



COURTESY HOWARD REHS

Howard Rehs, director of Rehs Galleries, gives an insight into some of the most common (and silly) questions people ask.

## Amherst College Seeking Wider Help with Art Heist Investigation

AMHERST, Mass.—Amherst College and the FBI are reopening the investigation into a theft from a campus art museum nearly 40 years ago.

Three centuries-old paintings valued at more than \$400,000 were stolen in February 1975.

Two of those paintings were recovered in 1989.

But the third, a piece by Dutch artist Jan Baptist Lambrechts entitled “Interior with Figures Smoking and Drinking,” was never found.

An FBI spokesman tells The Daily Hampshire Gazette that the agency is looking to generate publicity for the case beyond Massachusetts.

## Windows From Canterbury Cathedral Grace Cloisters

NEW YORK (AP)—Six medieval stained glass windows from England’s historic Canterbury Cathedral are going on display at The Cloisters beginning Tuesday.

It will be first time that the glass panels, which were removed during restoration of cathedral walls, have left the cathedral since they were created in the years 1178 to 1180.

The windows are an example of Romanesque stained glass work, which expressive figures and luminous colors.

The exhibit will include an interactive panorama of the Canterbury Cathedral.

Canterbury Cathedral, founded in 570, is part of a World Heritage Site as well as a house of worship.

From The Associated Press

# As Heard on the Gallery Floor

By Howard Rehs

Our gallery started participating in art and antique shows more than 25 years ago and over that time, I have heard some of the most amazing (sometimes humorous and at other times hard to believe) comments from people visiting our booth.

Doubtless many gallery owners have these classic rare and unusual moments and stories from the floor. Here are the 2013 greatest hits from the show floor so far this year.

### ‘That painting is worth more than my house!’

Believe me, most dealers know that some of the works they offer for sale are more expensive than most homes; not much we can do about that. And you should be aware that most serious private collections exceed the value of the homes they are in.

### ‘I would have to sell my house to buy that painting!’

Well, if comment one is correct, then even if you sold your house you could not afford it! This is one of those comments that are better left unsaid.

### ‘Did you paint all of these paintings?’

Come on ... most of us have wall tags with the names of each artist, along with their birth and/or death dates—emphasis

on the death dates! Please take a few moments to read the tags before asking that question.

### ‘These are not old paintings; they look too new!’

If a work of art was properly cared for, it can look as good as the day it left the artist’s easel. And if the paintings you own do not look as good, maybe they have issues that need to be addressed.

### ‘I have no more wall space!’

Look, give me a few hours in your home and I will rearrange your works so that you can hang at least another 20 paintings; and if I need even more wall space, I know a carpenter who can quickly cover your windows with two-by-fours and sheetrock.

### ‘I like that painting, but if I bought it a few parts need to be painted out!’

What! Seriously? Look, after you buy a work, you can do whatever you want; but I do not want to know about it.

### ‘That is a nice work, but I have a better one at home!’

I highly doubt it, but then again, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder (or in this instance, the owner). Thanks for coming, missing you already!

### ‘Are you selling the frames or the paintings?’

I know you are all thinking: no way someone said that! Well,

yes they did and it happened at a show in Chicago. To make it even worse, the individual was wearing a press badge and videotaping our works. Now here was my answer: Yes, we are selling the frames and as a bonus you get the painting at no additional charge!

### ‘When I win the lottery I will be back!’

We hear this one at every show and with the typical lottery odds it is more than likely that you will not be back.

### ‘I would love to buy something but you just do not have what I am looking for!’

The real question is—do you really have any idea what you are looking for?

### ‘I’ll know it when it hits me!’

I am not a violent person, but don’t tempt me! I have always wanted to hit someone with a painting just to see if they would buy it.

### ‘Do you buy paintings?’

No, we just sell them. Come on people; get with the program. Of course we buy paintings—otherwise we would have very little, or nothing, to sell.

### ‘I don’t have a house for a frame like that!’

A rarely used, yet ingenious excuse, and one which I did hear at a show in Baltimore recently. Now just in case any-

one else wants to try this one, please note: we are always happy to either change a frame, or we can sell you the painting without one!

### ‘What is your best price?’

Look, a dealer’s best price is one that is far more than the work is currently priced at. I find that most people who ask this question end up just walking out of the booth and never return. We all know there is

usually a little wiggle room in everything, and if you are going to ask for a lower price, be prepared to make a deal. Try not to waste the dealer’s time.

*Howard Rehs is the director of Rehs Galleries and Rehs Contemporary Galleries in New York City. www.rehs.com. This article originally appeared on the Art, Antiques and Luxury Design Blog, www.art-antiques-design.com*

## On the Block

### Upcoming Auctions

#### Tuesday, Feb. 25

**Fine Jewelry (Doyle)**  
Over 950 lots of jewelry, many of them signed pieces, set with diamonds, colored gem stones and pearls, as well as gold jewelry, fine watches, and gentlemen’s accessories.

**Vintage Posters (Swann)**  
Posters and illustrated panels from the 19th and 20th Centuries. 372 lots.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26

**American Art (Christie’s)**  
180 lots spanning the 19th and 20th century, with such notable artists as Milton Avery, Jane

Peterson, N.C. Wyeth, and Stephen Scott Young, among others.

**Jewelry and Contents of Abandoned Safe Boxes (Doyle)**  
Moderately estimated jewelry, including many group lots, comprising gold jewelry and pieces set with diamonds, colored gemstones, jade, coral and pearls. By order of Bank of America. 150 lots.

#### Thursday, Feb. 27

**Fine Photographs and the Library of Bill Diodato (Swann)**  
Bill Diodato is a commercial and fine-art photographer. 269

lots include several photos by Ansel Adams.

#### Tuesday, Mar. 3

**Jean-Michel Basquiat from the collection of Alexis Adler (Christie’s)**  
A month-long curated exhibition featuring a grouping of approximately 50 works coming from the Lower East Side apartment, where Alexis Adler lived with Basquiat from 1979 to 1980. Online only.

#### Tuesday, Mar. 4

**The Estates of the Hon. Noreen Drexel and Van Cliburn (Christie’s)**  
575 lots from the diverse estates of two important collectors. Sale continues on March 5.

Compiled by Christine Lin, Epoch Times Staff