

News

Three Paintings Top the Million Dollar Mark at Heffel's \$11.3-Million Spring Auction

Media Release

Vancouver, B.C. - (June 17, 2009, 9:20 p.m. PST)

Heffel Fine Art Auction House set a new record sale price tonight when a rare Emily Carr painting sold for \$2,164,500 in the second session of Heffel's Live Spring Auction. *Wind in the Treetops*, a 36-1/2 x 21-1/4 inch oil on canvas, circa 1936-1939, is from the most sought-after period in Carr's career - the mature period of the 1930s. Heffel Fine Art Auction House has previously sold two Carr paintings for more than \$1-million and is the only auction house to reach that price point for her works. This ranks as the fourth highest priced painting in Canadian history.

"We were very fortunate to have a mature period Carr canvas of this calibre in our sale," says Robert Heffel, principal of Heffel Fine Art Auction House. "A painting from this period is one of the rarest treasures in Canadian art, so it is not surprising we shattered the previous Carr record by \$1 million."

Tonight's sale result of \$11.3-million was well past the \$6 - \$9-million presale estimate for Heffel's two sessions. The Canadian Post-War & Contemporary Art, which commenced at 4 p.m. PST, had sales totalling \$4.7-million. The second session of Fine Canadian Art began at 7 p.m. PST and had a sales total of \$6.6-million. Both sessions were held before a crowd of 300 people at Vancouver's new Convention Centre overlooking Coal Harbour.

Tom Thomson's *Birches and Cedar, Fall* was another highlight, selling for \$1,404,000 - well above its estimate of \$600,000 to \$800,000. The oil on panel, circa 1915, is embossed with the Thomson estate stamp and highlights the ever-changing fall landscape of the Ontario woods.

During the second session a record was set when John William Beatty's *Canoe Lake, Algonquin Park* sold for \$222,300. Beatty strongly influenced Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven in its early days.

Three other Emily Carr lots showed well in the second session. *A Forest Clearing*, a colourful oil from 1935 sold for \$187,200; *Shore and Forest (Cordova Bay)* sold for \$128,700; and *Tangle*, a 1937 oil on board forest scene also sold for \$128,700.

"The Fine Canadian Art session was one of our finest collections of artwork to date, featuring a number of Group of Seven canvases and an exceptional Carr work," says David Heffel, president of Heffel Fine Art Auction House. "Once again, we were delighted to see consistently strong bidding throughout both sales."

Highpoints in the first session included the sale of Jean-Paul Riopelle's *Jouet*, a drip painting that sold for \$1,170,000. *Jouet*; Thomson's *Birches and Cedar, Fall*; and Carr's *Wind in the Tree Tops* are the only three paintings to sell for over \$1-million in the entire spring 2009 auction season. Alexander Colville's *Coastal Figure* was also among the first session's top selling paintings, with a sale price of \$526,500.

In the two sessions, 21 paintings exceeded the \$100,000 mark and 15 records were set.

The complete list of the top 10 paintings from the two sales and the list of new Canadian fine art records follows below. High resolution images of the top paintings in the auction are cleared for media use and can be downloaded from the newsroom page of www.heffel.com.

In total, the Spring Auction featured 159 Canadian works. Information on the pieces and artists can also be found at www.heffel.com.

Top Ten Paintings Sold - Heffel Fine Art's two sessions - June 17, 2009

Below is a list of the top 10 highest selling paintings from Heffel Fine Art's Post-War & Contemporary Art Auction and the Fine Canadian Art Auction combined. All prices include the 17 per cent buyers premium added to the hammer price.



1. Emily Carr
Wind in the Tree Tops

Lot 156 - oil on canvas

Sold for: \$2,164,500

2. Tom Thomson
Birches and Cedar, Fall

Lot 137 - oil on panel

Sold for: \$1,404,000



3. Jean-Paul Riopelle
Jouet

Lot 31 - oil on canvas

Sold for: \$1,170,000



4. Alexander Colville
Coastal Figure

Lot 40 - glazed tempera on board

Sold for: \$526,500



5. James Edwards Hervey (J.E.H.) MacDonald
Algoma Hillside

Lot 138 - oil on board

Sold for: \$409,500



6. William Kurelek
After the Blizzard in Manitoba

Lot 10 - mixed media on board

Sold for: \$245,700



7. John William Beatty
Canoe Lake, Algonquin Park

Lot 121 - oil on canvas

Sold for: \$222,300



8. Jean-Paul Riopelle
Côte sauvage (D)

Lot 34 - oil on canvas

Sold for: \$187,200



9. Emily Carr
A Forest Clearing

Lot 161 - oil on paper laid down on board

Sold for: \$187,200



10. Edward John (E.J.) Hughes
Trees on a Point, Mill Bay, BC

Lot 41 - oil on canvas

Sold for: \$175,500

Combined New Records set in the two Heffel Fine Art Auctions - June 17, 2009

These are the 15 new records set at today's Heffel Post-War & Contemporary Art Auction and Fine Canadian Art auctions. All prices include the 17 per cent buyers premium added to the hammer price.

Jack Shadbolt

Lot 1 - Pender St. at Granville - Sketch for United Services Centre Mural

New record: \$38,025 for a watercolour

E.J. Hughes

Lot 5 - Mouth of the Courtenay River, BC

New record: \$43,875 for a drawing

Louis Belzile

Lot 23 - Sérénité

New record: \$5,265

Jack Shadbolt

Lot 29 - Summer Icon

New record: \$152,100

Rita Letendre

Lot 33 - Réseaux d'intrigue

New record: \$64,350

Rodolphe de Repentigny

Lot 36 - Sans titre

New record: \$40,950

Jean-Philippe Dallaire

Lot 37 - Nu décoratif

New record: \$76,050

Walter Hawley Yarwood

Lot 39 - Island

New record: \$40,950

E.J. Hughes

Lot 44 - Museum Ship at Penticton, BC

New record: \$128,700 for a watercolour

Jean-Paul Riopelle

Lot 48 - Hibou

New record: \$49,725 for a sculpture

Robert Charles Davidson

Lot 49 - Dunee

New record: \$15,210 for a bronze sculpture

Agatha (Gathie) Falk

Lot 69 - Still Life with Fruit

New record: \$7,020 for a ceramic

Henriette Fauteux-Massé

Lot 72 - Sans titre

New record: \$7,605

John William Beatty

Lot 121 - Canoe Lake, Algonquin Park

New record: \$222,300

Emily Carr

Lot 156 - Wind in the Tree Tops

New record: \$2,164,500

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