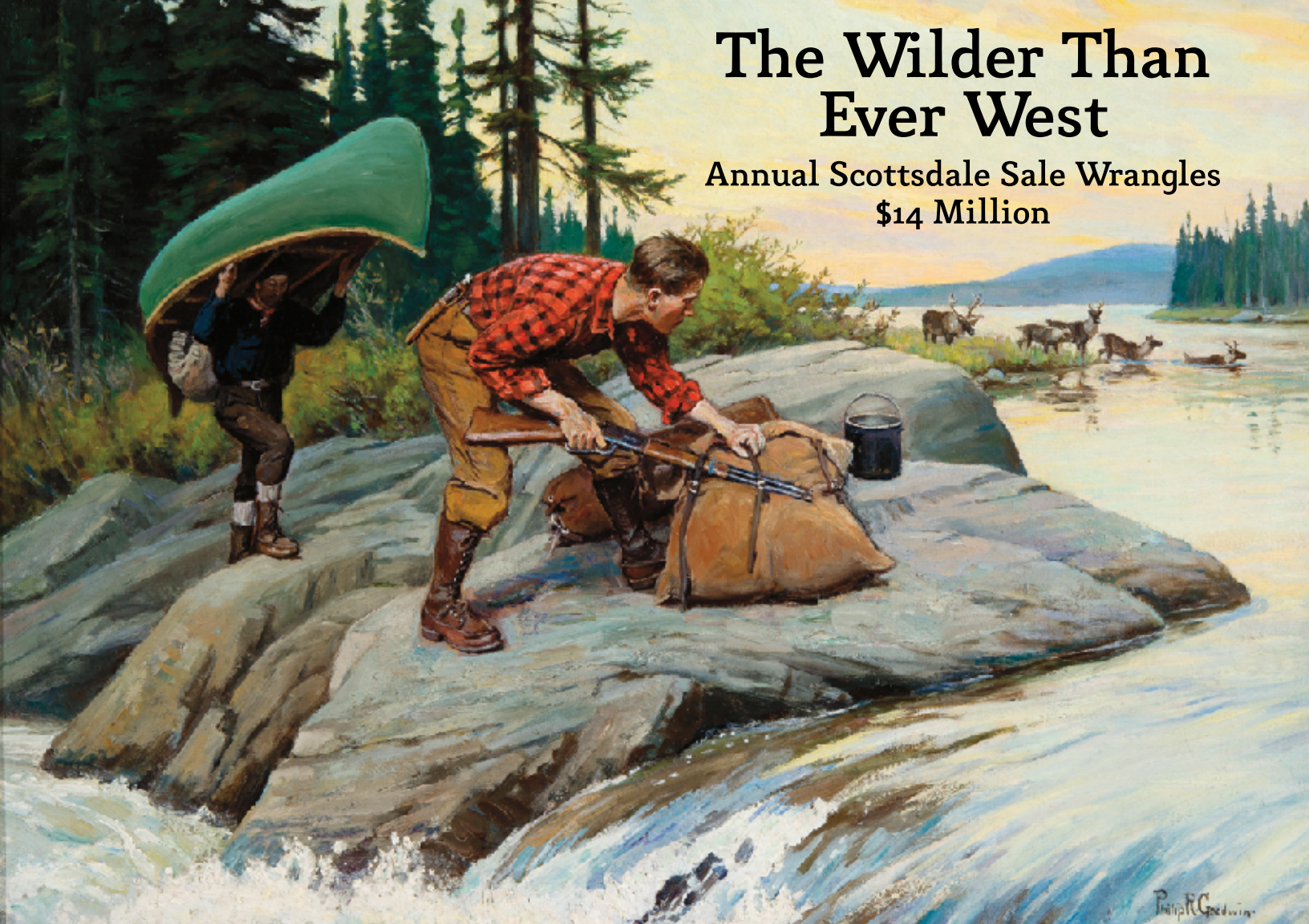


# The Wilder Than Ever West

Annual Scottsdale Sale Wrangles  
\$14 Million



*Previous Page: "Their Lucky Day" by Philip R. Goodwin (1882–1935), oil on canvas, 24 by 33 inches, \$198,900. After a period of study with Howard Pyle at the Brandywine School, Goodwin began illustrating classic works such as Theodore Roosevelt's "African Game Trails" and Jack London's "Call of the Wild" for Scribner's. A close friend of Charles Russell, Goodwin, a New York native, spent summers in the West, camping, hunting, fishing and gathering material for his oils.*

By Laura Beach

**S**COTTSDALE, ARIZ. — If ever we needed proof that there are many art markets, Scottsdale Art Auction supplies it. The consortium's highly successful April 11 sale realized \$13,718,447 on 339 lots for a sell-through rate of 91 percent. More than

*"The Departure Of The Mayflower" by N.C. Wyeth (1882–1945), oil on canvas, 40 by 30 inches, \$409,500. The artist reused this composition in 1941 in horizontal format for decorations for the Metropolitan Life Company. (Click to see full image)*





30 works surpassed the \$100,000 mark. A generalist looking at these robust results is tempted to observe that the rise of the marketplace for the art of the West parallels trends for illustration art, a leader in recent

*"Home is Where You Hang Your Hat" by Kyle Polzin (b 1974), oil on canvas, 24 by 36 inches, \$128,700. (Click to see full image)*





auctions of pre-contemporary American painting. Of course, many of the pioneering Western artists began their careers as illustrators. Beyond that, both genres are narrative based and often indifferent to the high-art preoccupations of Art Basel and its minions. Storytelling rules. The widespread popularity of Western art and country music's ascendance on the Billboard



charts must be seen as related phenomena.

Scottsdale Art Auction is a joint venture among three longtime dealers

in historic, modern and contemporary Western, wildlife and sporting art: Michael Frost of J.N. Bartfield Galleries in Manhattan, Jack A. Morris Jr of Morris & Whiteside

*"Closing on the Herd" by Howard Terpning (b 1927), signed lower right and dated 1978, oil on canvas, 26 by 44 inches, \$497,250. (Click to see full image)*





◀ *“Cape Buffalo”* by Wilhelm Kuhnert (1865–1926,) signed lower left and dated 1912, oil on canvas, 25 by 44 inches, \$245,700. Born in what is now Poland, the artist trained at the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin with Paul Meyerheim and Ferdinand Bellerman and later traveled to German East Africa, inspiration for his paintings of people and animals. (Click to see full image)

*“Snake River Culture”* by Martin Grelle ▶ (b 1954), signed and dated 2007, 48 by 60 inches, \$549,900. (Click to see full image)



◀ *“Evening on the Big Horn”* by Joseph H. Sharp (1859–1953), oil on canvas, 12 by 18 inches, \$228,150. Considered the father of the Taos School because he was the first of the founders to visit the area in 1893, Sharp also painted in the Northwest and Hawaii. This work stems from his lengthy stay with the Crow in Wyoming. (Click to see full image)





*"Scouting the Crags" by William R. Leigh (1866–955), signed lower right and dated 1948, oil on canvas, 40 by 34 inches, \$468,000. Leigh visited Arizona and New Mexico for the first time in 1906 at the encouragement of Thomas Moran.*

Galleries in Hilton Head Island, S.C., and Brad Richardson, whose Legacy Gallery has addresses in Montana, Wyoming and Arizona. The partners, who launched their first sale in 2005 and return to Scottsdale each April, have distinct clienteles and specialties. Richardson is



perhaps the most closely aligned with contemporary cowboy art, successfully promoted by groups such as the Cowboy Artists of America and the National Academy of Western Art, and by museums like the Autry in Los Angeles.

Founded in 1937 by Michael Frost's uncle, Bartfield is the nation's oldest gallery specializing in historic art of [\(Continued on page 46 inside the E-edition\)](#)

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