

# CHEIM & READ

## Art in America

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▷ I Nyoman Masriadi, garnered high prices. His 2000 triptych, *The Man from Bantul (The Final Round)*, made a hefty \$1 million, five times its high estimate of \$193,000, and set a new record for contemporary Southeast Asian art.

Meanwhile, Christie's New York contemporary photography sale on Oct. 13 immediately followed the banking bailouts and had wildly varying results. The sale brought in only \$1.02 million (est. \$1.6-2.4 million) with a paltry 58 percent of lots sold. The top lot was Hiroshi Sugimoto's "Seascapes," a set of three photographs from 1987-93, which went for \$110,500, on the low end of its \$100,000-150,000 estimate. In marked contrast, a

separate auction that same day of William Eggleston works from the Bruce Berman collection soared to \$3 million (est. \$1.5-2.2 million) with 54 out of 60 lots selling. The photographer's 1965-74 "Los Alamos," a portfolio of 75 prints, zoomed to a record price of \$1.02 million (est. \$350,000-550,000). Prices were perhaps buoyed by the impending opening on Nov. 7 of Eggleston's retrospective at the Whitney Museum [through Jan. 25].

Suffering the deepest losses, though, is design, a relative newcomer to the auction scene. At Sotheby's modern and contemporary design auction on Oct. 18 in London, only half the lots sold. Campana Brothers stuffed-animal chairs and Zaha Hadid tables failed to sell, while weak prices were scored for work by Ron Arad. "It's not the time to sell at auction," says Manhattan dealer Roger Prigent of Malmaison.

Still, active buying was spotted at fairs. At **Design Art London**, which ran concurrently with Frieze, some dealers reaped stellar sales. London's Carpenters Workshop Gallery, for example, made 30 sales, including Marc Quinn's desks and chairs carved from single blocks of marble, some weighing as much as 2 tons each, and ranging in price from about \$19,000 to \$139,000. "Sales were up 30 percent over last year," says Joanna Needham, Carpenters's director. The next big test for the design market is Holland's **TEFAF Maastricht** fair, best known for its old-master offerings, which is set to launch a new design section in March.

—Brook S. Mason



WILLIAM EGGLESTON'S "LOS ALAMOS" PORTFOLIO, 1965-74, SOARED TO \$1.02 MILLION AT CHRISTIE'S.