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**For Immediate Release**

CONTACT: Leigh Keno, 212 734 2381 | LEIGH@KENOAUCTIONS.COM

Amy Sheldon 212 734 2381 | AMY@KENOAUCTIONS.COM

**POST-SALE RELEASE:**

**EXCEPTIONAL PRICES ACHIEVED AT KENO AUCTIONS  
DURING TWO-SESSION JANUARY 17, 2012 SALE**

**REMARKABLE SALES AT KENO AUCTIONS INCLUDE RECORD-BREAKING PRICES FOR  
A 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY JOINED CHEST AND A FEDERAL PAINTED TABLE  
STELLAR PRICES ACHIEVED FROM THE COLLECTION OF PETER BRAMS  
WITH TOTAL SALES RESULTING IN MORE THAN \$3.6 MILLION**

THREE WORLD AUCTION RECORDS LEAD THE SALE, INCLUDING:

A 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY JOINED CHEST

A FEDERAL PAINTED TABLE

LYNX/BOBCAT EFFIGY LADLE

**New York** – The combined morning and afternoon sessions of Keno Auctions’ **Important Americana, Paintings, Furniture and Decorative Arts Sale** and **The Peter Brams Collection of Important Woodlands Indian Art** with a combined pre-sale estimate of \$1.9 million/\$3.3 million exceeded its high estimate by \$300,000, achieving more than \$3.6 million. It became the most successful one-day sale in the young auction house’s history and set the tone for the upcoming May 15 and fall 2012 sales at Keno Auctions. The **Important Americana** sale fetched remarkable prices for star lots with 80% sold by lot and totaling \$2,626,000; two new world auction records were established for a 17<sup>th</sup> century joined chest and a Federal painted table, which led the sale. The afternoon session was dedicated to the landmark auction of property from the iconic collection of **Peter Brams**. The single owner sale was a tribute to the discerning eye of this celebrated inveterate collector, with 81% sold by lot totaling \$889,900 and saw a world record set for a Native American effigy ladle.



The top lot of the **Important Americana Sale** was the exceptional 17<sup>th</sup> century *Drake Family Carved and Painted Joined Chest with Drawer* (Lot 75) which realized \$632,400, setting a world auction record for a 17<sup>th</sup> century joined chest. The chest, originally owned by John and Hannah Drake, was passed down through successive generations of their family directly to the consignors. With its extensive carved surface, oak lid, and triple paneled sides, it is the most elaborate and fully developed Connecticut River Valley three-panel chest known. It has survived in remarkable condition, retaining its original surface and most of its original painted red and blue decoration.

*"It was an honor to offer this superb chest at auction and will most definitely be one of the most memorable auctioneering events in my career. With its fully carved façade, extraordinary painted surface and impeccable provenance, it is one of the most important pieces of 17<sup>th</sup> century joined pieces discovered in decades,"* said **Leigh Keno, President of Keno Auctions**.



Another highlight of the sale included a *Fancy Painted and Gilt Card Table* (Lot 80) attributed to Thomas Seymour, which sold to a private New England collector for \$347,200, and was underbid by a determined telephone bidder. This elegant table remarkably survived with most of its original painted decoration intact; it represents the best effort of Boston's most pre-eminent craftsman of the Federal era, the cabinetmaker Thomas Seymour (1771-1848).

Other highlights from the **Important Americana, Paintings, Furniture and Decorative Arts Sale** include:



**PRIOR-HAMBLIN SCHOOL** ELEANOR MARIA DOANE IN A ROCKING BASKET HOLDING CHERRIES (Lot 175) fetched \$142,600.



**A Diminutive Federal Mahogany Upholstered Settee (Lot 90)** was bought by a Massachusetts family. The carving is attributed to Samuel McIntire and features an intricate basket carved crest rail. This sofa represents a version of the camelback sofa form unique to Salem, MA, where it first appeared in the 1790s and became one of the most desirable furniture forms associated with Samuel McIntire (1751-1811); the piece sold for \$86,800.



**FREDERICK CHILDE HASSAM** (American, 1859-1935) **SUNSET, ISLES OF SHOALS, 1904** (Lot 32) is typical of Hassam's Isle of Shoals plein air paintings which were painted on a cigar box top; achieved \$74,400.



**WILLIAM MASON BROWN** (AMERICAN, 1828-1898) **STILL LIFE WITH WATERMELON, FRUIT AND CALLA LILIES** (Lot 8) fetched \$59,520.



**A Carved and Painted Indian 'Totem' Figure from the Red Men's Lodge** (Lot 188) consigned by an upstate New York chapter of the Order of Red Men, has been at the lodge for the last century. The figure was used for special council meetings at the lodge until recently and has never been taken outside of the building. The Totem figure sold for \$47,120.



**Pair of Diminutive Early Classical Carved Giltwood Girandole Mirrors** (Lot 117) with the label of Philadelphia craftsman C.N. Robinson, each with carved eagles with spread wings holding a chain and ball in their beaks, achieved \$40,300.



**A Very Rare Clear with Blue Tint Cornflower Columbia Flask** (Lot 165) with 13 small six-pointed stars in a semi-circle above the bust brought \$24,800.

The afternoon session offered **The Peter Brams Collection of Important Woodlands Indian Art**. *“Peter Brams’ magnificent collection of important Woodlands Indian art has captivated the auction world, resulting in worldwide interest and strong sale results; bidding came from all corners of the globe, including the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. For many, there was the wish to purchase unique American Indian artifacts which brought Peter such joy and that reflect his remarkable connoisseurship. Without question this was the greatest private collection of Woodlands Indian art ever assembled, and this sale marks the powerful start for Keno Auctions this year,”* states **Leigh Keno**.



The top lot of the afternoon session was the powerful *Figured Maple Lynx/Bobcat Effigy Ladle* (Lot 346), which realized \$89,900 setting a world record for a Native American ladle. The lynx ladle sold at the auction is the only known example of its kind. The airy open carving between the animal’s front legs and body and the commanding posture it displays is extraordinary and led to a battle among three bidders.



*The Thompson Family Seated Human Effigy Feast Ladle* (Lot 322) brought \$68,200. This important Delaware region human effigy feast ladle is very large in scale, which gives it a strong sculptural presence; the figure is powerfully portrayed.

Additional highlights from The Peter Brams Collection of Important Woodlands Indian Art include:



**Maple Burl Effigy Bowl** (Lot 365), a bowl of startling quality; it is wafer thin with sophisticated lines, excellent color and surface; it sold for \$62,000.



**Elm Burl Effigy Bowl** (Lot 308), an example that stands high in terms of sheer elegance and quiet beauty; it is truly sublime. The bowl realized \$48,360..

Keno Auctions' next sale is scheduled for June 12, 2012. An impressive collection of fresh-to-the-market American paintings have already been consigned, including works by Charles Demuth, George Luks, Reginald Marsh, Milton Avery, Lester Johnson, Charles H. Hall, and Charles Russell.

**About Keno Auctions**

Keno Auctions, a premier full-service auction house headquartered at 127 East 69th Street in Manhattan specializes in fine art, jewelry, furniture and decorative arts, Asian works of art, and a variety of specialty categories. From Rembrandt to Calder, from Cartier to Tiffany, the auction house has presented the finest objects at auction, with record-breaking results. Cultivating an international collector base for accessible works has secured Keno Auctions a distinctive place within the art market.

Keno Auctions works with estate executors, fiduciary advisors and private clients who regularly use their valuation services to provide comprehensive appraisal and auction opportunities. Through their meticulous, well-researched assessments, the company has earned a distinct reputation for expertise, dependability and integrity, attracting a broad base of buyers and consignors from around the world.

For more information visit [www.kenoauctions.com](http://www.kenoauctions.com) or phone 212 734 2381.

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