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Modernists Lead American Art at Swann



New York—**Swann Galleries** continued the spring 2019 season with a sale of **American Art** on **June 13**, which boasted three artist records.

American Modernists were standouts in the sale with two of the three records: **Attilio Salemmé's** 1945 oil on canvas painting *Rivalry*, at \$21,250, and *Nautical Composition with an Anchor*, oil on board, by Joseph Lambert Cain, at \$11,250. Suzy Frelinghuysen's Cubist-inspired oil and collage work, *Act Three*, 1942 reached \$40,000, and Esphyr Slobodkina's *Abstract Composition*, gouache on board, circa 1940s earned \$8,450.

Scenes of America's diverse terrain were well received by collectors. Highlights included a run of vibrant watercolors by Charles Burchfield: *Clouds and Trees Under Blue Skies*, circa 1920s (\$23,750), *Summer Landscape (Trees on a Hill)*, 1917 (\$13,750), and *Brook*, 1916 (\$12,350) were among the top lots. Also of note was an example of Hughie Lee-Smith's mid-career oeuvre, *Coastal Landscape*, oil on canvas, 1960s (\$11,250); Albert Bierstadt's oil on paper *Rocky Mountain Landscape* (\$22,500); and a snowy New York City scene, *At the Plaza, New York*, by Guy C. Wiggins (\$18,750).

Western landscapes featured Ruth Monro Augur's circa late 1930s oil on canvas depiction of the *Oklahoma Land Rush*, which sold for \$10,000, and a group of 10 circa-1870 Mexican cowboy and horse-riding scenes by Victor Pierson, which set a record for the artist at \$7,500.

Ben Shahn's *Men on a Bench*, gouache on paper, circa 1940, led the sale at \$50,000. Further figurative works of note featured *Seated Man*, a pencil drawing by Marsden Hartley



(\$30,000) and Pavel Tchelitchew's 1932 pen and brush drawing *Studies of Wrestlers* (\$9,375).

Swann Galleries is currently accepting consignments for the fall 2019 season. Visit swanngalleries.com or download the Swann Galleries App for catalogues, bidding and inquiries.

Additional highlights can be found [here](#).

Captions:

[Lot 216](#): Attilio Salemmè, *Rivalry*, oil on canvas, 1945. Sold for \$21,250, a record for the artist.

[Lot 248](#): Ben Shahn, *Men on a Bench*, gouache on paper, circa 1940. Sold for \$50,000.

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