

*Previews of Works For Sale at Upcoming Shows*

APRIL 2018

128

# WESTERN ART

## COLLECTOR





# Triumphant Return

Scottsdale Art Auction's annual sale returns to Arizona with top works from Taos and throughout the West.



**Bert Geer Phillips (1868-1956), *Tah-Tsee-Yo (Red Indian Chief)*, oil on canvas, 24 x 20" Estimate: \$100/150,000**

Just three months after its monumental white glove sale for the Leanin' Tree Museum, the *Scottsdale Art Auction* is back April 7 for its 14<sup>th</sup> annual sale, once again making top Western, wildlife and sporting art available to bidders. With the tremendous success of the Leanin' Tree sale, the auction partners—Brad Richardson, Jack Morris and Michael Frost—are feeling a renewed sense of momentum coming into another sale.

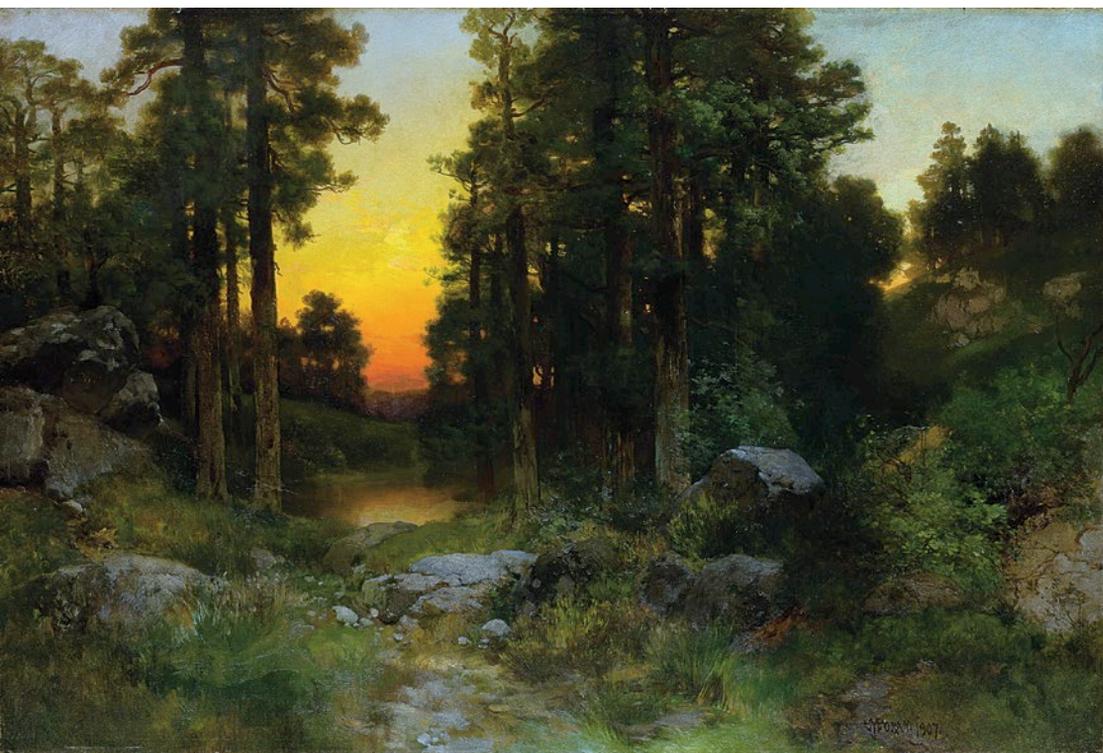
"The success of Leanin' Tree was wonderful. Not only did we sell 100 percent, we sold more than \$7.5 million when we had hoped to [sell] about \$5 million. It far exceeded expectations and it really is leading us into the April sale," Richardson says. "We're hoping that the interest and the sale results are a good sign of things to come for the market and the items we're bringing to the auction block."

The April sale will feature nearly 400 works spread across two sessions, the first of which will have 128 no-reserve lots. The second session, where many of the auction blockbusters are likely to appear, will feature top works from some of the biggest names in Western art. The lots are carefully curated by the three partners. "Michael and Brad and I have conference calls and we look at every single piece we're considering. These calls typically last two or three hours, but as we get down to the sale, they can last as long as five hours," Morris says. "We're selective with the work because we want the quality to be as high as possible."

Highlights in this year's sale include an Arizona landscape from Hudson River School painter Thomas Moran, whose *Solitude, The Coconino Forest, Arizona* is expected to fetch \$400,000 to \$600,000. "The Moran is coming out of a collection that acquired the piece from Thomas Moran and it's been in the family ever since. We have two from Moran, including one from Mexico and this Arizona scene,"



Bidders at the Scottsdale Art Auction's Leanin' Tree sale in January.



Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *Solitude, The Coconino Forest, Arizona*, oil on canvas, 20 x 30" **Estimate: \$400/600,000**



Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), *Indian on Horseback*, oil on canvas, 13¼ x 10½" Estimate: \$300/500,000

Richardson says. “Both are fabulous, but this Arizona scene is in very great shape with incredible documentation and provenance, and it will be in the forthcoming catalogue raisonné. It has a lot going for it.”

Scottsdale Art Auction has long sold works by Taos Society of Artists founders and members, but this year’s sale will feature some major works from most of the group’s most famous artists. Notable Taos works include Victor Higgins’ *Fall Landscape* (est. \$40/60,000), E. Martin Hennings’ *Portrait of an Indian* (est. \$40/60,000), Joseph Henry Sharp’s unique self-portrait *The Artist in the Studio Mirror* (est. \$70/100,000) and an impressive Native American portrait by Bert Geer Phillips, *Tah-Tsee-Yo (Red Indian Chief)*, estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000. Another Taos work is William Herbert “Buck” Dunton’s *Going In, The Bear Hunters*, which is estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000. Dunton, himself an avid sportsman and hunter, was likely informed by the piece by his own life and adventures.

“While the Taos market has certainly softened since the recession in 2008, it’s regained much of its strength,” Morris says. “We have three from Bert Geer Phillips, three or four from [Eanger Irving] Couse, and a number of others. These works come on the heels of a really great Taos

Society of Artists museum exhibition here in Scottsdale at the Western Spirit museum.”

Also available is Charles M. Russell’s oil *Indian on Horseback*, estimated at \$300,000 to \$500,000. The work features an Indian leader, possibly a Cree warrior, as he signals for his company to stop as he senses trouble ahead. Joining a strong Russell work is Frederic Remington’s *A Typical Trooper*, a full-body watercolor picture of a soldier with rifle and sabre at his side. The work is expected to sell between \$60,000 and \$90,000.

A work by Russian-born painter Leon Gaspard, who painted a number of important works in Taos, New Mexico, is in the running for the top lot of the sale. *Russian Peasants, Mountain and Snow* shows a line of colorful figures walking through the snow toward a passage through a forest. The painting is expected to fetch \$300,000 to \$400,000, which would put it in contention for the third-best selling Gaspard work at auction—his top three records are \$2 million, \$782,000 and \$364,000.

“It comes from a Texas collection and it’s a very complex painting, a major Gaspard work for sure. He’s mostly known for experimenting



**Leon Gaspard (1882-1964), *Russian Peasants, Mountain and Snow*, oil, 54 x 42" Estimate: \$300/400,000**



**Frederic Remington (1861-1909), *A Typical Trooper*, watercolor, 17 x 10" Estimate: \$60/90,000**



**John Coleman, *Four Bears*, oil on canvas, 47½ x 29"**  
**Estimate: \$60/70,000**

with color, particularly when he came to Taos. He was fascinated with the culture and their colorful community, and with the Russian pieces he was great at showing the snow and the evergreens with these great colors," Morris says. "With this piece, you can clearly see his S-curve that he used in so many paintings. He weaves a pathway of people through the landscape. It's wonderful."

Additional lots of note include Gerard Curtis Delano's *Wilderness Travelers*, estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000; Carl Rungius' *Toward the Skyline – Mountain Sheep*, estimated at \$250,000 to \$350,000; a work from the late Texas painter G. Harvey, *Rocky Mountain Cowhands*,



**G. Harvey (1933-2017), *Rocky Mountain Cowhands*, oil on canvas, 50 x 40"**  
**Estimate: \$150/250,000**

estimated from \$150,000 to \$250,000; five works from the Clark Hulings estate, including the market scene *Kaleidoscope*, estimated at \$175,000 to \$250,000; and two striking and very different works by Maynard Dixon: *The Sheriff Rides*, estimated at \$30,000 to \$50,000, and *Summer Cottonwoods*, estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000.

"This one's been hidden in the rafters for a long time," Frost says of Dixon's *The Sheriff Rides*. "It's a wonderful action piece. The leading man here is Bob McGraw and he appeared in Peter Kyne's book *The Long Chance*. You can really feel the horse moving through the painting."

The sale will also highlight works from living artists, including Kyle Polzin's still life *Letters from Libbie* (est. \$30/40,000) and John Coleman's newest painting *Four Bears* (est. \$60/70,000), which will be the first major Coleman work seen by the public since his sold-out 2016 solo show at Richardson's Legacy Gallery.

"*Four Bears* (Mato-Topo), a Mandan Chief, named for his skill as a warrior was said to have fought with the ferociousness of four bears," Coleman says of the piece. "In the early 1830s, explorer-artists George Catlin and Karl Bodmer each painted *Four Bears* and wrote in their journals details of his life, giving us a vivid understanding of this great chief. My portrait of *Four Bears* portrays him at the height of his power wearing full regalia, face paint and many symbols that tell the stories of his exploits as a great warrior."

The auction will take place April 7, with Session I starting at 9:30 a.m. and Session II starting at noon. A cocktail preview will take place the night before, on April 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. 



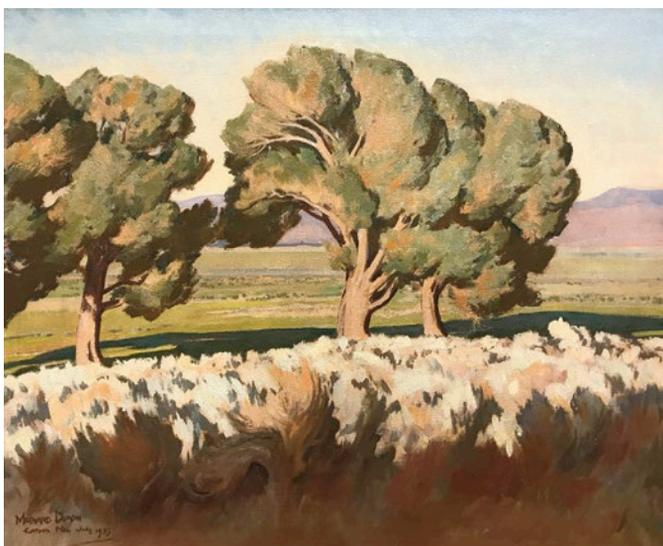
**Carl Rungius (1869-1959),**  
*Toward the Skyline - Mountain Sheep,*  
 oil on canvas, 25 x 30"  
**Estimate: \$250/350,000**

## Scottsdale Art Auction

**April 7, 2018**

- Cocktail preview, April 6, 6-8 p.m.
- Session I, April 7, 9:30 a.m.,  
 Session II, April 7, noon

7176 Main Street,  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
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**Maynard Dixon (1875-1946),**  
*Summer Cottonwoods,* oil, 25 x 30"  
**Estimate: \$50/75,000**

# No Limits

128 no-reserve lots will kick things off for the Scottsdale Art Auction April 7 in Arizona.



James Reynolds (1926-2010), *Getting Ready*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24" **Estimate: \$10/15,000**

Scottsdale Art Auction's April 7 sale in Arizona will feature a popular segment that, depending on how things play out on the auction block, can get buyers fantastic deals or sellers their asking price and then some. The first of the annual sale's two sessions will be filled entirely with no-reserve lots.

"We had such a tremendous success with our Leanin' Tree sale in January, that we wanted to do it again," auction partner Brad Richardson says. "The level of involvement

from bidders is really fantastic on these no-reserve lots. Everyone just feels like they get to be involved with the sale of the work as the price starts lower and goes up from there."

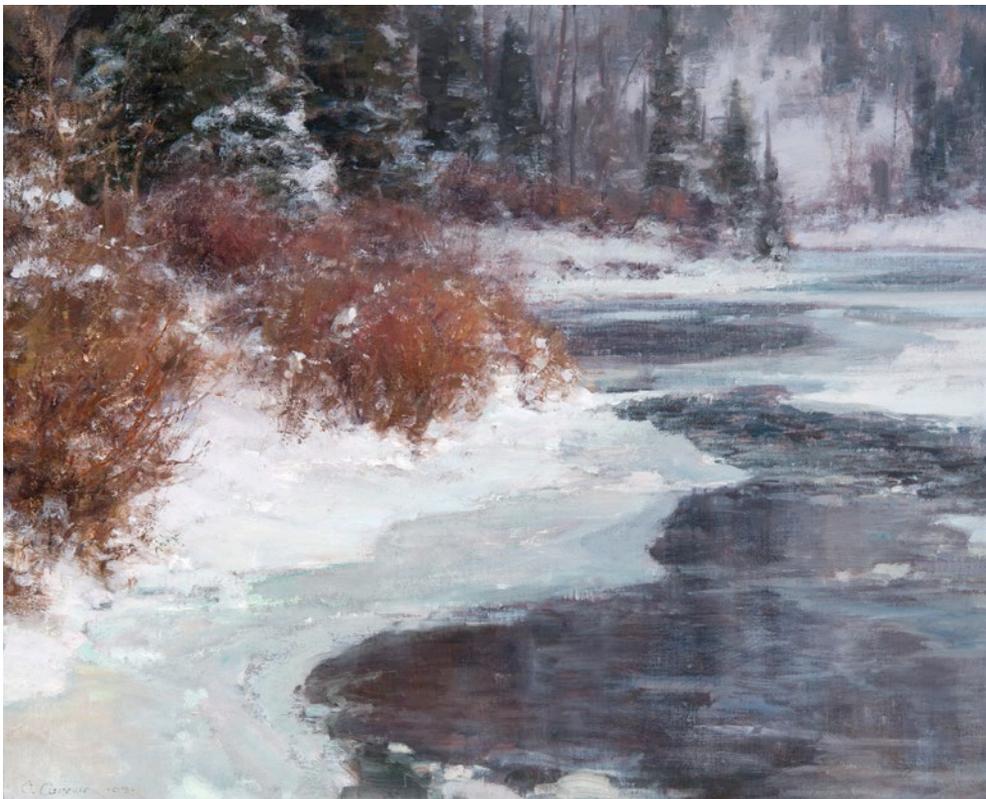
Richardson says that the auction's January sale of the Leanin' Tree Museum collection, particularly the first session and its no-reserve lots, was a popular segment among bidders, some of whom managed to snag great deals. More often than not, though, the no-reserve lots had more interest, more bids and higher

prices. If nothing else, the lots wooed more bidders, many of whom weren't afraid to raise a hand for a \$500 or \$1,000 work, even if other bidders took the prices five or six times higher than those opening bids.

The entire auction will feature nearly 400 works, with 128 no-reserve lots in the first session. While the works in the first session will be more affordable than many of the lots in the second session—for instance, a Thomas Moran in the second session could sell for



Oleg Stavrowsky, *Stagecoach*, oil on canvas, 30 x 68" **Estimate: \$10/15,000**



Clyde Aspevig, *The Calm of Winter*, oil on board, 24 x 30" **Estimate: \$12/18,000**



Ray Swanson (1937-2004), *Arvena and Her Herd*, oil on canvas, 49 x 30" **Estimate: \$20/30,000**

half a million dollars—that doesn't mean there won't be fireworks early in the day as major pieces from Clyde Aspevig, Gordon Snidow, Ray Swanson and James Reynolds are offered to bidders.

Highlights from the first session include Aspevig's winter landscape *The Calm of Winter*, estimated at \$12,000 to \$18,000; Bonnie Marris' dramatic horse stampede *Into Blanco Canyon*, estimated at \$8,000 to \$12,000; and Robert Duncan's Native American snow scene *The Last Winter*, estimated at \$8,000 to \$12,000.

New Mexico painter Snidow's *American Camp*, showing a misty meadow encampment filled with both military tents and teepees, will be available. It's estimated at \$8,000 to \$12,000. Snidow's *Ramrod*, a painting of a cowgirl in full riding gear, more than doubled its auction estimate when it sold for \$58,500 at January's Leanin' Tree sale.

Other no-reserve highlights include Ross Stefan's Taos-inspired *Carlita*, with a light-pink dress on the female subject, estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000; Tom Darro's *Berries for Pemican*, estimated at \$6,000 to \$9,000; and Oleg Stavrowsky's dramatic *Stagecoach*, which has been estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Two major lots in the first session are Swanson's delicate Native American shepherd scene *Arvena and Her Herd*, estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000, and Reynolds' cowboy scene *Getting Ready*, estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. Both artists were prominent forces in the Arizona Western art scene during their day, and both have very distinct painting styles: Swanson is a more detailed painter with an almost photorealistic ability to render his subjects in paint, while Reynolds is more painterly and captures his subjects with loose, powerful brushstrokes.

Session I starts at 9:30 a.m. on April 7 in Scottsdale, followed by Session II at noon. ☞

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Gordon Snidow, *American Camp*, oil on board, 19¼ x 24½" **Estimate: \$8/12,000**



Bonnie Marris, *Into Blanco Canyon*, oil on board, 18 x 36" **Estimate: \$8/12,000**

Ross Stefan (1934-1999), *Carlita*, oil on canvas, 50 x 28" **Estimate: \$5/7,000**

