

# Aspen Daily News

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Saturday's Aspen Thrift Shop art sale offers up astounding donations

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Treasure hunters, you are on alert: The fourth annual art sale by the Aspen Thrift Shop is set for Saturday at the Red Brick Center for the Arts, with a sneak preview today from 4 to 6 p.m.

Given the income bracket of many residents, along with tastes that can politely be described as esoteric, if not eccentric, the sale of donated items has something for everyone, said Diane Wallace, a thrift shop co-president.

That includes everything from a vintage horse saddle with intricate leather work, an "Aspenology" board game and old photos from inside the Marble quarry to astounding original works by artists such as Gino Hollander, Herbert Bayer, Tom Benson, Michael Cleverly and Paul Soldner.

All of the items — many of which can sell for thousands of dollars but this weekend will go for much less — have been donated to the nonprofit thrift shop. Some have been displayed in galleries or were part of private collections, but you will not see them in the Hopkins Avenue store because of their worth, said Katherine Sand, the thrift shop volunteer who started the art sale four years ago.

"In a thrift shop, you cannot charge \$200 or \$300, even in Aspen," for items, she said. "That's not right. ... And it's not fair to expect the day-to-day volunteers to know how to price a piece of art."

Instead, items of value, or suspected to have value, are stored away until the annual sale, which will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with certain items reserved for a silent auction. That gives Sand time to do some internet-based research on how much to charge — and today's preview gives people the chance to check her work and prepare for Saturday (no bids or reservations are accepted during the preview).

A lengthy line in the Red Brick is common, and people rush in to try to claim what was spotted today, Wallace said. Both the items and their locations in the sale are researched methodically.

"People don't like it when you move things," she laughed.

All of the proceeds — an estimated \$30,000 raised in four hours last year — go toward grants for valley nonprofits and college scholarships for local students.

To fund those worthy causes are some truly remarkable items that, as Sand said, have not just monetary value but also historical interest.

She singled out a first-edition, signed print of a Bayer work. Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke in 1946 hired Bayer, already then a renowned designer, to create The Aspen Institute campus. His architectural accomplishments, including the Marble Sculpture Garden and earthwork that comprises the nation's first

environmental sculptures, remain the foundation of the campus' innovative layout.

But Bayer was also an accomplished design artist, and Sand says she was astonished that a signed, No. 1 work of his ended up with the Aspen Thrift Shop.

“It is beautiful, and easily as good as many of the ones exhibited at the Institute,” she said. “Where else in the world does this happen?”

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Katherine Sand of the Aspen Thrift Shop displays an original work by artist and former Woody Creek resident Michael Cleverly. It and many other items will be on sale on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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