

For Immediate Release: “Lover’s in the Sea” sells at Auction: \$10,000

Renowned Woman’s Artist Featured in Brennan Charity Auction

“Lovers in the Sea” by artist Amanda R. Block was one of the featured artworks to go under the gavel February 3rd, 2009, when former UH quarterback Colt Brennan hosted his first charity event. Known principally as a lithographer, Amanda R. Block’s work is treasured by collectors and museums throughout the country. Strong depictions, nearly always female, seem to vibrate with honest sensuality. “Lovers in the Sea” is no exception. It is sensual without being erotic. It is also almost unique among Block’s work as it has a male as well as female figure.

Amanda R. Block has been an artist her entire life. Born in 1912, and still alive today although not producing artwork, Amanda studied art in Cincinnati and even exhibited in her first national show at the Chicago Art Institute in 1941, sculpture. It was not until her graduation from Art School in 1960, at age 48, that her work really began. “Lovers in the Sea” is one of her finest early lithographs. It shows clearly the superb color sense that is Amanda’s trademark. Bright, sensual, engaging, full of movement, the work draws the viewer into its orbit, forcing its questions upon us. Who are they? Does their moment last? It does in Amanda’s art.

The figural work of Amanda R. Block falls between the traditional and the avant-garde, between simple and subtle, between passion and control. Although she is better known for her large abstract landscapes in acrylic and her decorative, colorful lithographs from the middle and late 1970's; ultimately, it is through the figural work that one may truly understand this complex artist. A lover of beauty, it is the female form that most stimulated Amanda’s sensibilities. Her women are strength itself, often veering toward fierce, frank and open, and always sensual.

“Lovers in the Sea” was donated to the auction by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wolf, the artist’s son and daughter-in-law, from their personal collection, in honor of their friend Betsy Brennan, mother of Colt Brennan, who they consider to clearly represent the kind of woman Amanda R. Block celebrated in her art.