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100 Years of American Sculpture Auctions at Rago's in May

Lambertville, NJ – On Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 2:00 PM, Rago Arts and Auction Center will sell the sculpture collection of Eileen and Marvin Reingold. The collection comprises more than two hundred fifty works in bronze and represents over one hundred years of American art, from the age of the Beaux-arts to the ascendancy of Modernism.

"It has been an honor working with this museum-quality collection," says Meredith Hilferty, Director of Fine Art at Rago's. "The Reingolds' passion for art has brought together an encyclopedic survey of important American sculpture."

The Reingolds assembled their singular collection over forty-year period. Much of the work is by artists acknowledged as the finest of their age – Frederick MacMonnies, Paulanship and Harriet Frishmuth. Others, largely unknown when the Reingolds purchased their work, have since achieved the recognition the Reingolds always believed they deserved.

The couple collected everywhere: at Brimfield market by flashlight before dawn; in Italy and France, where so many Americans went to study; at countless antique shows, tag sales, and flea markets. They bought from the artists themselves, including Selma Burke and Hazel Jackson, who they visited at her Westchester studio. They bought from major collections and through museum deaccessions.

The collection includes work by scores of artists. The sculpture of Frederick MacMonnies, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Daniel Chester French speak to the aesthetic of the 19th century; Paulanship, William Zorach, Chaim Gross and Wilhelm Hunt Diederich to the ascendancy of abstraction. MacMonnies and Manship, favorites of the Reingolds, are both represented by multiple works: *Boy with Heron*, *Pan of Rohallion* and two others from MacMonnies and, from Manship, *Young Minerva* and three more.

The Reingold collection is notable for its emphasis on gifted female sculptors. Works by Malvina Hoffman, Harriet Whitney Frishmuth, Beatrice Fenton, Anna Hyatt, and Bessie Potter Vonnoh (among others) are a significant element here. Among the sculptures offered are Frishmuth's *The Star* and *The Vine*, Hyatt's *Reaching Jaguar* and *Joan of Arc* and, by Hoffman, *Un Payazo* and *Column of Life*.

Other works expected to attract special interest include a reclining female nude by African-American artist Selma Burke and a female figure by William Zorach carved from stone. Notable, too, is *The*

Joy of Effort medallion by Robert Tait McKenzie, an example of which was exhibited at the 1912 Olympic Games. It is said to be the best work that McKenzie produced.

"It's going to be difficult to sell these works," says Eileen Reingold. "Much harder than the other collections we've sold. The bronzes surrounded us; they were a part of our lives. But here's what's important to know. It's been a wonderful journey. We've met great people from all walks of life. We did just fine and we had such fun. We're still having fun. We're still buying!"

Catalogues: Available in print and online on or about May 10, 2007. Ordered at ragoarts.com or by calling 888-RAGOARTS.

Preview: Saturday, May 12 – Friday, May 18 from noon until 5pm and by appointment. Doors open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20.