

'Progress' Head To Face Bidders At Leslie Hindman Auction Nov. 4

CHICAGO, ILL. — An Amazonian beauty once towered over the Chicago skyline at 18 feet tall, making the Montgomery Ward headquarters the



tallest building in the Windy City for over 20 years. In 1947, the Progress Lighting the Way For Commerce weathervane was dismantled and cut into 30 pieces. The remnants were claimed by astute souvenir-seeking Chicagoans. A *Chicago Tribune* article from July 20, 1947 reports that a prominent Chicagoan requested her bust. At that time, the David V. Nelson family acquired the head of "Progress" that will be offered at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers on Tuesday, November 4, at 11 am, in its Twentieth Century decorative arts auction.

In 1898 Richard E. Schmidt was hired to add a tower to the existing Montgomery Ward building at 6 North Michigan Avenue. "Progress" was designed by Scottish American sculptor John Massey Rhind and topped Schmidt's pyramid form tower.

In her original form, "Progress" was depicted as a nude, bearing a flaming torch in her right hand and a caduceus in her left balancing atop a globe. The metallic erosion at the top of her face reveals the wear of nearly half a century outside amongst the Chicago elements. John Massey Rhind was said to be influenced by



Augustus Saint-Gaudens Diana, which topped the Agriculture Building at the Chicago World's Fair.

The auction also features a large selection of works by Tiffany Studios



with more than 15 lamps on offer, including a Tulip, a Peony, a Dogwood, an Acorn and a Swirling Oak, as well as Tiffany Studios chandeliers, candlesticks and desk articles. The post-war session includes property from the Jean Friedlander estate, with furniture from Edward Wormley and Finn Juhl.

Leslie Hindman Auctioneers is at 1338 West Lake Street. For additional information, www.lesliehindman.com or call Rebecca Williams at 312-280-1212. Preview will be October 31–November 3.

Benefit Shop Foundation's Inaugural Charity Sale 'A Success'



The top lot of the auction was a 3½-carat single stone, old European cut diamond set in a platinum band, which attained \$62,000.



This German Black Forest wall plaque sold for \$2,000.



A French chandelier earned \$2,250.

Auction Action In Mount Kisco, N.Y.

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. — A registered nonprofit, the Benefit Shop Foundation Inc, conducted its inaugural charity auction September 21. It was deemed "a huge success" with 600 lots displayed in more than 8,000 square feet of gallery space. The auction featured fine jewelry, sterling silver, decorative items, carpets, antique and contemporary furniture.

The expectations of The Benefit Shop's team, auction manager Francis Merante and operations assistant Samantha Ponsrock were far exceeded due to the registration of more than 400 people from 26 different countries through the Internet alone. The

salesroom got so crowded at one point it was standing room only, and the sale boasted dozens of preregistered telephone and absentee bidders.

Many lots sold far beyond their presale estimates and while the auction had a sell-through rate of over 90 percent, several lots in particular had the audience on its feet. The star lot was a 3½-carat single stone, old European cut diamond set in a platinum band, which sold for \$62,000, including the buyer's premium after frenzied bidding over multiple phones, two Internet platforms and in the salesroom. The period Art Deco diamond



A flatware service brought \$2,250.

jewelry pieces, which had been with the same family for more than 80 years, also performed well, with brooches selling for \$2,000 and \$2,250, as well as a

Doxa watch for \$2,750. Other jewelry pieces of note included a Van Cleef & Arpels engagement ring that sold for \$5,100 and antique Continental diamond

and pearl earrings for \$1,100. Sterling silver sold well, with one flatware service bringing \$2,250. There were also period pieces, such as an antique French chandelier which sold for \$2,250 and a German Black Forest wall plaque which brought \$2,000.

All prices reported include the buyer's premium.

The Benefit Shop is working to put together a second auction November 2 and is seeking both consignments and donations of single items or entire estates. All donations are tax deductible.

For additional information, www.BenefitShop.org or 914-864-0707.

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(AA)

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Minneapolis Institute Of Arts Forms Partnership To Present 'Martin Luther: Art & the Reformation'

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) has formed a partnership with four German institutions — the State Museum of Prehistory in Halle, Luther Memorials Foundation in Saxony-Anhalt, German Historical Museum in Berlin and Foundation Schloss Friedenstein in Gotha — to organize "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation."

Opening in October 2016, the exhibition will explore the transformative impact of Martin Luther's 95 theses — the document which spurred the Protestant Reformation — through

art, objects and rare manuscripts. Presented 500 years after Luther posted the theses to the doors of a Wittenburg church, the exhibition is the first to comprehensively examine Luther's life, influence and personal artifacts, many of which have been rarely seen outside of Germany.

The paintings, miniatures, sculptures and prints date from the Sixteenth Century onward and include newly discovered objects originally owned by the Luther family, as well as a recreation of Luther's studio and vandalized works by other

artists, demonstrating the powerful effect of Luther's protest.

The key loan highlights are the biblical and portrait paintings by Lucas Cranach the Elder, a re-creation of Luther's studio including original furnishings and precious objects in gold and silver, recent archaeological finds from excavations at the sites of Luther's childhood homes and rare Sixteenth Century, German-language editions of the Bible.

Minneapolis Institute of Arts 2400 3rd Avenue South. For information, 612-870-3000 or www.new.artsmia.org.