

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 9, 2008

**FRANKENTHALER PAINTING SELLS AT IVEY-SELKIRK
MODERNISM AUCTION**

St. Louis - Contemporary art has been breaking records worldwide recently and Ivey-Selkirk Auctioneers in St. Louis, Missouri felt a tip of the market trend. The Modernism Auction took place May 17 and 18 totaling sales of \$1.5million with buyer's premium. A painting by Helen Frankenthaler, American (b.1928) *Return and Exit*, 1974, acrylic on canvas, sold on May 18th for \$475,500. including buyer's premium. Frankenthaler was strongly influenced by the work of Gorky, Pollack and de Kooning and after completing studies at Bennington College in Vermont, studied under Hans Hofman, a leading exponent of European Modernism. The painting, in muted blues with streaks of white and yellow, appeared on the cover of the auction catalogue and the provenance stated that the painting's initial owner sold the painting at Sotheby's New York in February 1997 to John Bergggruen of San Francisco and ultimately sold for the owner who purchased it through the Robert Stein Gallery in St. Louis.

Andy Warhol is known as a painter of legendary icons. Twenty years after his death, there has never been a better time to reflect on Warhols's life and influence on pop culture today. A color screenprint portrait of MAO, dated 1972, number 200/250, by Andy Warhol, and printed by Styria Studios doubled its presale estimate at \$61,360. The portrait with a dark blue background and rust/brown complexion grabbed one's immediate attention, measuring 36 x 36 inches.

Ernest Trova, a self trained St. Louis native, became one of the significant artists of the late 20th century. He is best known for "The Falling Man" series. Ivey-Selkirk sold the Study/Falling Man (figure in sphere), 1986, stainless steel, numbered 3/8, for \$30,680. to an east coast telephone bidder. The presale estimate was \$8,000-9,000.

Within a selection of Arts and Crafts furniture, an exceptional and rare oak desk for Gustav Stickley, circa 1903, by Harvey Ellis, sold for \$112,100. A similar inlaid library table of the same design can be found at the Los Angeles Museum of Art.

The auction included a wide assortment of Art Nouveau and Decorative Art to include Steuben, Tiffany, Galle, Lalique and Daum Nancy glass. Silver included a Tiffany & Company Audubon sterling silver flatware service that sold for \$13,570.

Designer furniture by Dunbar, Paul McCobb, Edward Wormley, T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings and Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller was also offered and sold.

With five-hundred works of art in the auction, the Trustees of the Nelson Gallery Foundation of Kansas City, Missouri were pleasantly awarded with the success of a painting by Charles Ragland Bunnell, American (1897-1968) that sold by Order of the Trustees for \$18,880., far exceeding its presale estimate of \$2,000-3,000.

Mark Howald, Executive Vice President of Ivey-Selkirk and Department Head for Modernism, is now accepting consignments for the Autumn Modernism sale taking place November 15 & 16. Please contact Ivey-Selkirk at 314.726.5515 or email mhowald@iveyselkirk.com. Visit www.iveyselkirk.com for further information and auction schedule.

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