

Fallout From the Culture Boom?

Drawings Gain Sudden Popularity

By WARD CANNEL
OF THE NEA
NEW YORK—To the cellar, quick. That distant rumble is the U.S. culture boom out of control again.

With paintings, drippings and other artistic delusions selling for about triple their appraised value, the art market is now beginning to go haywire over drawings.

What great-grandma put in the attic — or didn't even bother to frame at all—is suddenly selling for \$300 to \$1,000 each, adding up to the greatest price jump by far of anything in the whole crazy art business.

Now, it is somewhat difficult to define a drawing as it can be anything from a doodle to a painstaking complete work of art. Frequently it is an artist's blueprint for a painting, a record of a canvas he has finished, or simply an idea or diversion.

And a hasty sketch of the Duchess of Devonshire set down by Sir Joshua Reynolds on an old grocery bill is likely to bring as fat a price today as the detailed plan for a

painting by Bronzino or Reubens.

Until fairly recently, drawings were usually collected by artists or by fanciers who swapped and traded them the way your kids deal in canceled postage stamps or hubcaps.

"Then suddenly," reports Helen Seiferheld, "it all became popular with a bang."

Mrs. Seiferheld, who deals only in drawings, found herself in a strange new world. In addition to the important personages and avid collectors who would make appointments to see her stock, she now receives daily requests to "mail a selection of drawings on approval," or a sale on easy terms.

On request, museums are

beginning to give lectures to sellout audiences on how to look at drawings. Galleries devoted exclusively to drawings are opening and doing nicely. Young marrieds, who would have decorated their first walls with prints of famous works, are now buying drawings as time goes by.

Traveling exhibits of drawing collections are playing cities such as Terre Haute, Ind., and Minneapolis, Minn. No university art department today fails to display its drawing collection. And selling quite well is a new four-volume set of books called "Master Drawings" which is priced at a modest \$175.

"It's amazing," Mrs. Seiferheld says. "It's driven the market prices up about 500

per cent in the past five years."

And why? First, obviously, because we've all gone art mad. And a drawing is the way to own a work by well-known artists for far less than their paintings cost.

Second, because the trend appears to be away from ab-

stract splashes at long last and back to clear and pure draughtsmanship.

And last, because buying a drawing can be a challenge not easily matched in today's transistorized living room.

Quite frequently drawings are unsigned and only through detective work can turn up the artist's name. Sleuth-

ing usually involves retracing the path of the drawing—from collector to collector, from auction to auction.

Luckily for the drawing fancier, today's culture boom has also created collectors of old auction catalogues. The going rate for a fifty antique catalogue in good condition is now up to \$90—and still rising.

This Week's Art Exhibits

The following art showings are on exhibit this week in the Eugene area:

Museum of Art, University of Oregon "Art and Witticism of Alfred Bendiner, Philadelphia artist-architect, through Oct. 28.

"Arts of Southern California: Collage," through Oct. 29.

Watercolor paintings of early Eugene by the "Wilkins Sisters" (Nina McCormack, Lucia Moore and Gladys McCormistry) on exhibit Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon. Pioneer Museum, Lane County Fairgrounds.

Paintings by Della Todd and Vivienne Simmons Fendrich, at J. B. Donovan's Inc., 806 Charnell St.

Oil paintings and watercolors by 15 members of Tri-County Art Club of Junction City, on exhibit at Baxter and Henning through October.

Oil paintings by Dick Rosenfeld, at 12th Avenue Gallery, 361 E. 12th Ave., through October. Hours 3 to 6 p.m. daily; Thursday and Friday 7 to 9 p.m.

Exhibit of assorted Art Media by Eugene artists Bonnie and James Bartlett, Petite Gallery, Bon Marche Russells, through October.

Contemporary wall hangings, Erb Memorial Union Gallery, University of Oregon.

Paintings by Chester Glenn Murphy of Lake Oswego, Springfield Public Library, Oct. 15 through 31.

Traveling exhibit with photographs, sketches and textual material on the 1962 winners of the annual architectural competition of the Church Architectural Guild of America will be on display through Tuesday in the lobby of Lawrence Hall, School of Art and Architecture, University of Oregon. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Art Center Calendar

Monday, Oct. 22

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Painting, Vivienne Fendrich, instructor.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.—Workshop with model, no instructor.

1 to 3 p.m.—Painting, Vivienne Fendrich, instructor.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Watercolor and oil painting, Ray Levra, instructor.

Wednesday, Oct. 24

2 to 4 p.m.—Painting, Anne McCosh, instructor.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Watercolor and oil painting, Ray Levra, instructor.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Silkscreen workshop, Dave Foster, instructor.

Thursday, Oct. 25

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Workshop with model, no instructor.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Etching workshop, Eyley Brown, instructor.

All classes and workshops will be held at the Center Building, 531 W. 13th Ave. Further information may be obtained by calling the Center, DI 5-1126 Monday, Wednesday, Friday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

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