

Muhammad Ali's Comeback Belt Sells For \$6.18 Million

DALLAS — The WBC Heavyweight Championship belt from Muhammad Ali's historic victory over George Foreman in the 1974 "The Rumble in the Jungle Match" was sold by Heritage Auctions at their July 21-23 Summer Sports Catalog auction for an astounding \$6.18 million on July 23. The historic significance of this artifact cannot be overstated. After being publicly ostracized following his rejection of the draft during the



Vietnam War, Ali returned to the ring against the fearsome title holder, George Foreman. Foreman had beaten the former

champion Joe Frazier for the belt, who before then had broken Ali's undefeated streak as Heavyweight Champion. The "Rumble in the Jungle" match did not predict a positive outcome for Ali, who nonetheless strategized against Foreman and brought him down with legendary skill and precision. This belt is not only a grail of sports memorabilia, but of American history. Prices quoted include the buyer's premium.

Crouching Rabbit Bronze Leaps At DuMouchelles

DETROIT, MICH. — Estimated just \$300/500, Jane Poupelet's (French, 1874-1932) bronze "Rabbit Crouching," 3 by 4 1/4 inches, hopped to it, selling for \$10,540, including buyer's premium, on the first day of DuMouchelles' July sales, July 21-22. Born in the Dordogne countryside, a setting that inspired her and had a great influence on her artistic work, Poupelet as a child used to play outside with clay and make sculptures of the people and animals around her, choosing to surround herself with rural animals, such as rabbits, chickens, donkeys, etc. The two-day sale featured fine and decorative art, antiques, furniture, estate jewelry, ceramics, art glass and crystal and more. A further review will discuss additional highlights.



NYS Museum Unveils NYC 19th Century Wedding Wear



ALBANY, N.Y. — On view at the New York State Museum until October 2 is "Unveiled: Wedding Wear in Nineteenth Century New York."

In choosing their wedding clothes, brides and grooms are influenced by fashion, economics, technology, religion, geography, celebrity, personal taste and their role in society. This was as much the case in Nineteenth Century New York as it is today.

Wedding clothing holds memories, and pieces — dresses, shoes, suits and head wear — are often preserved and passed to subsequent generations. A couple's choices reveal historical information about both the individuals who wore them and those who made them. Some garments find their way to museum collections. This exhibition will unveil stories of select New Yorkers.

The New York State Museum is at 222 Madison Avenue. For information, www.nysed.gov.

Installation view of "Unveiled: Wedding Wear in Nineteenth Century New York," courtesy New York State Museum.

Princeton Is Witness To Rose B. Simpson

PRINCETON, N.J. — The sculptural figures in Rose B. Simpson's installation at Princeton University Art Museum's Art @ Bainbridge gallery, "Witness" invite visitors to reflect on fundamental aspects of being human — as sentient, reactive and impactful. Her works encourage direct interaction in order to explore such common human experiences as the effects of insomnia, tropes of gender identity or the impact of microaggressions. Traces of such experiences attach to the sculptures' bodies or heads, where humans absorb and process information, while their accoutrements and upright posture, with heads held high, confirm the dignity of individuals who accept these experiences. The sculptures seek empathetic responses from those who witness them; they look back at us, demanding introspection and acknowledgment of our actions. Simultaneously, Simpson's slap-slab clay construction method preserves impressions of her hands and fingerprints; she accepts these imperfections as inevitable. The resulting works are — like all people — the sum of their



Rose B. Simpson (Tewa Pueblo, b 1983, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM; active Santa Clara Pueblo), Femme, 2020, ceramic, metal and mixed media. Collection of Emily and Mike Cavanagh.

experiences.

"Witness/Rose B. Simpson" will be on view at Art@Bainbridge until September 11.

Art@Bainbridge is made possible through the support of the Virginia and Bagley Wright, Class of 1946, Program Fund for Modern and Contemporary Art; the Kathleen C. Sherrerd Program Fund for American Art; Joshua R. Slocum, Class of 1998, and Sara Slocum; and Barbara and Gerald Essig.

Additional support is provided by Stacey Roth Goergen, Class of 1990, and Robert B. Goergen; and the Morley and Jean Melden Education Fund for Prints and Drawings.

The Princeton University Art Museum's Art@Bainbridge is at 158 Nassau Street. For information, www.artmuseum.princeton.edu/artbainbridge or 609-258-3788.

Merrill's Steinway Plays A Top Tune

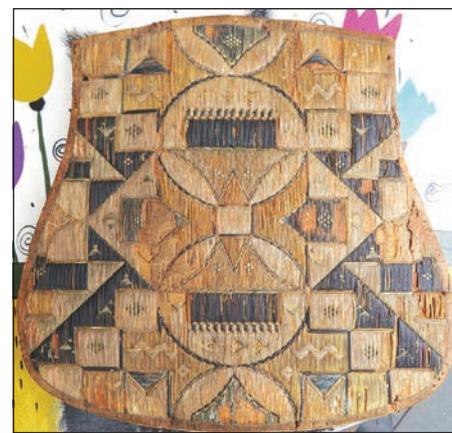
WILLISTON, VT. — Merrill's Auctioneers & Appraisers conducted their Continental and Decorative Arts Auction on July 22, offering an intriguing mix of objects from all categories of art and décor. However, the top lot was neither continental nor decorative. A late Twentieth Century Boston by Steinway & Sons baby grand piano played out to \$6,325, with a humidifier and matching bench included. This was a screaming deal for the buyer as new pianos like this start at around \$22,000. More on this and the other great discoveries of the sale in an issue to follow.



Native Quill Work Tops Havill Collection At Crowther & Brayley Single-Owner Sale

BERWICK, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA —

On July 23, Crowther & Brayley conducted an onsite live auction featuring the lifetime collection of Reg Havill, representing a half century of collecting in 500 lots. The top lot was a Mi'kmaq quill work seat cover from about 1890, which sold for \$1,200, including buyer's premium and with the conversion to US dollars. Auctioneer Bill



Brayley said it was made by Nova Scotia's Indigenous peoples, the Mi'kmaq. "Seat covers are among the rarer forms they worked in," he said. "It was probably a child's chair, given the size and was in good condition overall, as they tend to be fairly fragile." Watch for a further review of this sale in an upcoming issue.

Jack Nicholson's 'Joker' Suit Sells At Heritage



DALLAS — "You're my number one... suit!" Jack Nicholson's screen-worn, seven-piece suit from 1989's *Batman* captivated at Heritage Auctions' Hollywood & Entertainment Signature auction on July 22-23, racking up at \$125,000. Including a bespoke suit from Savile Row's Tommy Nutter, a Dobbs hat, Robot boots and a Christian Dior tie, this insanely stylish ensemble was a lot of both menswear and movie history.

Designed by Bob Ringwood for Tim Burton's film, the suit retains residue of the production on the boots, and the white makeup worn by Nicholson on the hat's inner brim. The suit was one of many lots offered that would make any fan of film giddy. Prices quoted include the buyer's premium.