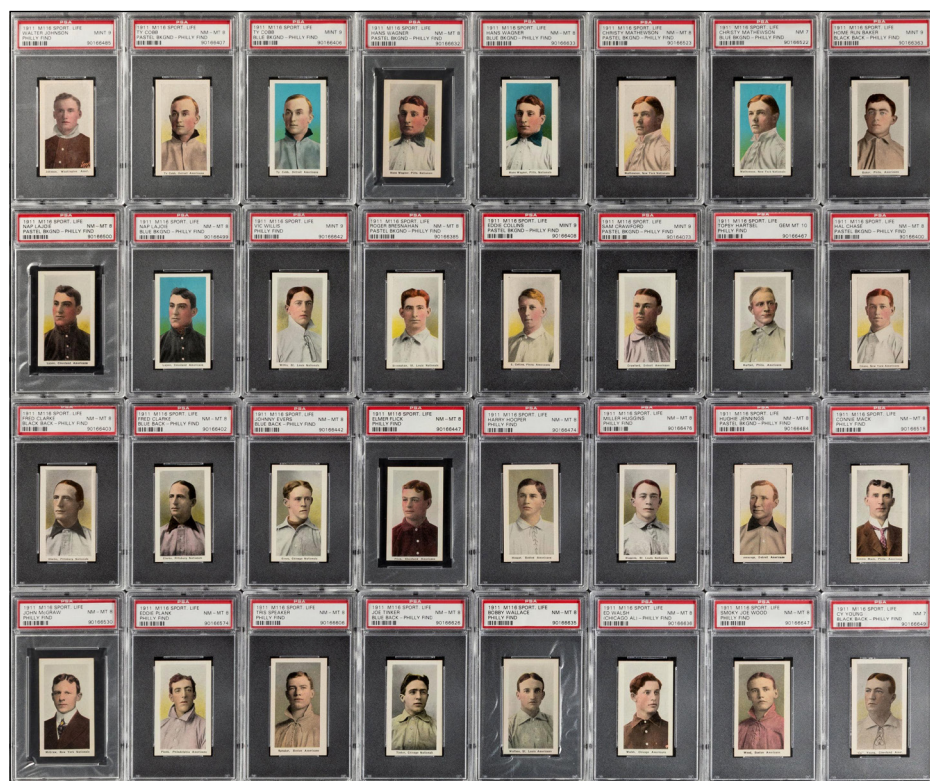


Heritage Ends Sports Year With \$9.4 Million Auction

Auction Action In Dallas



This 1993 SP Derek Jeter #279, PSA Gem Mint 10, drew \$138,000.



The 1910-11 M116 Sporting Life Near Set (314/316) saw its estimate of \$200,000 squashed by the \$324,000 result.



A 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle #311, PSA NM-MT+ 8.5 sold at \$765,000.

DALLAS — Heritage Auctions further validated its status as the industry leader December 5-7 as its three-day, 3,000-plus lot trading card auction commanded more than \$9,437,190 on the strength of dozens of world-record results. This final major sale of the year carries Heritage sports' auction tally to more than \$70 million for the year.

"We saw great prices across all eras and genres," said Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions for Heritage. "The entrenched vintage collectors came out in force, and the modern market is continuing to gain strength and market share."

What would a sports auction be without Mickey Mantle being represented? "The margin of difference between this example and the multi-million dollar trio at the top of the population pyramid is nearly too small to perceive," it said in the description of a 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle #311, PSA NM-MT+ 8.5. Collec-

tors agreed and it sold at \$765,000.

Perhaps the happiest consignor in the event was the owner of the 1910-11 M116 Sporting Life Near Set (314/316), which saw its estimate of \$200,000 knocked out by the \$324,000 result. Other top performers included a 1911 T205 Gold Border Walter Johnson, PSA NM-MT 8, for \$63,000 and a 1922 E121 American Caramel Babe Ruth (Holding Ball), PSA Mint 9, for \$75,000.

Likewise, the late Twentieth and early Twenty-First centuries rocketed to new heights as a 1993 SP Derek Jeter #279, PSA Gem Mint 10, drew \$138,000 and a 2003-04 Upper Deck Exquisite Collection LeBron James Rookie Patch Autograph #78, BGS Mint 9, sold for \$228,000. The iconic 1986-87 Fleer Basketball Wax Box, beloved for its fabled Michael Jordan rookie, set a new hobby standard at \$84,000.

Other highlights included vintage sports items like a 1902-11 W600

Sporting Life (Type 4) Miller Huggins that realized \$43,200; a 1909-11 T206 Drum Tris Speaker brought \$37,200; Lou Gehrig 1925 Exhibits sold at \$69,000; and a 1933 Uncle Jacks Candy Unopened Pack Babe Ruth, went to \$66,000.

More recent highlights include a 1951 Parkhurst Maurice Richard #4, PSA Mint 9 (\$57,600); 1952 Topps Baseball 5-Cent Unopened Wax Pack, PSA NM 7 (\$42,000); and a 1986 Fleer Michael Jordan #57, PSA Gem Mint 10 (\$36,000).

Heritage Auctions' next major sports auction is January 16 when it presents The David Hall T206 Collection Part III. On January 30, a special sale of the 1952 Topps & 1953 Topps PSA Set Registry Auction will be held online in extended bidding format.

Prices, with buyer's premium, as reported by the auction house. For more information, www.ha.com or 877-437-4824.



A 2003-04 Upper Deck Exquisite Collection LeBron James Rookie Patch Autograph #78, sold for \$228,000.

Hopper House Exhibits Art & Wit Of Rodney Smith's Photos

NYACK, N.Y. — The Edward Hopper House Museum presents, "Human in Nature: The Art & Wit of Rodney Smith," on view until March 8. The exhibition features 20 black & white and color photographs, illustrating Smith's enduring love affair with nature. Smith's magical images are instantly recognizable for the way they combine surrealism, style and humor, in the first major United States exhibition of his prints since his untimely passing in 2016.

Museum director Jennifer Patton writes, "Every few years, a photographer emerges on the world stage with a unique voice and vision that immediately sets their work apart from anyone else. Cartier Bresson, Richard Avedon, Irving Penn, Annie Leibovitz — each has a style and approach that defines their era and distinguishes them from other talented but more predictable image makers. Rodney Smith's extraordinary photographs are destined to join the ranks of these masters."

Smith's art is his response to the world — an attempt to bring order out of chaos, understanding out of confusion, wisdom out of ignorance



Rodney Lewis Smith, "Twins in Tree, Snedens Landing, New York," 1999, 30 by 40 inches, archival pigment print.

and beauty out of despair. Human nature and humans in nature are two entirely different propositions. Regrettably, destroying nature is clearly part of human nature. Trying to improve upon nature also comes naturally

to people, as humans attempt to make nature less unruly. It is partly a desire to organize our environment, partly an attempt to one-up God. As a graduate of the Divinity School at Yale, none of this was lost on Smith, an enlight-

ened agnostic whose life-long contemplation of humankind's relationship to God and nature bled into his photography. "The secret for me in all my photographs is the location, using the environment as a studio, editing with light. I'm always attracted to a location where the hand of man is apparent."

A longtime resident of Snedens Landing, N.Y., Smith lived and worked in the same environment that shaped Edward Hopper. Similarities in their art abound — an exquisite sense of design and composition, the use of light and shadow to create mystery and narrative, and the perfect integration of figure and landscape. Hopper once said, "Great art is the outward expression of an inner life in the artist, and this inner life will result in his personal vision of the world." Smith was not only looking for meaning in his own life but for what it means to be human. Photography was his way of knowing himself and thereby knowing others.

Rodney Lewis Smith (1947-2016) was born in New York City. Graduating from the University of Virginia in 1970, he went on to earn a

master's degree in Divinity from Yale University, while also studying photography under Walker Evans. His work has been seen everywhere, from the *NY Times Magazine*, *Vanity Fair* and *Departures to Architectural Digest*. Smith passed away unexpectedly at age 68, leaving behind a large archive of work now being discovered. His photography is in museum collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

The Edward Hopper House, Museum and Study Center are at 82 North Broadway. For more information, 845-358-0774 or www.edwardhopperhouse.org.

CLINTON, MASS. — The Museum of Russian Icons presents "Emil Hoppé: Photographs from the Ballets Russes" from March 8. The exhibition pays homage to Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev who founded the Ballets Russes and photographer Emil Otto Hoppé, who, between 1911 and 1921, photographed the champions of that illustrious company. The museum is at 203 Union Street. For information, 978-598-5000 or www.museumofrussianicons.org.