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**Eros: The Ralph Childs Collection**

An Art Auction to Benefit Asians & Friends Chicago

March 20, 2021

Welcome Note

Ralph Childs, an elder of the social organizations, Asians & Friends Chicago (AFC) and IFCON, passed away suddenly in August of 2020. His estate donated several pieces of artwork to AFC in support of its efforts to build community among the LGBTQ Asian population in the Windy City. Those of us who knew Ralph appreciated his generosity, good humor and fun-loving spirit. Lesser known was his support of and participation in the visual-arts community.

Generally, Ralph loved to travel, meet people, take photos and explore the art scene. Many of the pieces reflect those passions. His taste gravitated to the more abstract, but also, as aligned with his sexual orientation, the male body. His family and friends say he was always interested in meeting the artist from whom he purchased work. Many of the pieces are signed by the artist and in the case of well-known illustrator, Jon Reich, a friendship developed.

Two pieces in the collection were purchased by Kevin Tam, a close friend of Ralph’s, with whom the two shared Ralph’s last Chicago home, a condo over the renowned Boystown area (today known as North Halsted). Kevin purchased the pieces while on a solo trip to Italy. They were prominently displayed in Ralph and Kevin’s Boystown home.

Finally, a special piece in the collection up for auction is a photograph of pop vocalist, Bette Midler, in costume during her 2018 Broadway run as the lead in *Hello Dolly* in New York City. Ralph saw Ms. Midler in the New York production and while attending a charity event for a local performing-arts group, he purchased the framed photograph—signed by Ms. Midler—for $500.

Though Ralph passed suddenly in Chicago, he left behind his sister Barbara, brother Bruce, nieces and nephews, and hundreds of friends from the AFC and IFCON communities, as well as dozens of others he met while on international cruises and trips abroad. He will not be forgotten.

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Photo by Carter Martin

Ralph Childs

Bidding Rules:

All winning bids are considered final, with invoicing and billing to follow. Please note that **we will take all bids seriously** and will follow up accordingly. Here are AFC options for payment:

* PayPal via AFC’s website: [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org).
* Mail with checks payable to Asians & Friends Chicago to P.O. Box A 3916, Chicago, Illinois 60690-3916.
* For post-event invoicing and follow-up, please provide your email to the chat room during the virtual Zoom event or in the Facebook comment page when you’ve been notified that you have won.

Delivery in the Chicago area will be free, but outside of the Chicago metro area will mean the cost of shipping will be added to the final bill.

“Silent” auction items will end bidding at 8:30 p.m., Sat., March 20, 2021, on the AFC Facebook Eros event page, while live bidding on certain items will continue in the chat room of the Zoom call through the live event on March 20.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org) in $5 increments or five for $20. Buy a ticket and your name gets tossed into an automated randomizer. Winners will be identified electronically and announced by hosts during the live event.

Asians & Friends Chicago is a nonprofit registered in the state of Illinois. All donations are tax deductible towards any Illinois state filings. For more about AFC upcoming events, visit [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org) or AFC’s Facebook page.

Artwork Descriptions:

A picture on a wall

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*Art from Italy*

Lot No. 104

Artist: Baruffaldi

Source: Bac Art Studio, Venezia, bacart.com

Description: 10” x 12”, male nude touching rear, sketch

Lot No. 106

Artist: Baruffaldi

Source: Bac Art Studio, Venezia, bacart.com

Description: 8.5” x 14”, male in jock strap

A picture containing text

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*Acrylic Images*

Lot No. 103

Artist: Marquis VX

Source: Unknown

Description: 12” x 18”, “The Thought,” male subject in red, acrylic on metal with 3-D mount

Lot No. 113

Artist: Marquis VX

Source: Unknown

Description: Triptic in 9” x 22” mounting, “God’s Creation,” abstract faces

A picture containing text, floor, indoor, picture frame

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*Jon Reich*

Lot No. 102

Artist: Jon Reich

Source: Unknown

Description: 25” x 33”; Hand sketching a full, male nude; framed poster; signed by artist

Lot No. 108

Artist: Jon Reich

Source: Unknown

Description: 18” x 24”; “Political Rhetoric”; print/sketch of two hands, signed by artist

A picture containing text, picture frame

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*Multi-Media Framed Picture*

Lot No. 112

Artist: A. Savelos

Source: Unknown

Description: 2.5’ x 4’; Abstract; multi-media

A framed picture of a person

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Hello Dolly *Framed Photo*

Lot No. 101

Artist: Unknown

Source: Unknown

Description: 13” x 16” framed photo of Bette Midler during her 2018 run as “Dolly” in the Broadway musical, *Hello Dolly*, in New York; purchased for $500 at a performing arts charity event

A picture containing cloth, indoor

Description automatically generated A picture containing wine, indoor, glass

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*Acrylic Sculptures*

Lot No. 108—Sold

Artist: Unknown

Source: Unknown

Description: 5” x 7”; acrylic sculpture of two faces in a single face

Lot No. 111

Artist: Unknown

Source: Unknown

Description: 6” tall x 5.5” in diameter; Two cordial glasses; One black face, one white face



*Forged Sculpture*

Lot No. 105

Artist: Miket

Source: Havol Gallery, havolgallery.com

Description: 14” x 18”; Wall-mounted metal forged sculpture; partial male torso; dated 11/15

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*Male Nude Painted Series*

Lot No. 107

Artist: Joey Wyneah

Source: Leigh Gallery, Chicago

Description: Four paintings, 10” x 10”

* The Green Man, 2018
* Summer Fever, 2019
* Torso in Green, 2018
* Double Image, 2018

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*Rubber Sheets*

Lot No. 114

Manufacturer: Exxxtreme

Description: Rubber bed sheets and pillowcases; queen-sized sheets with king-sized pillowcases; black

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A picture containing text, person

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To add to the Eros theme, AFC member and co-chair of the Eros event, Oliver Aguilar, donated two photography books with male, nude themes.

Lot No. 110

The Male Nude by David Leddick

Lot No. 115

Male Nude Now by various artists

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Lastly, John Kinyon, also an AFC and IFCON member, donated several items. He described what he has to offer, essentially three artwork groupings:

*Two Framed Prints*

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Lot No. 116

Artist: Douglas Simonson

Description: 18” x 23”; Cambodian Nude on Car

A picture containing wall, picture frame, indoor, painting

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Lot No. 117

Artist: Douglas Simonson

Description: 18” x 23”; Island Song (Guitar)

Two framed prints by Douglas Simonson, both signed, limited edition, one is an artist's proof. They each depict an Asian male in an outdoor setting. Cost including custom framing and anti-glare, anti-UV glass was about $450 each. There is also a signed book showing the artist’s process—original photographs of the models (mostly Asian males) and the resulting artwork. He will include miscellaneous Simonson items such as postcards.

*Embroidery*

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Lot No. 118

Description: 13” X 15”; One Pillar Pagoda, Hanoi

A picture containing text, wall, gallery, indoor

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Lot No. 119

Description: 15” x 15”; Fishing Boat

A picture containing wall, gallery, indoor, room

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Lot No. 120

Description: 13” x 15”; Ngoc Song Temple

Three pieces of embroidery that John and his husband, Hung, purchased in Hanoi. They depict a one-pedestal pagoda, a shrine on the lake and a fishing scene. John also had them professionally matted and framed.

*Framed Poster*

A person lying in a bed

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Lot No. 121

Source: Hamilton’s Gallery London

Description: 23” x 30”; A framed poster of a French male in bed.

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AFC’s Eros Art Auction Committee:

Oliver Aguilar, co-chair

John McInteer, co-chair

Angel Abcede, operations and booklet

Rob Fore, event direction and production

Brad Held, finance and raffle

Michael Nemeth, event production

Wei-Ming Su, event production

Curtis Tom, event production

Special Thanks:

Bruce Childs

John Kinyon

Bill Quirk

Kevin Tam

Barbara Childs Wallace

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Asians & Friends Chicago is a nonprofit registered in the state of Illinois. All donations are tax deductible towards any Illinois state filings. For more about AFC upcoming events, visit [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org) or AFC’s Facebook page.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the bidding, to the AFC Board members and volunteers who helped out for this event.

Sincerely,

AFC Board of Directors

March 20, 2021