NEWPORT, R.I. — The National Museum of American Illustration celebrated its 15th anniversary on July 30 with a fundraising gala and benefit auction. The highlight of the evening sale was Norman Rockwell’s “Portrait of President John F. Kennedy.” It sold for $900,000 at a live auction before the 330 guests. This is the second of two portraits Rockwell painted of John F. Kennedy. The first appeared during the 1960 presidential campaign, the second in 1963, months after the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis and just prior to Kennedy’s death. Rockwell captures the somber mood of a president confronting pressing world events.

John Falter’s baseball image “Game Not Called on Account of Darkness” hit $55,000. Rendered in grisaille in 1961, it was printed as an advertisement for Electric Light and Power Companies.

Another favorite was the J.C. Leyendecker study of a young girl holding her doll. Leyendecker executed it in preparation for a July 19, 1913, cover of the Saturday Evening Post. Leyendecker painted 322 covers for the Saturday Evening Post from 1899 to 1943. This 1913 study of the young girl with doll nestled in her arm is nearly identical to the final version. The study sold for $14,000.

Many other artworks were featured in a silent auction conducted throughout the evening. A favorite was Falter’s painting of himself and his wife splashing in the Maine surf. It fetched $25,000.

A study by Ludwig Bemelmans for his beloved Madeline series garnered $5,000. Presiding over the evening, museum founders Judy Goffman Cutler and Laurence S. Cutler presented American Civilization Awards to three individuals who have distinguished themselves in public life. Known for their contributions to American popular culture, this year’s honorees included Matt Lauer, for his NBC broadcasting journalism;
Papermania Plus, Nostalgic Collectible Extravaganza, Marks 40th Anniversary

HARTFORD, CONN. — Papermania Plus co-producers Gary Gipstein and Arlene Shea are getting ready for the antique paper show Papermania Plus, which will be conducted from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, August 22, and from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, August 23, at the XL Center. The show, which takes place in January as well as August, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Considered the largest show of its kind in the Northeast, Papermania Plus boasts dealers from throughout the East Coast and Canada with collectibles that cover from A-Z — movie star postcards, photography, rare books, stamps, sheet music, tin, vintage valentines, world war ephemera and zodiac signs. Unique paper collectibles, such as family games, postcards, prints or books, are available at this show and prices can start as low as 50 cents and rise upwards of $5,000. Popular also are any kinds of eccentricities of interest to everyone.

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