

## Art Market | Galleries

### Court orders Dickinson to reveal client

US collector is seeking to recover \$4.85m Signac painting sold on behalf of jailed dealer Timothy Sammons

By Georgina Adam

The widespread practice in the art market of protecting clients' confidentiality has been challenged in London's High Court in a further fallout from the Timothy Sammons affair.

The art dealer pleaded guilty to fraud and grand larceny, and was jailed in New York last year. Among the works of art at issue in his case was Paul Signac's *Calanque de Canoubier (Point de Bamer)* (1896), which was owned by a US collector, Linda Hickox.

Hickox sold the painting through Sammons, working as an agent, in 2013 for \$4.85m, via the London dealer Simon Dickinson, which brokered the sale on behalf of a client. Dickinson paid Sammons in full immediately, but Hickox never received a penny. As a result, she says she remains the owner of the painting, which Sammons stole from her.

Having failed to obtain any money from Sammons, despite a court order in New York, Hickox sought disclosure of documents from Dickinson in London, trying to find out where the painting now is and who owns it, so that she could



The broker Dickinson paid Sammons in full for *Calanque de Canoubier (Point de Bamer)*

go after the owner for "conversion", the term for unlawfully taking something that they do not own.

Emma Ward, the managing director of Dickinson, argued before the court that her firm should not reveal this information, since it is the custom and practice in the art world not to reveal the identity of private buyers. However, the court applied the order despite her arguments as to confidentiality; the firm has now complied, as it did previously with the US authorities.

In a statement given to *The Art Newspaper*, Dickinson says: "In 2019 Mr Sammons was convicted by the Manhattan District Attorney for defrauding multiple clients and is currently serving a four to 12-year sentence in New York. Simon C. Dickinson Ltd. co-operated fully with the District Attorney, producing the documentation which contributed to Mr Sammons's successful prosecution. In October 2020, Simon C. Dickinson Ltd. released documents disclosing the identity of the purchaser in response to a court order requiring their disclosure. The confidential documents relate to the purchase of the painting by a client in 2012. The application was confined to the disclosure of documents."

## PRIVATE VIEW

New commercial exhibitions—from Johannesburg to Miami

### Cassi Namoda: To Live Long Is to See Much

Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

Until 16 January 2021

This is US-based Cassi Namoda's first exhibition with Goodman Gallery and her first in Africa, aside from in her native Mozambique. Her new, magic realist-tinged paintings, oil and acrylics in a muted palette, were all made over the summer in Namoda's studio in East Hampton, Long Island, but their characters are rooted in the landscape of Africa. She says of her thoughts while painting: "It's a very interesting and complex time, thinking about the liberation of Southern African people and the state of diaspora currently in the United States." **A.B.**



### Rochelle Feinstein: Fredonia!

Nina Johnson, Miami

Until 9 January 2021

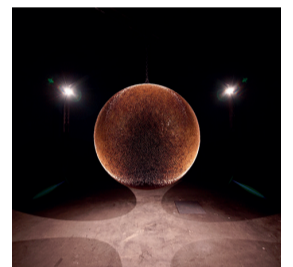
With a pseudo-Miami Art Week still under way despite the cancellation of Art Basel in Miami Beach, Nina Johnson will present a series of new works by Rochelle Feinstein, best known for infusing her abstract paintings with political resonance by naming them after events in contemporary culture in the style of figurative history paintings. These works are inspired by Fredonia: a 19th-century name for the US and a failed country in the 1933 Marx Brothers film *Duck Soup*. Following four farcical years of Trump and an anxiety-inducing presidential election amid a pandemic, there is perhaps no better time and place for this exhibition. **M.C.**

### Robert Longo: Storm of Hope

Deitch Projects, Los Angeles

Until 30 January 2021

Pictures Generation artist Robert Longo returns to Los Angeles after 12 years for a show that surveys the "political storm" in the modern-day US. At its centre is *Death Star II* (2017), an installation made from 40,000 assault rifle bullets, which corresponds to the number of US gun deaths in 2017. Other politically urgent works include an epic three-part drawing showing the three pillars of the US government in various states of decay and a work depicting the 2020 protests in Portland, Oregon. **K.J.**



From top: Cassi Namoda's *Zambezi remembers Tchaubongue* (2020); Rochelle Feinstein's *Apocalypse II* (2020); and Robert Longo's *Death Star 2018* (2018)

A podcast by The Art Newspaper,  
as recommended by The New York Times  
and The Washington Post



## The Week in Art

The Art Newspaper

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## In the trade

### ARTIST MOVES

Waddington Custot now represents *Bernar Venet*.

Salon 94 Design now represents *Judd Furniture* in North America.

Nicelle Beauchene now represents the *Gee's Bend Quiltmakers*.

Thaddaeus Ropac now represents *Rachel Jones* and *Mandy El-Sayegh*.

Timothy Taylor now represents *Daniel Crews-Chubb*.

Almine Rech now represents *Huang Yuxing*.

Galeria Nara Roesler now represents *Rodolpho Parigi*.

Sargent's Daughters now represents *Ruben Ulises Rodriguez Montoya*.

Cristina Grajales Gallery now represents *Paula Hayes*.

Gaviak now represents *Karen Carson, Kim Dacres* and *Viola Frey*

Stephen Friedman Gallery now represents *Sarah Ball*.

### THE GALLERIES

Shapero Modern and Shapero Rare Books will move to separate locations in Mayfair, on Maddox Street and New Bond Street.

Kamel Mennour will open its fourth Paris gallery, located in the St-Germain-des-Prés neighbourhood.

Artsy and the inventory management system Artlogic are partnering to allow galleries to share work directly from their Artlogic inventories to the Artsy online marketplace.

### FAIRS

Victoria Siddall has been appointed to the newly created position of board director of Frieze. Rebecca Ann Siegel has been appointed Frieze's director of Americas and content, another new position, overseeing Frieze New York and Frieze Los Angeles, alongside her existing responsibilities as publisher of Frieze magazine.

Dorothee Dines will leave Art Basel in January to become head of public and media relations at the Beyeler Foundation in Switzerland.

The parent company of Art Brussels, Easyfairs, has launched a new fair, *Art Antwerp* in Belgium. It is planned to take place from 10 to 13 December 2020 at Antwerp Expo.



Mandy El-Sayegh is represented by Thaddaeus Ropac; Christophe Person is Artcurial's new head of contemporary African art

The art advisers Catherine Loewe and Alexandra Ray have launched *The Eye of the Huntress*, a virtual art platform that presents quarterly exhibitions set in CGI-rendered locations.

### AUCTION HOUSES

Christophe Person joins Artcurial as the head of its contemporary African art department.

Swann Galleries has appointed Nigel Freeman and Rick Stattler as vice presidents and Alexandra Mann-Nelson as chief marketing officer.

Karina Sokolovsky has joined Sotheby's as its new global chief communications officer. Darrell Rocha has left his role as co-worldwide head of communications.

Molly Morse Limmer has joined Hindman as senior vice president of decorative arts and collectibles. Morse Limmer was previously vice president at Christie's New York.

### ELSEWHERE

Carmine Bruno, formerly of Online Galleries and Istidbs, has launched *The Bruno Effect*, an invite-only online antiques marketplace.