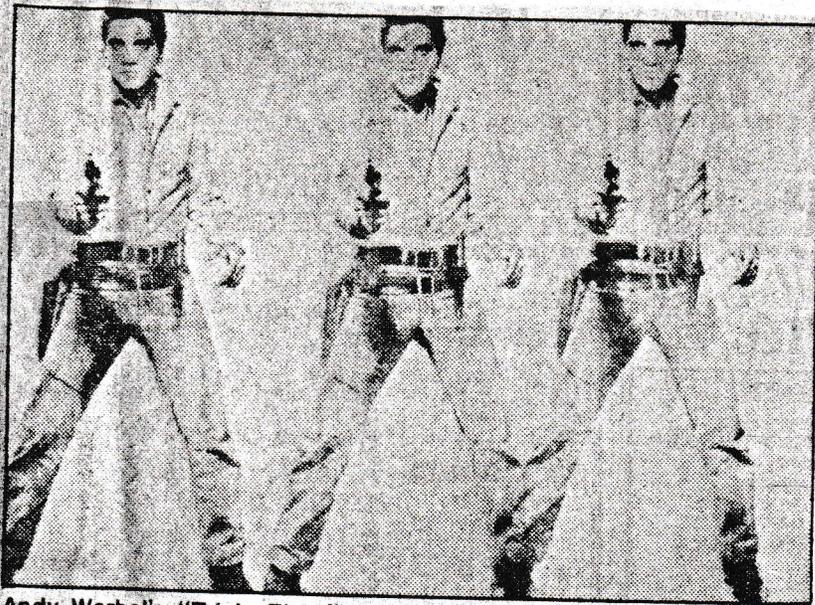


Art auctions in New York break records



Andy Warhol's "Triple Elvis," above, sold for \$148,000 at Sotheby's.

\$62.7 million paid for works during past two weeks at Christie's, Sotheby's

ART NEWS Hunter Drohojowska

Bidding for art has been fast and furious at the New York auction houses the past two weeks, with \$62.7 million changing hands and records falling almost as fast as they were made. Eli Broad, board chairman of L.A.'s new Museum of Contemporary Art, for example, paid a record \$462,000 for a Robert Rauschenberg painting, "The Red Painting" (1953), a rare, abstract work in oil, fabric and paper, was sold by David Whitney, who lives in New York. The two-day auction at Christie's, held on Nov. 8 and 9, brought in \$6 million, the second highest total ever for contemporary-art sales. (The highest, \$6.1 million, was established by Christie's in 1982.)

Other record prices paid for

million. It was the highest price ever paid at auction for a work, a post-World War II or an abstract expressionist painting, by that artist.

And the auction records go on: Sam Francis' 1953 abstraction, brought \$363,000; Robert Motherwell's 1954 "Wall Painting No. IV"

individual artists included Franz Kline's "Harleman," a 1960 black-and-white abstraction from the collection of L.A. artist/collector Pauli Hirsh, which sold for \$506,000 to Japanese collector Shigeki Kamayama. (In sum, the Hirsh collection brought in \$996,000.) And architect Philip C. Johnson paid a record \$66,000 for a James Rosenquist's work, "Volunteer" (1964). Other record highs for individual artists were Duane Hansen's 1974 "Man Against Wall" (\$121,000), Philip Guston's 1971 "The Hill" (\$72,600), Tom Wesselman's 1963 "Still Life #31" (\$48,400) and Arshile Gorky's "Untitled," circa 1941 (\$121,000).

Andy Warhol's "Double Marilyn Monroe" fetched \$143,000, which was a record until the contemporary-art auctions at Sotheby's the following day, when Warhol's "Triple Elvis" doubled its estimate and sold for \$148,000. Three records were set with a single Mark Rothko painting — "Black, Maroon and White," 1958 — which sold for \$1.8

took \$231,000; Ad Reinhardt's 1955 "Black on Black No. 8" sold for \$143,000; Agnes Martin's 1967 "Trumpet" reached \$104,500 (double her last record); Joan Mitchell's 1956 "The 14th of July" sold for \$51,700; and James Havard's "U.S.

Auctions

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As a Buffalo Hide With Back Fat," from 1975, went for \$34,100. Finally, two record highs were paid for works on paper by California artists: A David Hockney brought \$34,000 and a Richard Diebenkorn sold for \$40,700.

Still more records were broken last Tuesday and Wednesday when Christie's tallied its second biggest sale ever, with \$33.8 million paid for various Impressionist and modern paintings and sculptures. Many were from the collection of Paul Mellon, benefactor extraordinaire of the National Gallery of Art,

including Edouard Manet's "La Promenade." The 1880 portrait of a young woman sold for \$3,960,000 — more than twice the amount ever paid at auction for a Manet, according to a Christie's spokesman. Coincidentally, exactly the same price was paid for an exceptionally fine Cezanne still-life from a different collection. Alberto Giacometti's "Chariot" brought \$1,375,000, a record for both the artist and a 20th-century sculpture. In addition, four other paintings brought in excess of \$1 million each: two Manet still-lives (\$1.1 million and \$1.2 million), a Degas pastel (\$1.2 million) and a Renoir (\$1.26 million).

The next night, Sotheby's rallied with the sale of Egon Schiele's painting "Portrait des Malers Karl

Zakovsek" for a record \$2.4 million to New York dealer Serge Sabarsky. The Thursday morning sale established the record high for a Henry Moore drawing, \$341,000. The total accrued from Impressionist works was \$22.9 million.

Rosamund Bernier is reputed to be one of the most stimulating lecturers on early 20th-century art. Founder and publisher of the French art magazine *L'Oeil*, she became friends with Picasso, Matisse, Miro and others. The artists will be the subject of Bernier's benefit-lecture being presented by The Coterie of Friends of French Art Nov. 21 from 6:30 p.m., at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 8949 Wilshire Blvd..

Beverly Hills. Funds raised will be used to train conservators in America and France to restore historical French art, including the stage curtain painted by Picasso for the ballet "Parade." Tickets for the cocktail reception and lecture, followed by a gala supper prepared by the chefs of Le St. Germaine and Michael's, are \$75. Without the supper, tickets are \$25. For details and reservations call Mrs. Samuel Ayres III at 276-7019. Should your interests lean more towards the decorative arts, Bernier will be speaking about jewelry design as linked with works of art in a historical perspective Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. at the L.A. County Museum of Art, 5650 Wilshire Blvd. Tickets are \$10. (Free to members of the museum's Decorative Arts Council.) For information call 857-6034.

Roger Herman, a German artist of expressionist temperament, now living in L.A., will give a talk on "The History of German Painting" on Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the second-floor theater of the Pacific

Design Center, 8767 Melrose Ave. Tickets are \$3. Call 655-1730 for information.

The Equal Rights Amendment may have been shot down recently, but women are still trying. And a few of those — 14 artists and arts supporters — will be honored by The Women's Building's VESTA awards. The winners are Varnette Honeywood in visual art, Rachel Rosenthal and Barbara Smith in performance art, novelist Alice Bloch, art historian Moira Roth, playwright Milcha Sanchez Scott, filmmakers Donna Deitch, Johanna Demetrakis and Sylvia Morales, designer Deborah Sussman, silk-screen printer Oris Yamashita, City Council president Pat Russell and Adele Wallace and Simone Wallace, owners of the Sisterhood Bookstore. In addition, founders of the Women's Building — Judy Chicago, Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, and Arlene Raven — will be given a special award in celebration of the institution's 10th anni-



Edouard Manet's "La Promenade" (1880) was sold for \$3,960,000.

versary. The awards brunch will be held on Nov. 20 at noon at the Sheraton Town House, 2961 Wilshire Blvd. Tickets are \$25. Call Terry Wolverton at 222-2477 for information.