

AMERICAN INDIAN ART WITH MODERN ART APPEAL

Navajo Textiles from the Collection of John L. Ernst —

To Be Sold at Sotheby's New York November 29, 2000



A classic Navajo man's wearing blanket, estimated at \$50/120,000

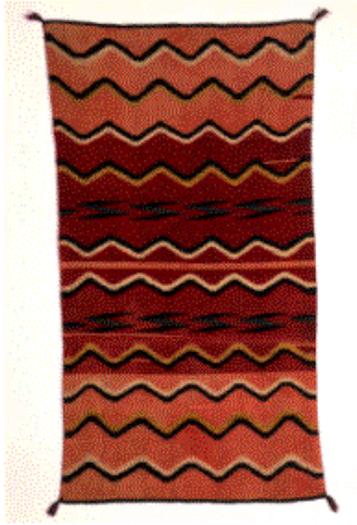
New York, NY — Bold geometric compositions, vivid colors and dazzling patterns are at home in modern art galleries, but they also appear in the most classic Navajo textile designs. The classic Navajo blankets offered in Sotheby's November 29, 2000 sale are among the most refined and highly valued examples to appear at auction. The blankets come from the collection of John L. Ernst, who began collecting Navajo textiles over twenty years ago at the suggestion of contemporary artist Tony Berlant. Ernst soon focused his collecting on pre-1865, also called pre-contact, Navajo textiles, which are very rare and prized by scholars and collectors. The six textiles in this sale are outstanding examples of classic Navajo weaving, each a visually arresting composition in vibrant shades of wool.

Sotheby's leads the market for record-setting prices in American Indian art. The November, 30, 1999 sale achieved the world record for the highest grossing American Indian art auction ever, in addition to recording the highest auction price ever paid for an American Indian work of art, and the highest price achieved for an early classic textile sold at auction in the past three years. That early classic Navajo man's wearing blanket brought in \$203,750 – over \$50,000 above its high estimate.



Among the textiles offered in the upcoming sale are a late classic Navajo man's wearing blanket, estimated at

\$35/55,000, which appears above. It is joined by a classic Navajo man's poncho-style serape, rare for its fusion of traditional Navajo design with the adaptation of Mexican-influenced serape construction. The serape is estimated at \$200/300,000. A classic Navajo man's wearing blanket, estimated at \$80/120,000 displays a Chief's Second Phase pattern in rich red, indigo, brown and ivory shades. A late classic Navajo child's wearing blanket, shown below, carries an estimate of \$10/15,000.



The entire sale will be on view at Sotheby's New York from November 25th – 28th. The auction takes place November 29th at 10:15 A.M.

For More Information, Please Contact Leslie Mehren in the Press Office at (212) 606-7176.