

## INSIDE ART

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## Provenance Adds Value

In the auction world, some names are as irresistible a marketing tool as designer labels can be in a department store. Take Christie's sale of important American paintings on Dec. 5. It features two Raphaelle Peales, a George Bellows and a Winslow Homer from the estate of Eleanor Searle Whitney McCollum, a philanthropist who was once married to the industrialist and sportsman Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney. They divorced in 1958 and she later married Leonard F. McCollum, the Houston oilman, cattle breeder and banker. She died in August at 93.

Experts at Christie's say the art being sold there is from Whitney's collection, works she received as part of her divorce settlement. "The fact that they were in the Whitney family is a significant added value, but these are great works that stand on their own," said Eric P. Widing, head of Christie's American paintings department.

Over the years several dealers made offers but she declined to sell. According to her will, she wanted the paintings to be sold after her death with the proceeds going to charities in Houston, where she lived. They included the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Symphony and Baylor College of Medicine.

Works by Bellows and Homer have been hard to come by in recent years, which works in favor of higher prices. "Gramercy Park" (1920) is a late Bellows work and depicts one of the artist's daughters with a jump rope in the foreground. It was featured in the Metropolitan Museum's 1925 Bellows retrospective. Christie's estimate is \$2 million to \$3 million.

Homer's "Girl in the Hammock" (1873), one of the artist's depictions of idyllic American country life, carries an estimate of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million.

Those in the market for a still life will be interested in Peale's "Still Life With Liqueur and Fruit" from 1814. Estimated to bring \$800,000 to \$1.2 million, it was last seen publicly in an exhibition of the artist's work



"Gramercy Park" (1920) by George Bellows is to be auctioned at Christie's on Dec. 5.

at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in 1988-89. "Fruits of Autumn" is the other Peale.

## Space for Artists

Tucked away on the 92nd floor of One World Trade Center, in space donated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, was a warren of artist studios that for four years were part of an artist-in-residence program organized by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. More than 150 artists participated, each given a six-month stint and a stipend ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending on the projects.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the program decamped to two locations. Fifteen artists set up makeshift studios on Washington Street in Brooklyn, where they have been producing works dealing with Manhattan's changing skyline. In the spring, when the World Financial Center at 220 Vesey Street partly reopened, nine more artists took up residence in what was once the Courtyard Gallery.

They were asked to produce site-specific projects to be installed in and around the center.

This is the first time the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council in partnership with the World Financial

Center Arts and Events Program has commissioned public art, and it is on view now through Jan. 17.

"We put out a call to artists and, with a committee of arts professionals, processed over 150 applications with ideas for projects," said Moukhtar Kocache, director of visual and media arts initiatives for the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

The participants are primarily emerging and midcareer artists in their early 30's to mid-40's. All are based in New York, although some are natives of Europe or South America.

The artists are Anne Beffel, Jane Benson, Curtis Cuffie, Charles Goldman, Elke Lehmann, Pia Lindman, Brian McGrath, Andrea Ray and Alex Villar.

The projects, under the umbrella title "New Views: World Financial Center," are a varied lot. Between the World Financial Center Courtyard restrooms, Ms. Beffel created "Apologies," which consists of large glass jars that dispense free handmade glycerin soap bars with the phrase "I'm sorry" carved in each. Next to the jars are narratives etched on glass sheets, true stories collected by the artist whose subjects range from war to homelessness.

By contrast, Mr. Grath's "New

York Ascendant: Here and Now" is an animated digital drawing, which can be found on a plasma screen set into an oval table on the second level of the Winter Garden. It traces the 370-year architectural and urban transformation of Lower Manhattan.

Then there is Ms. Lindman's "Viewing Deck and Waterline." Shot from the 19th floor of 1 World Financial Center, the video shows the crowds who came to see the World Trade Center site from the specially built viewing deck. For her "Waterline" video, she submerged her camera in the World Financial Center's North Cove Yacht Harbor. As the waves go up and down, the camera captures everything from the surrounding buildings to the water below.

The works can be viewed from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily throughout the World Financial Center. In addition studios will be open to the public

from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. "We wanted to create projects made for the community," Mr. Kocache said.

## A New London Fair

Despite the proliferation of international contemporary art fairs here and abroad, more are in the works. The latest is an annual October fair in London.

To be called the Frieze Art Fair, it is being organized by Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, founders of Frieze Magazine.

The event is to include 100 exhibitors from Europe and the United States, chosen by a selection committee that includes leading contemporary art dealers from New York, London, Berlin, Glasgow and Zurich.

Rather than hold it in a convention center or hotel, the organizers are planning to house it in a specially designed temporary structure at the south end of Regent's Park, within walking distance of Soho and the West End.

"We want this to feel more like a festival," Mr. Slotover said. "We're hoping to get artists involved and to have an interesting schedule of talks."