

## Trail of Russells

Thirty rare works by the Western master highlight the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction.

For collectors of Charles M. Russell, all roads lead to the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction (CDAA). Considered the market leader for Russell, the 29<sup>th</sup> annual sale features an astounding 30 works by the Western master, including some very rare sculptures. This marks a record number of Russells consigned by the auction, most of which come from private collections.

Headlining the Russell lots is *Trail of the Iron Horse*, an important 1924 watercolor estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million.

"It's a poignant tale of Indians looking down a railroad track and seeing their destination disappearing. And, it was done during Russell's prime period of painting," says art dealer Stuart Johnson, a partner in the CDAA.

*Trail of the Iron Horse* last came to market in 2003 when it surpassed its high estimate to realize \$1,036,000 at this sale. "It appeared on the catalog cover. Now we got it for the second time around," says Coeur d'Alene Art Auction co-owner Mike Overby.

Additional Russell offerings include *Dakota Chief* (est. \$500/700,000), *Wake of a Cree Hunting Party* (est. \$100/500,000), *The Trading Post* (est. \$100/500,000), and *Battle Between Blackfeet & Piegans* (est. \$250/350,000). Rare sculpture includes casts of *The Medicine Whip* (est. \$200/300,000), *The Bluffers* (est. \$100/200,000), *Nature's Cattle* (est. \$100/200,000), and *Buffalo Family* (est. \$60/90,000).

The sale's cover lot, William R. Leigh's *Dodging Lead* (1943), is one of the artist's finest works and is sure to have stiff competition. Considered to be one of the most accomplished high-action painters of the West, Leigh's museum-quality piece shows a bandit being chased. "The action is a terrific example of



Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *A Water Pocket, Northern Arizona, 1907*, oil on canvas, 20 x 30" Estimate: \$1.5/2.5 million

what Leigh did the best," Johnson remarks.

"It's my favorite Leigh we've ever had in our 29 years," Overby adds. "It's one of the most well-executed paintings I've seen him do."

Other museum-quality works include Thomas Moran's *A Water Pocket, Northern Arizona*, a stunning 1907 oil estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. It will be joined by other

fine landscapes from Thomas Hill, Maynard Dixon, and Gunnar Widforss.

Within the historical works category is a major Frederic Remington titled *The Story*

of *Where the Sun Goes* (est. \$2/3 million). Measuring 27 by 36 inches, the size alone makes this a standout piece. Other notable works by Remington include a very low cast

number 12 of the ironic bronze *broncho Buster* (est. \$400/600,000) and a 29-by-21-inch oil titled *Water!* (est. \$150/250,000).

The CDAA will have six paintings by Frank





Joseph H. Sharp (1859-1953), *Crow Camp*, oil on canvas, 24 x 30" Estimate: \$250/350,000

Tenney Johnson, one of the most sought-after early Western artists today. Crossing the block will be *Pueblo at Night* (est. \$250/350,000) and *Return from the Hunt* (est. \$200/300,000), both considered large works for the artist. Of the latter piece, which has been in a prominent private collection for many years, Overby remarks, "It's quintessential Frank Tenney Johnson with the cowboy, pack train and landscape."

According to Johnson biographer Harold McCracken, "The Frank Tenney Johnson nocturne was something he developed to the point of perfection where it can be considered pretty much his own art form."

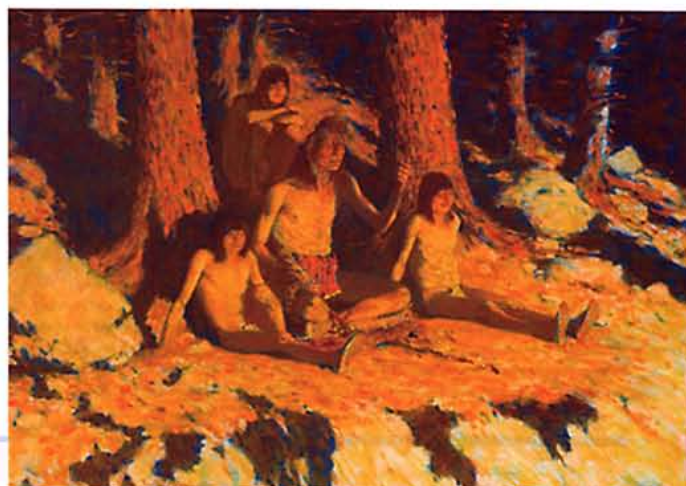
Also well represented in the auction are Taos Artists Joseph H. Sharp, Eanger Irving Couse, E. Martin Hennings, and Oscar Berninghaus. Highlights include a very rare Crow Reservation-Montana scene by Sharp titled *Crow Camp*

(est. \$250/350,000), which comes from a private family collection where it has resided since acquired from the artist, and Couse's *The Pottery Maker* (est. \$250/350,000). According to CDAA, this major work is the finest Couse to hit the market in more than five years and is expected to spark considerable interest. At 30 by 36 inches, the oil is considered a large piece from the artist.

"It's a knockout piece! I think it might cause



Frank Tenney Johnson (1874-1939), *Return from the Hunt*, 1934, oil on canvas, 25 x 30" Estimate: \$200/300,000



Frederic Remington (1861-1909), *The Story of Where the Sun Goes*, oil on canvas, 27 x 36" Estimate: \$2/3 million





Henry Farny (1847-1916), *Strange Country*, 1891, gouache on paper, 16½ x 9" Estimate: \$300/500,000



Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), *Trail of the Iron Horse*, 1924, watercolor on paper, 17½ x 27½" Estimate: \$1.5/2.5 million

some fireworks," Overby says. "On a scale of 1 to 10, it's an 11. Couse painted some subjects over and over and usually these bigger ones were commissions, so he spent extra time on it and you can really tell. It's one of the best

Couse's we've ever had."

Another mainstay of the auction is sporting art and this year will feature one of its strongest lineups yet. Top lots include one of Philip R. Goodwin's undisputed masterpieces, *A Break*

at Dawn (est. \$100/150,000), and possibly the most significant Bob Kuhn to come to market in many years: *The Spawning Run*. Estimated at \$100,000 to \$200,000, the piece was painted by the artist specifically for one of his best

friends and patrons and has never been on the market.

"It's a really strong Kuhn, and one of my personal favorites," Overby comments.

Among the contemporary lots offered are

several stunning pieces by today's leading Western artists. Major works include Howard Terpning's *Too Many Snows* (est. \$400/600,000), Z.S. Liang's *The Diversion, Bozeman Trail 1866* (est. \$80/120,000),

Kenneth Riley's *Mandan Buffalo Dance* (est. \$50/75,000), and Mian Situ's *Chinese Flower Shop-San Francisco* (est. \$60/90,000). First-time participants include C. Michael Dudash, Bruce Lawes, Charles Muench, and South





Eanger Irving Couse  
(1866-1936), *The Pottery  
Maker*, oil on canvas, 30 x 36"  
Estimate: \$250/350,000




Howard Terpning (b. 1927),  
*Too Many Snows*, 1985,  
oil on canvas, 36 x 60"  
Estimate: \$400/600,000



African sculptor Dylan Lewis.

Transcending all categories is a unique objet d'art by artist Frank Polk, which was commissioned by John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino in Reno, Nevada, in 1958. Weighing in at 206 troy ounces of 18-karat gold, the solid-gold sculpture of a rooster served as the mascot of the Nugget's Golden Rooster Room for more than 50 years. It is estimated to sell today for \$200,000 to \$300,000.

With such a diverse selection of rare blue-chip paintings and sculptures, expectations are high for the 2014 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, which returns July 26 to the Peppermill Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada. 

### 29<sup>th</sup> annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction

**When:** July 26, 2014, noon

**Where:** Peppermill Resort Casino,  
2707 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

**Information:** (208) 772-9009,  
[www.cdaartauction.com](http://www.cdaartauction.com)

Jay Moore (b. 1964), *Moonlit Night*, oil on linen,  
48 x 36" Estimate: \$15/25,000



Charles M. Russell (1864-1926), *Dakota Chief*, 1897, oil on board, 12 x 18" Estimate: \$500/700,000