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FOR LIMITED RELEASE
April 24, 2017

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Strong Showing for Edward S. Curtis Photographs at Swann Galleries

New York— On Thursday, April 20, Swann Galleries offered Images & Objects: Photographs & Photobooks, setting records for early and modern works alike. The sale performed well overall, with 71% of works offered finding buyers.

Swann Galleries consistently offers a varied selection of rare and iconic works by Edward S. Curtis, with nearly all of the offered lots selling above or within the estimate in this sale. Highlights included a striking portrait of *Red Cloud, Oglala*, 1905, which sold for \$32,500*, a record for the work, above a high estimate of \$9,000. *The Scout, Apache*, 1906, a dramatic orotone in the original frame depicting a Native American silhouetted on a horse, more than doubled its high estimate of \$12,000 to sell for \$27,500, a record for an orotone of the image; another orotone in its original frame, *An Oasis in the Badlands*, 1905, was purchased by a collector for \$21,250, above a high estimate of \$15,000.

Bastions of the art of photography performed well, with the highest price in the sale going to a group of 60 plates from Eadweard Muybridge's seminal *Animal Locomotion*, 1887. Ansel Adams's iconic *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, 1941, printed circa 1976, went for \$42,500. Five of the six works offered by New York-based vernacular photographer Weegee (née Arthur Fellig) found buyers, led by *Coney Island*, 1940, at \$13,750.

The cover lot for the sale was an unusual version of Toni Frissell's breathtaking *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1957—the image was printed in reverse, with the notation “This is backwards” on the verso (\$12,500).

Works from the last 50 years performed exceptionally well, with high prices going to Robert Frank's *Sick of Goodby's, Mabou*, 1978, and *Zuma #9*, 1978, by John Divola (\$32,500 and \$10,000, respectively). Both offered works by Peter Hujar far surpassed their high estimates: a trio of portraits of Robert Wilson, Ann Wilson and Sheryl Sutton, 1975, reached \$27,500, above a high estimate of \$12,000, while the striking 1985 *Shack, Queens*, more than doubled its high estimate of \$6,000 to sell to a collector for \$13,750. A suite of five photographs by Duane Michals, titled *Narcissus*, 1985, soared past its high estimate of \$9,000 to sell after rapid bidding for \$26,000, a record for the work.

Daile Kaplan, Director of Photographs & Photobooks at Swann Galleries, said of the sale, “Visual icons of the photography market, including Ansel Adams' *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* and Eadweard Muybridge's *Animal Locomotion* plates, and remarkable objects like Edward Curtis' extraordinary orotones sold competitively. The response to contemporary works by Peter Hujar, Adam Fuss and Duane Michals was exciting. The mid-range market for images and objects continues to attract new and mature buyers.”

The next sale of Photographs & Photobooks at Swann Galleries will be held October 19, 2017. For more information or consign quality materials, contact Daile Kaplan at dkaplan@swann galleries.com.

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