

# KENO AUCTIONS

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**KENO AUCTIONS IMPORTANT AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PAINTINGS SALE**  
AN ECLECTIC MIX OF FINE ART SURE TO FIND A WIDE AUDIENCE  
AT KENO AUCTIONS  
NEW YORK CITY  
10:00 A.M.

New York – On June 12, 2012 an exciting selection of 73 important American and European paintings from the 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries will be offered at Keno Auctions Manhattan office at 127 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street. The sale will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be the first distinct fine art sale for the auction house. A public exhibition preceding the sale will be held from June 8 - 12.

Lots presented in the June sale include some superb Old Master Paintings, American Paintings, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Paintings, Latin American Paintings, European Paintings, and Post-War Art from private collections that are fresh to the market and estimated to create an exciting buzz in the industry. A fine range of works from such wonderful artists include **Milton Avery, Charles Demuth, Thomas Doughty, George Henry Hall, Hamilton Hamilton, David Johnson, John LaFarge, Hendrik Willem Mesdag, Roberto Antonio (Echaurren) Matta, Jean Francois Raffaelli, Jean Paul Riopelle, Charles Marion Russell, William Trost Richards, and Esteban Vicente**, among others will be offered.

One of the works offered has not been seen for more than 100 years. “We are privileged to present for sale *Morning, Fishing Boats at Anchor* (est. \$40-80,000) by Hendrik Willem Mesdag (Dutch, 1831-1915) for which the proceeds of the sale are to benefit the Historic Park McCullough Association. The painting was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John G. McCullough directly from the artist at the turn of the 20th century. Mesdag was the leader of the ‘Hague School’ and this is a classic example of his work. This painting contains all the vital factors that the current art market treasures, namely outstanding quality, impressive size, excellent untouched original condition, freshness to the market and an important and distinguished provenance,” states Leigh Keno, president of the eponymous auction house.

A fine selection of early American works include David Johnson’s brilliant *Sunset on the Unadilla*, 1856, (est. \$50-80,000) and from a southern collector, a William Trost Richards, from his rare 1866 *Mt. Desert Island, Maine* (est. \$40-100,000) period. An important work by George Henry Hall, dated 1861, addresses the artist’s pacifist stance on the Civil War. A rare Luminist work, the breathtaking *Sierras*, (est. \$20-40,000) by Hamilton Hamilton, is arguably the artist’s best work to come to auction.

Two early Charles Marion Russell works bring new light to the artist's career, showing him as an effective history painter, in the depiction of *The Burning of the Tonquin* (est. \$20-40,000), and conversely as a painter of fantasy in the *Wood Nymph with Rabbit* (est. \$15-25,000).

The aesthetic movement is represented by two lovely John LaFarge works on paper, in original condition. A Jean Francois Raffaelli of a shoreline is characteristic of Raffaelli's mature style. Lighter in color, but a broad brush, and small but strong energetic figure.

A distinguished Michigan estate is offering two early 20<sup>th</sup> century paintings by Ashcan artists George Luks – of street people huddled together – and Jerome Meyers of a playful *Carousel* (est. \$12-18,000); a freshly colored Charles Demuth watercolor of three figures at the beach, and a magic realist work by Aaron Bohrod *Mother Earth* (est. \$6-8,000) that addresses ecological issues as early as the 1960s.

Rounding out the sale are a number of fresh to the market 20<sup>th</sup> century pictures from an important California collector, including an noteworthy contemporary work *Topologie de Illusion*, 1990 (est. \$50-100,000); a large scale vivid, abstract painting by renowned Latin American artist Roberto Matta, which is sure to attract an international audience, and the up-and-comer Esteban Vicente's *On Space*, (est. \$30-60,000) and a charming Milton Avery watercolor and gouache on black paper painted in 1930 entitled *Beach Photographer* (est. \$20- 40,000).

Jean Paul Riopelle's *Folâtre* (est. \$80-120,000) has all the energy affiliated with the post war modernists. He created works of heavy impasto as well as the use of a palette knife; this work *Folâtre* is emblematic of what scholars and collectors consider his best period.

### Highlights from the Important American and European Paintings Sale include



**Milton Avery (American, 1885-1965)**  
*Beach Photographer*, 1930  
Signed lower left center Milton Avery  
Watercolor and gouache on black paper  
17 1/2 x 24 inches (sight)  
Estimate: \$20,000-40,000



**Charles Demuth (American, 1883-1935)**  
*Two Men and a Woman on Beach*, 1912  
Signed and dated lower right "C. Demuth '12"  
Watercolor on paper  
8 ½ x 5 ¼ inches  
Estimate: \$12,000-18,000



**Attributed to Thomas Doughty (American, 1793-1856)**

*Rushing River through a Ravine*

Unsigned

Oil on canvas

34 ¼ x 44 ¼ inches

Estimate: \$10,000-20,000



**George Henry Hall (American, 1825-1913)**

*A Plea For Peace*, 1861

Oil on board

Signed and dated lower left "G.H. Hall / 1861"

18 ¾ x 15 inches

Estimate: \$25,000-45,000



**Hamilton Hamilton (American, 1847-1928)**

*Sierras*, 1873

Oil on canvas

18 x 29 7/8 inches

Estimate: \$20,000-40,000



**David Johnson (American, 1827-1908)**

*Sunset On the Unadilla River*, 1856

Signed and dated lower left, "D Johnson 1856"

Inscribed and titled on a label affixed to the frame

Oil on canvas

19 x 28 1/8 inches

Estimate: \$50,000-80,000



**John LaFarge (American, 1835-1910)**  
*Study On the Reef at Tautria Tahiti, 1891*  
Watercolor and gouache on paper  
8 x 9 inches (sight)  
Estimate: \$15,000-30,000



**Roberto Antonio (Echaurren) Matta (Chilean, 1911 – 2002)**  
*Topologie de Illusion, 1990*  
78 x 84 inches  
Estimate: \$50,000-100,000



**Hendrik Willem Mesdag (Dutch, 1831-1915)**  
*Morning Fishing Boats at Anchor*  
Signed lower right "H W Mesdag"  
Inscribed with title on a label affixed to the stretcher  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 51 inches  
Estimate: \$40,000-80,000



**Jean Francois Raffaelli (French, 1850-1924)**  
*Shoreline with Fisherman in Foreground*  
Signed lower left "JF. Raffaelli"  
Oil on board  
25 x 30 inches  
Estimate: \$25,000-50,000



**Jean Paul Riopelle** (Canadian, 1923-2002)

*Folâtre*, 1957

Signed lower right "Riopelle"

Oil on canvas

23 ½ x 28 ½ inches

Estimate: \$80,000-120,000



**Charles Russell** (American, 1864-1926)

*The Burning of the Tonquin*

Oil on canvas

6 ½ x 14 ¾ inches

Estimate: \$20,000-40,000



**Esteban Vicente** (American, 1903-2001)

*On Space*, 1987

Signed, dated and inscribed with title verso "Esteban Vicente"

Oil on Canvas

54 x 64 inches

Estimate: \$30,000-60,000

"I am thrilled to be conducting Keno Auction's first stand-alone paintings sale, especially because it is the first sale we are going to be conducting at our headquarters," exults owner Leigh Keno. "We've achieved great results in the fine art area in our last several auctions and collectors have asked us to expand our offerings. We are accomplishing this with these wonderful pictures, most of which have not been in the marketplace for 20 years," he adds.

**Auction Date:** June 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at 127 East 69<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, New York City.

**Exhibition Preview:**

Friday, June 8 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 9 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 10 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## **About Keno Auctions**

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

With more than 30 years of experience in the art world, founder Leigh Keno has assembled an eminently qualified network of top-notch experts and specialists involved in the disciplines of paintings, furniture, decorative arts and jewelry. Through his longevity in the business, he has developed an exceptional client base of buyers and sellers. Leigh and his experts visit collections and clients, advising them how best to navigate the increasingly complex marketplace.

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

## **Please Note**

Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sale totals are hammer prices plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

Purchase or view catalogues online at [Kenoauctions.com](http://Kenoauctions.com). Catalogues may also be purchased by calling 212 734 2381.

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