

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18 JANUARY 2024

19TH CENTURY AMERICAN ART & WESTERN ART TOTALS \$13,153,212

LARGEST TOTAL EVER FOR THIS INNOVATIVE SALE PLATFORM

116% Sold by Low Estimate | 84% Sold by Lot | Strong
Participation from New Bidders and Buyers



Property from The Morton and Norma Lee Fungler Collection
MARTIN JOHNSON HEADE (1819-1904)
Cattleya Orchid with Two Brazilian Hummingbirds
oil on canvas
Painted 1871
Price Realized: \$3,438,000



Western Masterworks: Property from a Distinguished Private
Collection
THOMAS MORAN (1837-1926)
Afterglow, Green River, Wyoming
oil on canvas
Painted 1918
Price Realized: \$2,228,000

NEW YORK – Christie's annual sale of 19th Century American & Western Art, achieved \$13,153,212, the largest total for this innovative sale platform, since its inception three years ago. The sale was 116% sold by low estimate, 84% sold by lot, and 90% by value. More than 15% of the buyers and bidders who participated in the sale were new to the category at Christies. The auction showed the strength of single-owner collections with important results for works from The Morton and Norma Lee Fungler Collection, and the continuing vibrance in the market for images of the west, with Western Masterworks, Property from a Distinguished Private Collection. The top lot of the sale came from the Fungler Collection: Martin Johnson Heade's *Cattleya Orchid with Two Brazilian Hummingbirds*, an iconic American painting, which realized \$3,438,000, 287% above its low estimate. Another important result from the Fungler collection was for Thomas Cole's Hudson River School work, *View Near Catskill*, which brought \$504,000. Pieces from the Western Masterworks also achieved major results, led by Thomas Moran's *Afterglow, Green River, Wyoming*, a sweeping canvas from 1918 that made \$2,228,000. Other Western Masterworks pieces among the top lots were, James Earl Fraser's sculpture, *The End of the Trail*, which made \$1,381,000; and Eanger Irving Couse's *Thunder Birds*, which achieved \$819,000. Another western piece from a different consignor, Albert Bierstadt's *South Dome, Yosemite Valley, California*, made

\$655,200. Additionally, there was a notable result for David Gilmour Blythe's *Family Prayers and The Sequel: A Pair of Works* that realized \$252,000, an impressive 630% of its low estimate.

Caroline Seabolt, Head of Sale commented, "Today's strong results are a testament to the continued strong demand for rare and important historic American Art. The cumulative total represents the largest sum yet achieved for our innovative sale platform dedicated to the genre."

Tylee Abbott, Head of Department commented, "Christie's continues to prove its dedication to the Western American Art field, with breakout prices for truly exceptional examples, including those by Thomas Moran, James Earle Fraser and Eanger Irving Couse. Largely driven by a diverse audience of both established Western Art collectors and clients new to the category, such success points to notable health in this especially American genre."

Select Results | 19th Century American & Western Art | 18 January 2024



Property from The Morton and Norma Lee
Funger Collection
THOMAS COLE (1801-1848)
View Near Catskill
oil on canvas
Painted in 1828-29.
Price Realized: \$504,000



Western Masterworks: Property from a
Distinguished Private Collection
JAMES EARLE FRASER (1876-1953)
The End of the Trail
inscribed '©-FRASER-1918', 'GORHAM CO.
FOUNDERS', 'QAZA' and stamped with
foundry mark 'GC' (along the base)
bronze with brown patina
33½ in. (85.1 cm.) high
Price Realized: \$1,381,000



Western Masterworks: Property from a
Distinguished Private Collection
EANGER IRVING COUSE (1866-1936)
Thunder Birds
signed 'E-I-Couse- N-A-' (lower left)
oil on canvas
35 x 46 in. (88.9 x 116.8 cm.)
Painted in 1927
Price Realized: \$819,000



DAVID GILMOUR BLYTHE (1815-1865)
Family Prayers and The Sequel: A Pair of Works
oil on canvas
each, 18 x 22 in. (45.7 x 55.9 cm.)
Painted in 1856.
Price Realized: \$252,000



ALBERT BIERSTADT (1830-1902)
South Dome, Yosemite Valley, California
oil on canvas
36 x 26 in. (91.4 x 66 cm.)

Painted circa 1867
Price Realized: \$655,200

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About Christie's

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Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$500 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 7 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction, launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art and manages [an investment fund](#) to support innovative startups in the art market. Christie's is also committed to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide. To [learn more](#), browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at [christies.com](#) or by downloading Christie's apps.

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