Press Release

For Immediate Release

artnet auctions Presents:

Holiday Ephemera Sale

Special auction of a unique selection of rare and unusual art collectibles
Live sale on artnet Auctions from December 13 through 20, 2012

Interview Magazine Christmas Card, c.1980
Greeting card, signed “love Andy Warhol”
9.1 x 5.8 in.
23.1 x 14.7 cm.
Est. US$2,000–2,500

New York / Berlin, December 13, 2012 — artnet Auctions presents the Holiday Ephemera Sale, an extensive auction of over 100 rare and unusual art collectibles and one-of-a-kind pieces.

The auction features works that make perfect gifts for the holidays, including a Christmas card signed by Andy Warhol (estimated at US$2,000 to US$2,500). Issued by Interview Magazine’s publishers in the 1980s, the card features the artist playfully posing as Santa Claus, with a white beard drawn on by Richard Bernstein, who designed the card. The inside of the card is signed “love Andy Warhol” by the artist himself, making the piece particularly rare and especially desirable. Other rare works by Warhol in the sale include a poster of Muhammad Ali from the artist’s estate (estimated at US$6,000 to US$8,000), a vintage 1967 copy of his Index pop-up book (estimated at US$900 to US$1,200), and a vintage signed Brillo Box which still contains rusty Brillos (estimated at US$8,000 to US$12,000). Also featured in the sale is a whimsical greeting card created by Warhol in the 1950s (estimated at US$4,000 to US$6,000). The card, which has been authenticated by the Warhol Foundation, features flowers and holly in an old-fashioned vase on gold paper. This piece is a
wonderful example of the work Warhol produced while he was still working as a successful commercial artist.

Other personalized cards and postcards are also up for auction, including three cards signed by Horst P. Horst that the artist dedicated to his colleague, the art director Lloyd Ziff (estimated at US$1,200 to US$1,500). In addition, Bruce Davidson collectors have the unique opportunity to purchase a postcard that is signed and dedicated by the artist (estimated at US$1,200 to US$1,500). The image on the card exhibits the social commentary for which Davidson is best known, and highlights the juxtaposition of cultures in New York City. The card is signed under the image, with the title, date, and “For Lloyd Ziff” inscribed. In addition, a postcard signed and hand-painted in gouache by Sam Francis (estimated at US$10,000 to US$15,000) is included.

Also featured in the sale is a men’s shirt with a drawing done in magic marker by David Hockney (estimated at US$5,000 to US$6,000). Hockney decorated the shirt to serve as a makeshift invitation for a viewing of his work at Nicholas Wilder’s gallery in West Hollywood, CA, in 1976. This eccentric piece, done early in the now-legendary California artist’s career, is truly unique and classic ephemera.

The Holiday Ephemera sale also includes two unique and rare photographs by George Hurrell. These photographs were created in the 1970s as part of a series of 1930s-style portraits of Contemporary celebrities for a spread in New West Magazine. The two offered here depict Arnold Schwarzenegger (estimated at US$10,000 to US$15,000) and Bianca Jagger (estimated at US$5,000 to US$10,000). Each black-and-white photograph is signed by Hurrell and was never published. The portrait of Schwarzenegger shows the celebrity, who is nude except for a cowboy hat, gazing into the distance; the shadowy background echoes the style of a film noir.

Another notable work in the sale is a handwritten letter by H.C. Westermann about his 1963 sculpture The Big Change (estimated at US$700 to US$900). In the letter, Westermann wrote details about the work, including the dimensions and the medium. The artist also drew a diagram of the structure and included a personalized note. This letter is the perfect gift for any fan or collector of Westermann’s work.


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