

DE KOONING PAINTING TIES AUCTION RECORD

By Rita Reif

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Willem de Kooning's "Pink Lady" from 1944 tied the record at auction for a contemporary painting and for a work by a living artist when it was sold last night for \$3.63 million at Sotheby's. The large and glowing Abstract Expressionist oil and charcoal on panel in pinks, red, bright green and yellow,

was sold to an unidentified buyer who bid over the telephone through Lucy Mitchell-Innes, Sotheby's contemporary-art specialist.

"It's very sad - it's tough," said Betty Warner Sheinbaum, a Los Angeles artist who sat with her husband, Stanley K. Sheinbaum, an economist, in the front row to watch the sale. "We've owned that painting for 30 years." It was the first time they had sold a work from their collection at auction, Mr. Sheinbaum said, adding that they were happy with the price and were thinking of buying the works of younger artists.

Hugh M. Hefner, who did not appear at the sale to watch two of his paintings go under the hammer, was represented by Richard S. Rosenzweig, executive vice president of Playboy Enterprises.

"He was very pleased," Mr. Rosenzweig said after he delivered the news to Mr. Hefner that his two artworks had brought more than \$5 million - well above expectations. "He said that these prices confirmed the reason we were correct in our assessment of the market, making the paintings available for sale. It was an exciting sale." A Joyous Shout

Mr. Hefner had consigned de Kooning's "Woman," which was sold for a remarkable price - \$2.53 million - to Morimasa Ohkawa, a 46-year-old real estate developer from Tokyo who was bidding at the back of the room. Mr. Ohkawa shouted joyously when the hammer came down. Mr. Ohkawa also was the underbidder on Mr. Hefner's Jackson Pollock, "November 26, 1950," which went for \$2.57 million, a record at auction for the artist. The buyer of the Pollock was not identified.

"Mr. Ohkawa is buying art for his own pleasure," said **Ikkwan Sanada**, an art consultant who accompanied Mr. Ohkawa to the sale. "He has been buying Impressionist paintings and School of Paris until now. Today he bought his first contemporary paintings - the de Kooning and a Lichtenstein." The Lichtenstein was "Girl in Mirror," for \$165,000.

"The Japanese are buying with 50-cent dollars and the Europeans with 60-cent dollars," Allan Stone, an art dealer, commented. Surpassed November Auction

The evening auction offered 84 works, 15 of which did not find buyers, in a sale that totaled \$18.9 million, a record for a single session in an auction of contemporary art. The sale eclipsed the \$13.2 million total achieved last November in a Sotheby's offering of 93 works, of which 86 were sold. That auction was dominated by 10 works from the collection of Ethel Redner Scull, including Jasper Johns's "Out the Window," which brought the same price as de Kooning's "Pink Lady" last night.

Arshile Gorky's 1945 "Portrait of Y. D." (the initials stand for Yvonne Duchamp, the sister of Marcel Duchamp) was sold for \$572,000 to a European dealer in the room who would not disclose his name. The buyers of other works that sold for record prices also remained unidentified.

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