**March in Montana 2023- For Immediate Release**

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**March in Montana Auction Rides to Over $2.5 Million**

A standing-room only crowd kicked off the 36th annual March in Montana auction, which was the highlight of Western Art Week in Great Falls, MT. Held in Charlie Russell’s Elk Lodge, many new records were set for art and western collectibles. Conducted by Coeur d’Alene Galleries in partnership with the Coeur d’Alene Art Auction, the two-day sale featured 766 lots with a sell-through rate of over 98%, exceeding $2.5 million in final sales.

Navajo weavings were extremely popular this year as the market continued to show strength. A large J.B. Moore “Montana-sized” rug yielded $33,000, exceeding the $20,000-30,000 estimate, while another 18’ Crystal Trading Post weaving brought just over its high estimate of $20,000.

March in Montana added to its number of record-breaking sales with an exceptional sporting scene by Brett James Smith. The 30” x 50” oil brought $48,000; over twice the high estimate. Likewise, a rare collection of five John L. Clarke woodcarvings sold well over estimate, the highlight being lot 505, an 8” x 8” x 8” woodcarving of a bear and cub selling for $23,000, a new world record for John “Cutapuis” Clarke.

Cowboy items sold strongly across the board. Highlights included a fantastic Keyston Silver Parade Saddle, which fetched nearly $80,000 and a rare 1866 engraved Winchester, which quickly surpassed the high estimate of $50,000.

Other notable sales include a beautiful 16” x 20” Sydney Laurence that brought $42,000, well over the estimate of $15,000-25,000. It was accompanied by another Laurence from the same consignor that also sold above estimate at $27,000. A well-documented Bill Gollings watercolor titled “Black Hank/Sheep Herder” reached $39,000, and “Colorado Lake” by Birger Sandzen brought over $30,000.

Contemporary western artists are always a big part of March in Montana and this year was no exception. Abigail Gutting, Ken Yarus, Colt Idol, Don Oelze, Joe Kronenberg and Brooke Wetzel all sold paintings well above their estimated ranges.

March in Montana is famous for being one of the most fun and entertaining auctions of the year. As prices were consistently impressive, so was the excitement in the room. The two-day sale was high-energy, fast-paced, and well-attended. With hundreds of bidders throughout the sale, there was never a dull moment.

Save the date for the 37th Annual March in Montana Auction and Dealer Show, March 14-16, 2024 in Great Falls, Montana for Western Art Week. If you are interested in consigning, please email info@marchinmonana.com or call 208-664-2091.