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## Rago's Post-War and Contemporary Art Auction Sets Records in a Record Market

**Lambertville, NJ** – The market for Post-War and Contemporary Art proved dynamic and gainful in auctions this spring and Rago's sale of May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> was no exception. An international audience of bidders set the pace from the first dozen offerings, a delectable assortment of work by Pettibone, Arman and Nevelson. When the hammer fell, a sales total of \$1,394,917 for 283 lots had been reached – 8% over the high estimate. (All prices include a buyer's premium of 20%.)

Rago's sale achieved the top three prices for work by Richard Pettibone this season, save only for Sotheby's sale of the Roy Lichtenstein image "Hopeless": *Andy Warhol Elvis 1964* (1968) sold for \$156,000; *Roy Lichtenstein Aloha, 1962* (1969) for \$156,000 and *Andy Warhol Saturday Disaster 1964* (1968) for \$138,000.

Strong selling prices were also achieved for *Perses Neije 1* (Box with Toothbrushes) by Arman (Pierre Fernandez) for \$25,200; Louise Nevelson's *Dark Cryptic XXV* for \$25,200; Norman Bluhm's, *Tenth* for \$14,400; Ed Paschke's *Anjou* for \$18,000; Robert Arneson's *Splat* for \$26,400; an untitled photogram by Adam Fuss for \$13,200; *Underwear* by Marlene Dumas for \$42,000; an untitled pastel by Maureen Gallace (a record for a work on paper by the artist) for \$11,400; Jason Martin's *Tern* for \$25,200; Kehinde Wiley's, *Joseph of Egypt Study* for \$24,000 and two Jim Dine portfolios for \$26,400.

New records were set for a dozen artists featured in the sale (in addition to Gallace): Miriam Schapiro for *Veil of Tears*, \$6,000; a lot of two works by Melissa Meyer, untitled (red) and *Some Other String*, \$3,600; Allesandro Twombly for an untitled work, \$5,100; Peter Wegner for *Driftwood/Tumbleweed*, \$3,360; Frances Stark (record for a single work) for *Snow* (Study), \$1,020; Sharon Louden for *Agents*, \$2520; Lesley Dill for *Poem Wedding Dress*, \$7,200; Roxy Paine for *111126062000 B*, \$12,000; Jonathan Seliger for *Metropolitan Life*, \$7,200; Elizabeth Peyton (record for a print) for *Bosie*, \$5,700; Damien Smith for *Bel-Air*, \$1,140; and Helen Miranda Wilson for *The Catch*, \$1,440.

Rising artists Liza Lou, Christian Schumann, Stephan Balkenhol and Chris Johanson all sold very well, as did a number of artists featured for the first time at auction: Brady Dollarhide, whose *I Am So Into You*, \$8,400; an untitled work by Daniel Johnston which sold for \$840;

Thomas Trosch for *So You Are Going to Paris* at \$4,500 and Devendra Banhart for *Garden 2* at \$2,520.

“We look for work that is strong and relevant - sometimes expected and sometimes unexpected - from both established and emerging artists.” said Meredith Hilferty, Director of Fine Art. “That makes for an exciting auction and for happy sellers and buyers when the hammer falls – and that’s our goal. Owing to the great success of both this sale and our sale of Ken Freed’s collection last fall, the next auction in November is already in receipt of some thrilling property.”

The complete list of sale results is available on the Rago Arts and Auction Center website at [www.ragoarts.com](http://www.ragoarts.com). Meredith Hilferty and the Art Department are currently accepting consignments for future auctions and can be contacted at (866) RAGOARTS or [info@ragoarts.com](mailto:info@ragoarts.com).