

**Heffel's to offer iconic Canadian masterworks from the estate of
Helen Eulalie Band, daughter of important Canadian Art collector
Charles Shaw Band – November 26, 2009**

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Heffel Fine Art Auction House is pleased to offer, as part of its November 26, 2009 sale of Fine Canadian Art, fifteen masterworks from the revered Band family collections. Long admired by Canadian art audiences, works from the Band collection have been part of exhibitions, catalogues and the art historical dialogue of this country since the early 1930s. Two works are the final oil sketches for the masterpieces *North Shore, Lake Superior*, and *Icebergs, Davis Strait* by Lawren Harris, now flagship works in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, respectively.

Heffel's is honoured to have been entrusted with the care and dissemination of these fifteen masterworks from this collection including Lawren Harris's *The Old Stump, Lake Superior, Houses, St. Patrick Street, In Buchanan Bay, Ellesmere Island* and *Iceberg, Baffin's Bay North*, and A.Y. Jackson's 1926 classic canvas *North Shore, Lake Superior*. "These works mark the birth of several Canadian icons," says Robert Heffel, Vice-President, Heffel Fine Art Auction House. "They represent critical points for Harris and Varley, and a classic moment for Jackson. The collection as a whole is remarkable."

Charles Band was a childhood friend of Lawren Harris, and married a daughter of one of the original founders of the Art Gallery of Ontario. These connections to the art world would lead to his avid collecting activities. Band built an important collection of paintings, drawings and sculpture including works by B.C. Binning, Paul-Émile Borduas, Emily Carr, Jean Dallaire, L.L. Fitzgerald, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Jean Paul Lemieux, Arthur Lismer, Jock Macdonald, Henry Moore, Painters Eleven, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Gordon Smith, Frederick Varley and others.

Heffel's is cognizant of the importance of the works in this estate, which also include the stunning *Nude on a Couch* by Frederick Varley, considered to be among the very best of his paintings, A.Y. Jackson's magnificent 1926 canvas *North Shore, Lake Superior*, an Emily Carr Klee Wyck ceramic bowl, the stunning B.C. Binning abstract *Atomic Fountain*, three very fine seashore scenes by Arthur Lismer: *Maritime Still Life, Cape Breton N.S., Killicks No. 1, Cape Breton Islands, N.S.* and *Sword Fishing Gear*; a Harold Town compressed charcoal drawing of Jacqueline Kennedy, and a superb Henry Moore sculpture entitled *Maquette for Figure on Steps*.

It is through the estate of Charles Band's daughter, Helen E. Band, that Heffel's has been entrusted with these works. Helen was also an avid collector and generous donor. Taught by her father to embrace new ideas and abstraction, and, above all, to give back to her community, Helen, through her estate, donated 138 works by 42 First Nations artists to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery in 1994, a monumental addition to a fledgling gallery. Works from her father's collection remained with her estate until this year when the estate selected Heffel Fine Art Auction House to manage their sale. "It is a humbling honour to be entrusted with works of such national importance," says David Heffel, President, Heffel Fine Art Auction House. "We are fully aware of the significance of these masterpieces to the Canadian art historical record. Each one is a gem of history, and we are thrilled to be working on the estate's behalf."

The Bands were generous lenders and pleased to share their collection with others; "...collectors should be lenders," Charles said in 1955, "helping to give pleasure to others." Band certainly honoured this statement, as the lengthy and pedigreed exhibition history of many of these works proves. After his death, a substantial portion of his collection was donated to public institutions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario. Band was a member of the Arts and Letters Club, an Officier de l'Academie française, and was named to the Order of Canada in 1969 for his contribution to the arts and philanthropic work. He served as Governor of the National Film Board of Canada, and worked actively to assist galleries in bringing international artists to Canada for exhibition. He served as President of the Art Gallery of Toronto (now the Art Gallery of Ontario) from 1945 to 1948 and again from 1964 to 1965. Band was an avid traveler, and visited Jean-Paul Riopelle and Alfred Pellán in France, as well as Henry Moore in England. He believed the private collector was vital to the health of art in Canada, stating "... however excellent and well-supported our galleries are, the private collector ~ even on the smallest scale ~ is still vital to art. You may think that you can't become a collector ~ I'm inclined to disagree with you."

Band had a prominent career as a business executive working for the grain firm Carruthers and Company, Gutta Percha & Rubber Ltd. and the Canadian Surety Company, and also served as Director of many of these organizations, as well as Canada Permanent Trust and the British American Bank Note Company. Born in 1885 in Thorold, Ontario, Band died in 1969.

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