

COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

VOLUME 97

Please note that personal information and questions have been removed from the comments below.

Howard,

I hope all is well with you and your family in this holiday season. I really thought your essay on the current art market status was extremely poignant and right on the money. I have felt these exact feelings for so long. These auction houses just keep raising the prices and flooding the market to help quell there own habits which have grown in way too many direction. Also you were basically writing about just 2 auction houses. When you add all of the other secondary and smaller entities the percentages grow off the charts. I have always felt that the market is quite strong and to take the art markets temperature from the auctions seems to be the wrong barometer to use.

Have a good holiday.

Best Regards,

Vincent V., New York

Dear Howard,

Great email, very well researched and informative. I really enjoyed reading it.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Sincerely,

Scott D., Florida

Thanks for your reports on the auction markets. Happy Holidays.

Tom S., North Carolina

Great market wrap-up, H.

Mary W., Pennsylvania

Howard,

What a powerful statement. Thank you for sending it out. Please, if it is not a problem, put me on your email list.

Frank G., California

Excellent commentary. Wishing you a happy holiday as well.

Denny L., New York

Hi Howard,

Great newsletter as usual...love the humor.

Could you comment for very small collectors ;-) ..should they collect paintings of the same type so they look together on the walls or should they just buy what appeals to them? Should they go with the name artists as investments as well as what they like?

Victoria da R., California

Always fascinating. Better than money with Madoff

Maxine G., New Jersey

Thanks so much for all this work. I love the percentages and your following comments. Again, thanks for the work.

Lee S., Tennessee

Howard Rehs: I find your newsletters very interesting and informative, if not somewhat disquieting. I particularly liked your comments about personal stock investments....I think a lot of us can relate directly to similar circumstances. With the art market slowing, I am sure you will have more time to complete your highly anticipated work on Knight??????

Edward W., Texas

Howard,

Thanks for having guts sharing your portfolio info -- but the reality is that those results are a little better than average this year. My portofolio, managed by a family office did a little better, (less worse) until the Madoff (The Jewish T-bill) incident. I lost some \$\$ there, and may elect to sue one of the funds for no diligence. Madoff has destroyed the affluent Jews of NYC. You weren't considered "successful" in the Jewish world if he didn't manage your money. His was the greatest scam in American history, I believe, because he fooled a set of people who are convinced they are NYC'as smartest and cynical..

Good study on auction prices--actual vs. estimate.....I guess you are correct--the more traditional hold their value. Lesson learned.

One might argue that the estimates for Modern and Contemporary were being too inflated to quickly by the houses. They thought they had a tiger by the tail. They have since radically changed their aggressive ways, ordered by senior mgt, and now my joke to them is that they are offering post-war works at 1960's prices. They argued with me about placing an estimate on a work by one of America's most famous post-war artists where the estimate they finally put on it--would have been the tax on it a year ago. ("let it run and let the market decide") They are repenting their evil ways.....now they have discovered Adam Smith.

Thanks.....as usual, great comments email.....

Rick F., New York

Howard,

This is one of the better pieces I read on art in recent years. Excellent job in putting together these details and conclusions. Thanks very much and very happy holidays.

Best wishes,

Eitan A.

Hello Howard,

Just a quick note to let you know how much I look forward to and appreciate your newsletters. They are full of good information, yet very succinct.

Thanks again... Happy Holidays to you, your family, and your staff.

Best regards,

Peter K., Massachusetts

Hi. I cannot, at the moment, afford your beautiful selection, but I receive your newsletter, and I want to thank you for this remarkable effort. I really appreciate the knowledge and experience that goes into letter after letter. I want you to know how much it is commendable and appreciated. I wish you and your staff a Merry Holiday season, and a great year 2009.

Francois B., California