

# NEAL AUCTION'S

June 27 & 28, 2015

*Important Summer Estates Auction*

**ACHIEVES \$2.45 MILLION**

- William Aiken Walker's Florida scene soars to \$152,362
- Three George Rodrigue paintings see exceptional results totaling \$295,762
- Record auction price achieved for Mississippi artist Theora Hamblett
- 28 lots from the Benjamin Kleinpeter Collection realize \$350,000
- 73 lots of period furniture and decorative arts from the Estates of William and Sarah McGehee achieve \$190,000
- Online bidding at an all-time high with LiveAuctioneers acquiring 30% of the lots on Saturday and 20% on Sunday
- Maryland bidders vie for Maryland sideboard
- Chinese tomb figures generate astonishing results
- Art glass, including Tiffany and Steuben, realizes \$77,317

## TOP 20 LOTS

### #1 ▪ Lot 302 ▪ William Aiken Walker ▪ \$152,362.00

The highlight of Neal Auction Company's *Important Summer Estates Auction* was lot **302**, a small 6 1/2 by 12 1/2 inch oil painting of "The Cove at Ponce Park [Florida]" by William Aiken Walker (American/South Carolina, 1838-1921) from the Baton Rouge collection of D. Benjamin Kleinpeter. Estimated at \$15,000 to \$25,000, the work sold for a near-record \$152,362.00 to a Florida telephone bidder competing against seven active telephones and the salesroom floor. The work is a rare Florida scene, which beautifully incorporates figures into a class of Florida pictures that usually has none. The bidding was aggressive, with eight telephone bidders vying for the painting against activity from the salesroom floor.

### #2 ▪ Lot 440 ▪ George Rodrigue ▪ \$134,437.00

Three works by beloved Louisiana artist George Rodrigue (1944-2013) attracted considerable interest in Neal Auction Company's June 27 & 28 *Important Summer Estates Auction*, continuing the trend of vigorous bidding by collectors that set a world record price of \$173,000 for the artist in Neal Auction Company's April 17, 2015 sale. The three paintings, lots **279**, **440** and **935**, represent a comprehensive survey of George Rodrigue's career, from his early Cajun series to the height of his Blue Dog series in the mid-1990s.

Against a presale estimate of \$40,000 to \$60,000, lot **440**, a circa 1990 oil on canvas, "Untitled: (Yellow Moon)," took the vanguard by climbing to \$134,437.00, making it the third highest

auction price for the artist. The lot saw interest from six telephones with bidders from Texas, Illinois, Maryland, Florida, and Louisiana bidding against the Internet and the salesroom floor.

**#3 ▪ Lot 935 ▪ George Rodrigue ▪ \$107,550.00**

Against a presale estimate of \$50,000 to \$80,000, lot **935**, a George Rodrigue canvas offered in the Sunday session of Neal Auction's sale, titled "I Have Been Known to Change My Position," achieved an impressive \$107,550.00, selling to a telephone bidder competing against four additional telephones, the Internet, and the salesroom floor.

**#4 ▪ Lot 279 ▪ George Rodrigue ▪ \$53,775.00**

Lot **279**, "Le Petit Chien," a 1974 oil on canvas by George Rodrigue, sold for \$53,775.00 against a presale estimate of \$30,000 to \$50,000, one of the highest prices ever achieved at auction for a Cajun series work.

**#5 ▪ Lot 301 ▪ Knute Heldner ▪ \$46,650.00**

Lot **301**, a Knute Heldner (Swedish/New Orleans, 1875-1952) oil depicting a "Horse and Buggy Ride, Bay Street, St. Augustine, Florida" from the D. Benjamin Kleinpeter Collection soared above its \$6,000 to \$8,000 presale auction estimate to achieve \$46,650.00. A Florida collector bidding on the telephone triumphed over four competing telephone bidders and the salesroom floor.

The \$46,650.00 achieved for "Horse and Buggy Ride" represents the second highest price achieved at auction for the artist. Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record auction price for a work by Heldner with "The Pig Woman – A Southern Idyll," which sold in November 2004 for \$76,750.00.

**#6 ▪ Lot 262 ▪ Ida Kohlmeyer ▪ \$44,215.00**

Against an estimate of \$20,000 to \$40,000, lot **262**, a 1981 oil on canvas by Ida Rittenberg Kohlmeyer (American/Louisiana, 1912-1997) titled "Blocked in Siena #1," saw intense competition from the salesroom floor and the telephones, selling to a Baton Rouge collector bidding in the front row for \$44,215.00.

Neal Auction continues to maintain the record auction price for a work by the artist with "Striae #2," which sold in April 2014 for \$101,580.00.

**#7 ▪ Lot 52 ▪ Gen Paul ▪ \$37,045.00**

Lot **52**, a dazzling composition by Gen Paul (French/American, 1895-1975) titled "Vermouth O' Clock," saw widespread interest with bidders competing from as far away as Belgium and France and as near as New Orleans. After fierce competition, the painting sold to a Belgian telephone bidder for \$37,045.00.

**#8 ▪ Lot 303 ▪ Theora Hamblett ▪ \$35,850.00**

Neal Auction's sale of lot **303**, a 1951 Theora Hamblett (American/Mississippi, 1893-1977) painting of "School Children Getting Drinking Water," set a new record auction price for the artist at \$35,850.00, breaking the previous record of \$23,370.00 set by Neal Auction in April 2014 with "Horse Training." Carrying an estimate of \$12,000 to \$18,000, three bidders competed aggressively against one another. The lot finally sold to a Mississippi collector bidding from the salesroom floor.

**#9 ▪ Lot 317 ▪ Federal Sideboard ▪ \$32,265.00**

Lot **317**, a circa 1790-1810 American Federal inlaid mahogany sideboard exhibiting characteristics of John Shaw (1745-1829), Maryland, saw intense interest from six Maryland telephone bidders competing against a Mississippi collector on the salesroom floor. Against a presale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000, the piece sold for \$32,265.00 to the Mississippi bidder. The piece came to Neal Auction from the historic Dr. Dubs House in Natchez.

**#10 ▪ Lot 300 ▪ Clarence Millet ▪ \$23,900.00**

Lot **300**, a painting from the Benjamin Kleinpeter Collection by New Orleans artist Clarence Millet, A.N.A. (1897-1959) titled "Spring at Tunica," saw intense interest from two telephone bidders competing against the salesroom floor. Against an estimate of \$15,000 to \$25,000, the work realized \$23,900.00.

**#11 ▪ Lot 286 ▪ Newcomb Pottery ▪ \$22,705.00**

Lot **286**, a 1925, rare and monumental Newcomb College art pottery vase decorated by Henrietta Bailey in the "Tall Pine and Moon" design from the Estate of Dr. Robert Trahan, achieved an impressive \$22,705.00, selling to a New Orleans collector bidding on the telephone.

Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the world record auction price for a work of Newcomb Pottery with a high glaze vase by Marie de Hoa LeBlanc, which sold in June 2009 for \$169,000.

**#12 ▪ Lot 149 ▪ Edgar Degas ▪ \$22,107.00**

Four New Orleanians competed for lot **149** on the telephones and on the salesroom floor. The early Edgar Degas (French, 1834-1917) drawing of an "Italian Woman (Femme Accoudée)" ultimately sold to a New Orleans telephone buyer for \$22,107.00.

**#13 ▪ Lot 327 ▪ Joseph Rusling Meeker ▪ \$21,510.00**

Lot **327**, an 1877 incredibly serene "Bayou Landscape" by Louisiana artist Joseph Rusling Meeker (1827-1887) from the Kleinpeter Collection, sold for \$21,510.00 to a gentleman bidding on the telephone.

**#14 ▪ Lot 322 ▪ Louisiana Armoire ▪ \$20,912.00**

Lot **322**, a very fine and rare, early 19th century Louisiana carved mahogany armoire from the Estates of William and Sarah McGehee—and formerly housed in their historic townhouse, the Dr. Dubs House, in Natchez— sold well at \$20,912.00 against fierce competition from several telephone bidders.

**#15 Tied ▪ Lot 699 ▪ Cizhou Pottery Vase ▪ \$20,315.00**

Lot **699**, a rare, 6 1/4 inch high, Song Dynasty (960-1279) iron red decorated cizhou pottery vase, witnessed passionate bidding between three bidders on the salesroom floor and the Internet. Against a thoroughly enticing \$400 to \$600 presale estimate, the small vase flew to \$20,315.00 in record time, selling to a salesroom bidder.

**#15 Tied ▪ Lot 326 ▪ Percival Leonard Rosseau ▪ \$20,315.00**

Lot **326**, an oil study of a “Pointer’s Head” by Percival Leonard Rosseau (American/North Carolina, 1859-1937) from the Kleinpeter Collection in Baton Rouge, saw intense competition from a Colorado phone bidder, an Arizona absentee bidder, and the Internet, ultimately selling to the Arizona buyer for \$20,315.00.

**#16 ▪ Lot 121 ▪ Le Pho ▪ \$19,120.00**

Lot **121**, an oil on canvas depicting “Poppies, Peonies, and Delphiniums” by Vietnamese artist Le Pho (1907-2001) attracted considerable interest from the Internet, a French telephone bidder, and the salesroom floor. The lot sold to a local collector bidding in the room for \$19,120.00.

**#17 ▪ Lot 304 ▪ Theora Hamblett ▪ \$17,327.00**

Lot **304**, a painting of “A Boy and Girl Roller Skating” by Mississippi artist Theora Hamblett (1893-1977), sold for \$17,327.00 to a Tennessee collector bidding on the telephone after staunch competition from a Georgia phone bidder, the salesroom floor, and the Internet.

**#18 Tied ▪ Lot 442 ▪ Jose Maria Cundin ▪ \$16,730.00**

Lot **442**, a whimsical painting by Jose Maria Cundin (Spanish/Louisiana, b. 1938), “Untitled: Pair of Figures in Hats,” achieved \$16,730.00 against an estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000. The work was purchased by a local New Orleans collector bidding on the telephone after trumping four other telephone bidders, the Internet, and the salesroom floor.

**#18 Tied ▪ Lot 299 ▪ Walter Inglis Anderson ▪ \$16,730.00**

Lot **299**, a watercolor of “Green Herons and Blackbirds (Grackles)” by Walter Inglis Anderson (American/Mississippi, 1903-1965) from the D. Benjamin Kleinpeter Collection saw widespread attention from Southern collectors bidding on the phone, the salesroom floor, and by absentee bid. The lot eventually sold to a local New Orleans collector on the telephone for \$16,730.00.

Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the record auction price for a work by the artist with “Study for the Mural of the History of the South,” which sold in December 2003 for \$162,000.

**#18 Tied ▪ Lot 481 ▪ Napoleon III Clock Garniture ▪ \$16,730.00**

Lot **481**, a very fine, mid-19th century Napoleon III bronze-mounted black marble three piece clock garniture, greatly exceeded its \$4,000 to \$6,000 estimate selling for \$16,730.00 to a California phone bidder after competition from the telephone bank, salesroom floor, and the Internet.

**#19 ▪ Lot 1207 ▪ American Brilliant Cut Glass ▪ \$15,860.00**

Against an estimate of \$400 to \$600, lot **1207**, a group of American brilliant green, cobalt and ruby flashed and cut glass, saw intense competition from the salesroom floor and the telephones, selling to a California collector bidding on the phone for an impressive \$15,860.00.

**#20 Tied ▪ Lot 271 ▪ Simon Gunning ▪ \$14,340.00**

Lot **271**, a colorful and captivating painting of the fishing boat “Gloria” by local artist Simon Gunning (Australian/New Orleans, b. 1956), sold to a New Orleans collector bidding in the salesroom after competition from the Internet and telephone bank.

**#20 Tied ▪ Lot 284 ▪ Newcomb Vase ▪ \$14,340.00**

Lot **284**, a rare and early Newcomb College art pottery high glaze vase decorated by Henrietta Bailey with Louisiana irises from the D. Benjamin Kleinpeter Collection, sold to an absentee bidder for an impressive \$14,340.00.

Neal Auction Company continues to maintain the world record auction price for a work of Newcomb Pottery with a high glaze vase by Marie de Hoa LeBlanc, which sold in June 2009 for \$169,000.

## **OTHER NOTABLE LOTS**

### **FURNITURE**

Lot **871**, a pair of late 18th century Louis XV carved walnut fauteuils, generated serious bidding. With a presale auction estimate of \$1,200 to \$1,800, the fauteuils achieved an impressive \$12,915.00, selling to an Internet bidder.

Lot **953**, a circa 1820 American Classical gilt stenciled and parcel ebonized mahogany armoire, which was catalogued as probably Joseph Meeks and Sons, New York, realized \$11,053.00 against a \$3,000 to \$5,000 presale auction estimate. With five telephone bidders competing

against an active Internet and the salesroom floor, the New York armoire sold to a Southern collector bidding on the phone.

### **CHINESE**

Neal Auction Company's *Important Summer Estates Auction* witnessed significant international interest on its Chinese offerings from a prominent local estate collection. Some of the highlights included lot **33**, a Tang Dynasty (618-906) partial glazed pottery figure of a foreign equestrian, which achieved \$9,840.00 against a presale estimate of \$1,000 to \$1,500; lot **116**, a 17th century famille verte charger, which realized \$7,687.00 against an estimate of \$1,000 to \$1,500; lot **571**, a Tang figure of a female musician, which flew to \$6,273.00 against a \$500 to \$700 estimate; lot **575**, a Shang Dynasty (1258-1028 BCE) bronze beaker vase, which soared to \$6,150 against a \$600 to \$800 estimate; lot **576**, a 5 1/2 inch high, Tang bronze votive figure, which realized \$7,687.00 against a presale estimate of \$600 to \$800; lot **677**, a Tang pottery figure of a foreign archer on horseback, which sold for \$6,765.00 against a \$400 to \$600 estimate; and lot **696**, two small Tang bronze Buddhist figures, which reached \$6,150.00 against an estimate of \$500 to \$700.

### **ART GLASS**

Neal Auction Company's Saturday session prominently featured two runs of Tiffany and Steuben art glass, consigned primarily from a prominent New Orleans estate. The two runs, lots **69-110** and **158-201** achieved an impressive sales total of \$77,317.00.

*Prices realized include Neal Auction Company's Buyer's Premium. Neal Auction Company's Buyer's Premium is 22% of the hammer price up to and including \$200,000, plus 10% of the hammer price greater than \$200,000. For purchases made by cash, check or wire transfer the buyer's premium is reduced by 2.5% of the 22%.*

### **PRESS CONTACT**

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