



## **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release**

Contact: Cynthia Milledge: 334.240.4349; [cmilledge@mmfa.org](mailto:cmilledge@mmfa.org)

### **Pre-bids for *Bazaar d'Art* begin tomorrow! A Selma artist's paintings are featured highlights this year.**

**Montgomery, AL**— Everyone is invited to pre-bid on more than 300 items when the doors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts open at 10 A.M. Saturday. *Bazaar d'Art* is a one-of-a-kind silent auction where you can bid on and purchase pre-loved artwork and other treasures from some of the most elegant and prestigious homes in Montgomery.

As a special feature of this year's *Bazaar*, the Museum is delighted to announce that ten paintings by Selma artist John Lapsley (1915-2005) will be included in the auction. The Museum holds five works by Lapsley in the permanent collection. Lapsley's artwork has graced the walls of central Alabama homes for many years; he was a prolific artist who exhibited widely during his later career. However, it is very unusual for ten works of this quality to be offered at one time. This opportunity has been made possible by a very generous donation from the Estate of Betty Baldwin, and by Nancy Buzard, both long-time Museum supporters. Betty's nieces—Marcia Weese, Shirley Weese Young, and Kate Weese—joined with Nancy to make this wonderful gesture in support of the Museum's programs and mission in memory of their aunt, who passed away last year. Betty and Nancy were friends of the artist, and most of the works offered were acquired by them around the time they were painted. This circumstance makes this opportunity even more unusual, as when purchased on the secondary market, there are often questions regarding a work's origin or its condition.

Pre-Bidding will remain open until Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 5 P.M. At 7 P.M. that evening the party begins, and the works are awarded to the lucky winners. The opening bids will be buyer-friendly and the selection will be large enough to enhance one room or an entire house. There is something for every style and every space in your home at *Bazaar d'Art*.

This *Bazaar d'Art* cocktail reception and final sale will be held from 7 to 10 P.M. at the MMFA, located at One Museum Drive in Montgomery. The cost is \$50 per person. Call the Museum at 334.240.4333 or visit [MMFA.org](http://MMFA.org) for more information or to purchase a ticket.