

# Fabulous Finds On Deck For Benefit Shop Auction

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. — Crossing the block on Wednesday, May 17, beginning at 10 am at the Benefit Shop's Red Carpet auction will be newly acquired estate treasures from a single owner of homes in Bedford, N.Y., Manhattan and Nantucket, Mass. Artistic design of the homes was contracted by interior decorators Bunny Williams, Parish Hadley and Cullman Kravis. Thus, the antiques and décor of the transformed estates provoke intrigue, invite comfort and illuminate.

The Nantucket home décor accurately reflected the owner's appreciation of maritime artifacts. An antique brass, wood and iron ship's wheel with turned spokes makes a prominent statement, measuring 5 feet in diameter. Ellie Cullman's passion for bringing new life to the old and purpose to patina, along with love for folk art is reflected in this dramatic piece.

More folk art finds include a sailor's sea chest. Of incomparable value to its original owner, it could easily contain everything owned while at sea. Serving not only as storage for clothing, food and travel souvenirs, such chests served as tables, chairs or writing desks as need dictated. Sailor's chests were made of wood and painted for protection from the elements. The antique sailor's chest offered in this sale, which resided in the Nantucket estate, is embellished with hand painting, thick varnish, scripted letters, with iron handles and a carved footed base.

On the same seas a key lock lovers box may have sailed, stuffed with trinkets and letters from home. Also called a ditty box, it may have contained photos or practical items like fork, razor or sewing kit. The Nantucket estate contained a romantic Nineteenth Century sailor's key lock lovers box made of wood

with onyx and mother-of-pearl inlay. A deep purple, velvet lined divided tray removes to stow away the most personal and cherished letters beneath.

In some cultures an eagle represents wisdom, freedom and power. A hand carved eagle sculpture with commanding 3-foot wingspan was designed and signed by Keith Collis, specifically for the Nantucket home. Chosen by design team Cullman Kravis, this example of folk art was featured in *Architectural Digest Country Homes Edition*.

Also up for auction will be a circa late 1700s grandmother clock, which typically classify as slimmer and shorter than the grandfather clocks and plays chimes. It was chosen for the Bedford home by the Cullman Kravis design team. Made of oak and engraved by William Marsh of London, the clock was featured in *House and Garden* magazine.

Bunny Williams, who emphasizes style and comfort, curated a set of six broad arm Windsor chairs originally purchased in Lancashire, England, circa 1840s for a Bedford client. At 45 inches high with inviting tall backs and curved rail arms, they look like easy to settle into seating. The center pierced and carved splat backs add characteristic Bunny Williams flair and elegance.

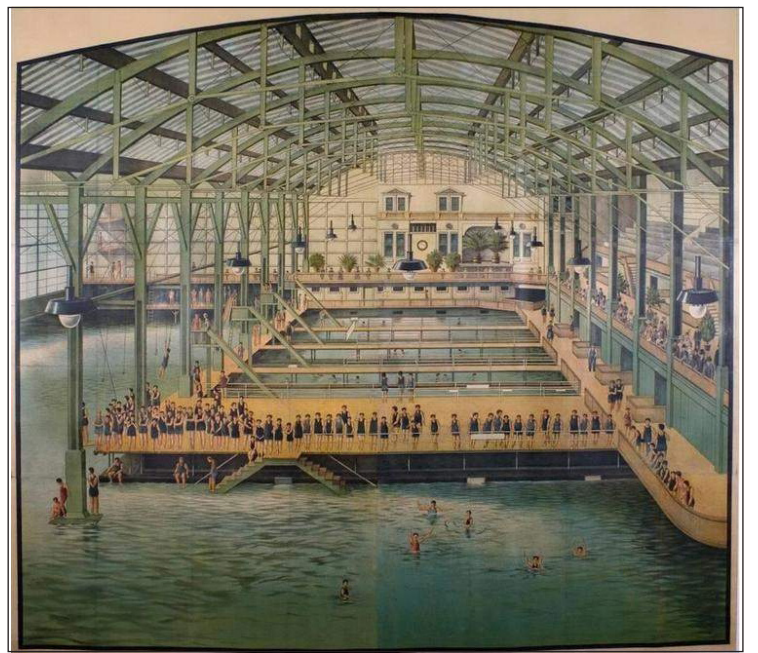
The enamelware kitchen implements we see today originated in Germany and initially covered only the inside of the cast iron cooking vessels. The intent was to eliminate metallic and rust flavors, along with cutting down on scrubbing to clean. By the late 1800s Americans were mass-producing far more attractive enameled cookware. Antique enamelware in turquoise, white spackle and vibrant blue, formed into pitchers, pots, canisters and coffee pots are now decorative and were present in the Nantucket



One of a set of six broad arm Windsor chairs originally purchased in Lancashire, England, circa 1840s, and curated for the estate by designer Bunny Williams.



An antique brass, wood and iron ship's wheel with turned spokes, 5 feet in diameter.



A classic American poster from 1896, Sutro Baths, 80 by 82 inches (\$15/25,000).

estate. Vibrant colors reflect the island's close proximity to the sea and are indicative of the late Hedi Kravis' reputation for keeping things fresh.

Finally, what is more refreshing than an 80-by-82-inch, original lithograph of the Sutro Baths, a privately owned, public saltwater swimming pool that once overlooked the Pacific Ocean in San Francisco? In 1896, it was the world's largest public swimming pool. This pearl of the oyster was also featured on the television show *Antiques Road Show*. The framed multi-section lithograph acquired from the Nantucket estate will be available at this auction, which also includes more folk art, maritime collectibles, designer couture furniture and antique Continental and American antiques.

The Benefit Shop is at 185 Kisco Avenue. For information, For information, 914-864-0707 or [www.thebenefitshop.org](http://www.thebenefitshop.org).

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## MassArt Auction Raises \$1.3 Million

BOSTON — The Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) raised \$1.3 million in the college's 28th annual art auction April 8 in the Bakalar & Paine Galleries at MassArt, breaking the \$1 million mark for the third consecutive year. More than 300 works of art in a range of media from emerging to established artists, including MassArt alumni and students, crossed the block in the silent and live auctions.

The live auction included 35 works by renowned artists, including Romare Bearden, Shepard Fairey, Louise Nevelson and Kara Walker; and local artists such as MassArt faculty

Rania Matar and emerging artists MassArt alumni Clint Baclawski MFA '08 and Erin Riley BFA '07. This year's silent auction of 293 pieces boasted a wide range of celebrated artists, including Nick Cave, MassArt faculty Matthew Connors, Nelson Da Costa, Jess T. Dugan '07 and Sophie Hughes '08.

The auction drew a crowd of more than 700 collectors and art enthusiasts and all proceeds help provide scholarship aid and academic program support for MassArt students.

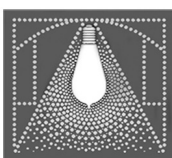
For additional information, [www.massart.edu](http://www.massart.edu) or 617-879-7000.



Rania Matar, MassArt faculty member and Elizabeth Lowrey, auction sponsor, in front of Matar's live auction artwork featuring Lowrey. —Melissa Ostrow photo



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