blossomed into a full-blown friendship as Marilyn would drive artwork to Parker's home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he and his wife and children would sit on the couch and watch as she unveiled works in their living room. As each new piece came out, everyone would vote on which one to purchase. Much of Parker's collection, most of them originating from the Murray's gallery, will be in the *Scottsdale Art Auction*, a fitting place to sell it since Marilyn is the mother of Jinger Richardson, husband to Brad Richardson, one of the auction's three partners.

"It's exciting that so much of it is still together," Marilyn says. "Bob's an oil man, so he's had some rough times over the years, but he always said that Western art was the best investment he ever made."

Brad Richardson thinks the collection—which contains major works by Terpin and Russell, several

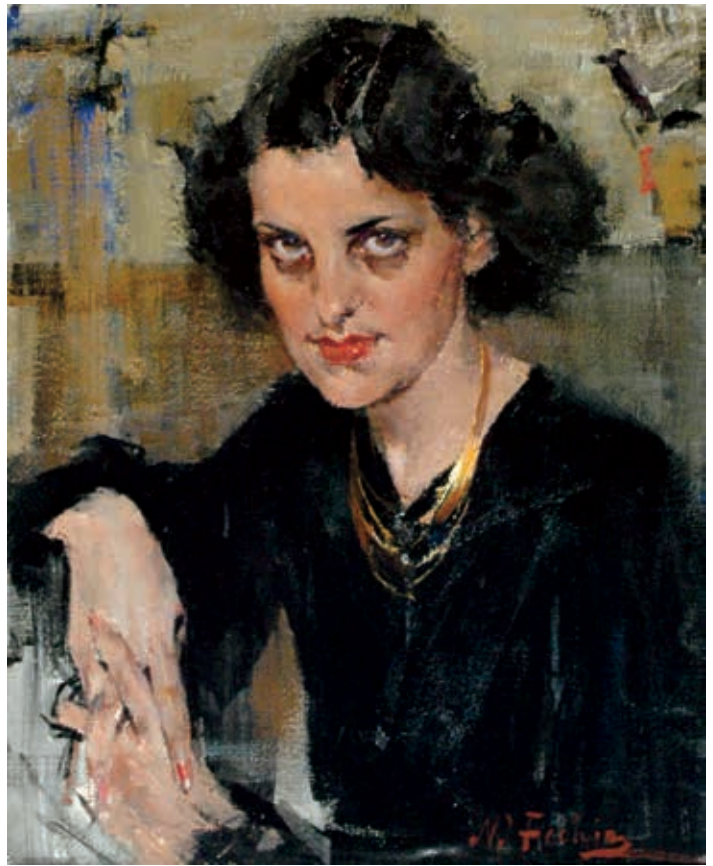
William R. Leigh (1866-1955), *Scouting the Crag*, oil, 40 x 34". Estimate: \$200/400,000



Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), *In the Nick of Time*, watercolor, 18 x 22".
Estimate: \$250/350,000



Oscar Berninghaus (1874-1952), *The Lookout*, oil on canvas, 24 x 30".
Estimate: \$80/120,000



Clockwise from
above:

N.C. Wyeth
(1882-1945),
The Departure of the Mayflower,
oil on canvas,
40 x 30".
Estimate:
\$350/550,000

Nicolai Fechin
(1881-1955),
Lady in Black,
oil, 24 x 20".
Estimate:
\$175/275,000

Philip R. Goodwin
(1881-1935),
Their Lucky Day,
oil, 24 x 33".
Estimate:
\$125/175,000





Martin Grelle, *Snake River Culture*, oil on canvas, 48 x 60". Estimate: \$300/400,000



William R. Leigh (1866-1955), *Grand Canyon at Sunset*, oil on canvas, 23 x 33". Estimate: \$80/120,000

significant cowboy pieces by Olaf Wieghorst, and many others—will be right at home at *Scottsdale Art Auction*. “It’s an interesting experience for us to deal with a collection that my wife’s family helped put together so many years ago,” he says. “To have the opportunity to complete the circle now is very special to us.”

Scottsdale Art Auction takes place across a morning and afternoon session, both on April 11 in Scottsdale. 🐾

Scottsdale Art Auction

When: April 11, 2015

Where: 7176 E. Main Street,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Information: (480) 945-0225,
www.scottsdaleartauktion.com