

LAXART benefit art auction draws energetic crowd and funds

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By Carribean Fragoza

Los Angeles - On Sunday November 4, artists, collectors, and art lovers gathered at LAXART (one of the most active non-profit LA space, founded in 2005 by Lauri Firstenberg) in Culver City's gallery district for its benefit auction. The evening's main event was the live auction with Christie's auctioneer Andrea Fiuczynski. By the time the auction was about to begin both gallery rooms were full nearly to capacity, Fiuczynski greeted the crowd by calling out, "Are you ready to make a difference? That's why you're all here!"



LAXART Curator at Large Jeffrey Uslip with Director/Curator of LAXART Lauri Firstenberg at LAXART Benefit Auction presented with Hermès

Although the bidding got to a gradual, almost timid pace beginning with Catherine Opie's *Political Landscapes*, the tempo quickly picked up. Opie's two smaller mixed media pieces sold for \$4,000 -the lowest selling work of the evening. The next work up for bid quickly drew up more number cards bidding for Edgar Arceneaux's *Something After Nothing* that started at the bidding price of \$6,000 and quickly climbed up to its final bid of \$13,000. The following work *No Title (I would like)* by Raymond Pettibon drew even a tighter barrage of bids that sold at \$23,000, making it one of the benefit auction's highest selling work. The two highest selling pieces of the evening were Glenn Ligon's *Untitled (Negro Sunshine)* who is currently showing at Regen Projects in Los Angeles, which sold at \$31,000 followed by Julie Mehretu's *Untitled*, watercolor on paper, which sold at \$30,000.



Christie's auctioneer Andrea Fiuczynski auctions Raymond Pettibon's No Title (I would like), 2007, at LAXART Benefit Auction presented with Hermès

Amongst the most popular and highest bidding works were also Kelley Walker's *Schema: Aquafresh plus Crest with Whitening Expressions*, Kirsten Everberg's *West Hasting*, Charles Gaines *History of Missiles #3* and Karl Haendel's *Jewish Major Leaguer #2*. The silent auction also included works by Charles Gaines, Wade Guyton, Karl Haendel, Salomon Huerta, Mary Kelly, Terence Koh, Elad Lassry and Andrea Bowers.



Ruth and Jacob Bloom with LAXART Board Member Rebecca Bloom at LAXART Benefit Auction presented with Hermès