

Picasso Withdrawn from Sotheby's Imp-Mod Sale

By ARTINFO

Published: October 28, 2008

NEW YORK— A Picasso painting that was to have been sold as part of Sotheby's Impressionist and modern evening sale on November 3 has been withdrawn from the auction, the *New York Times* reports.

"It's been withdrawn for private reasons," said David Norman, a co-chairman of Sotheby's Impressionist and modern art department worldwide.

The decision to remove *Arléquin* (1909) from the sale is hardly surprising. It has been rumored for weeks that the work, from the artist's Analytic Cubist phase, would be withdrawn over fears that art market prices will plunge due to the state of the economy.

The work was estimated to earn more than \$30 million, but carried no guarantee.

Arléquin was consigned by the estate of the Surrealist painter Enrico Donati, who died in April. Donati purchased the work in 1947 from the legendary dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler for about \$12,000.

Copyright © 2008, Louise Blaxin Media, All Rights Reserved



CHRISTIE'S IMAGES LTD. 2008

ARTIST: John Chamberlain
TITLE: "Spike" (1964)
AUCTION HOUSE: Christie's
ESTIMATED PRICE: \$900,000 to \$1.2 million

A Puzzle

Why are these two 1964 sculptures by John Chamberlain, roughly the same size and made the same year, priced so differently?

Christie's estimates that "Spike," from the estate of the philanthropist Alice Lawrence, the widow of the Manhattan real estate developer Sylvan Lawrence, will bring \$900,000 to \$1.2 million. "Ca-D'Oro," which is being sold by an unidentified Midwestern collector at Sotheby's, carries an estimate of \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million.

Both of these colorful crushed metal sculptures are from the artist's prime period, when he used everyday objects, like abandoned car parts. He often sprayed as many as 100 coats of lacquer on the steel to achieve the surface he desired.

Estate property is generally more reasonably priced, and Christie's has given the Lawrence heirs a guarantee. That means the auction house rather than the estate can set the prices. The one at Sotheby's seems to have been estimated at the whim of an auction house expert — or possibly a hungry seller.



ARTIST: John Chamberlain
TITLE: "Ca-D'Oro" (1964)
AUCTION HOUSE: Sotheby's
ESTIMATED PRICE: \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million