

Books & Art Draw Full House At Barrington Auction Company



Edward Mitchell Bannister (American, 1828–1901), "Marsh Sunset," 8 by 16 inches, went out at \$5,750.

WARREN, R.I. — Selling to a packed house, Barrington Auction Company's auctioneer Amy Gardner Shaw was kept busy with the two-part antiques and rare book sale the company hosted on October 14 at its headquarters at 91 Main Street.

The first part of this auction was devoted to books and documents. A John Singer Sargent hand written and signed letter with a calling card saw lots of action before selling for \$230. A note from John Jacob Astor on Astor stationery, thanking the recipient — Mrs Dahlgren — for her gift to Mrs Astor, signed "J.J. Astor," brought \$115. Two bidders at the sale battled it out for the war department's "Orders and Memorandum," dated 1903, which sold quickly

at \$368. An *International Stamp Album*, Junior Edition, was offered early in the sale and brought \$63. Two albums, one of Mexican stamps and one of international postage stamps brought \$58 each.

The top lot of this fast-paced sale was a woodcut print — one of two that surfaced prior to the sale — by Gustave Baumann (1881–1971). Baumann was a painter and printmaker who was born in Germany and came to the United States at the age of 10. He was one of the leading figures of the color woodcut revival in America, according to the auctioneer.

The top Baumann print was a signed woodcut titled, "Summer Clouds," 1925. The print also had the Gustave Baumann shop label on the inside



Gustave Baumann (1881–1971), "Taos Placita," woodcut, 11⁷/₈ by 10³/₄ inches, signed, sold for \$7,475.

Gustave Baumann (1881–1971), "Summer Clouds," woodcut print, 12 by 10³/₄ inches, signed with Gustave Baumann shop label on inside board, realized \$13,800.

Auction Action In Warren, R.I.

board. Measuring 12 by 10³/₄ inches, there was sustained action on the floor, and on the many phones. After a fierce round of competitive bidding, a buyer on the phone won it for \$13,800.

The other Baumann print offered was a vivid and colorful woodcut titled "Taos Placita." Hand signed by Baumann, it measured 11⁷/₈ by 10³/₄ inches. There were several competing phone bidders as well as action from the floor for this stunning

print. It opened at \$5,000 and quickly sold for \$7,475.

Some other significant sales included two oil on canvas paintings by Providence, R.I., art club co-founder Edward Mitchell Bannister (1828–1901). Bannister was the first African American to win national recognition, and his paintings are highly prized by collectors. At the Philadelphia World Centennial of 1876, Bannister was the only New England artist to win a bronze

medal. The first Bannister offered, "Marsh Sunset," which measured 8 by 16 inches, sold for \$5,750, to a buyer at the sale. The second Bannister, a punchy and larger oil on canvas, measuring 13⁷/₈ by 24 inches, was a landscape titled "Hunter with Dog," and it sold to a buyer who was also in the gallery for \$9,775.

All prices reported include the buyer's premium. For more information, 401-741-1257 or www.artsri.net.

Rare Salvador Dali Jewelry To Be Offered At Clars Dec. 8–9 Auction

OAKLAND, CALIF. — Clars Auction Gallery will offer a rare group of four pieces of Salvador Dali jewelry for sale in the firm's December 8–9 estate jewelry auction.

Between the years of 1941 and 1970, Dali, best known for his Surrealistic paintings, created designs for 39 pieces of intricately crafted jewelry. Before producing his own jewelry designs, Dali had first designed jewelry for Elsa Schiaparelli and Coco Chanel, spurring his own interest in the medium. One of Dali's first individual works of jewelry created was a pair of "telephone" earrings, meant to represent the futility of Neville Chamberlain's telephone conversations with Adolph Hitler in an attempt to avoid war.

Dali first commissioned Carlos Alemany of Alemany

and Ertman, an Argentinean jeweler with a studio in New York City's St Regis Hotel, to transform his two-dimensional designs into three-dimensional fantasy jewelry. Working closely with the jeweler, Dali even chose the specific stones that were to be set into the individual pieces. When Alemany died in 1993, Dali called on another friend, Henryk Kaston, to continue creating these special art jewels.

Kaston had created a brooch for Metropolitan Opera star Rise Stevens to mark her role as "Carmen." When Dali saw this brooch, he requested Kaston to continue the production of his jewelry designs. Kaston was formerly by trade a master violin bow maker and violinist at the Metropolitan Opera orchestra, who crafted violin bows for such musical luminaries as Jasha Heifetz and Isaac Stern.

Of these jewels, Dali wrote, "Without an audience, without the presence of spectators, these jewels would not achieve the function for which they were created. The viewer is thus the final artist. His look, heart and mind with greater or lesser ability to understand the creator's intention, imbue the jewels with life".

Ruby lips with cultured pearl teeth brooch was modeled after Marilyn Monroe's lips and a signature of Dali's jewelry collection; he was reportedly obsessed with the late actress. Only eight to ten of these brooches were ever produced. Clars will offer this brooch for \$10/15,000. Of this brooch, Dali speculated, "Poets of the ages, of all lands, write of ruby lips and teeth like pearls. It remained for Dali to translate this poetic cliché into a true surrealist object."

Of the Pomegranate Heart brooch of gold, rubies and diamonds, Dali wrote, "The many-celled reddish pomegranate berry pulses with life. The slightly acidic flavor of the fruit is agreeable — as acidity stimulates human accomplishment." This piece will be offered for \$8/12,000.

The Honeycomb Heart brooch of gold, rubies and diamonds, of which Dali reflected, "There's a little bit of sweetness in the heart of every woman," is estimated \$4/6,000.

The Tristan and Isolde brooch of gold, diamonds and garnet is reflective of Dali's favorite opera and title by the artist "Filtre d'amour." Mused Dali, "The heads are juxtaposed to form a goblet, which, in turn suggests the effluence of love possible between man and woman". This brooch will come to the sale with an estimate of \$4/6,000.

Furthering the jewelry offerings will be a gold chain necklace from which hang 14 different enameled or otherwise decorated Faberge egg charms. This offering will also include three additional Faberge egg charms (\$12/16,000).

Previews for this two-day sale will be Friday, December 7, from 1 to 6 pm, and beginning at 9 am on both Saturday and Sunday.

Clars Auction Gallery is at 5644 Telegraph Avenue. For information, www.clars.com or 510-428-0100.

Plus A Necklace Strung With 14 Faberge Egg Charms



The ruby lips with cultured pearl teeth brooch, left, was modeled after Marilyn Monroe's lips and is a signature of Dali's jewelry collection. Only eight to ten of these brooches were ever produced (\$10/15,000). The Tristan and Isolde brooch of gold, diamonds and garnet is reflective of Dali's favorite opera and title by the artist "Filtre d'amour" (\$4/6,000).

From this gold chain necklace hang 14 different enameled or otherwise decorated Faberge egg charms (\$12/16,000).

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