

Art Acquisition, Art Industries

Your name: Federica Barrios

1. Wayne Thiebaud, *Salmon Rose*, 1966

Fair Market Value: \$ 3,500,000



Artist: Wayne Thiebaud, Mesa AZ, United States, (1920-)

Title: Salmon Rose

Medium: Oil on canvas

Dimensions: 58.74 x 48.9 cm framed

Date: 1966

Item Description: Salmon Rose by Wayne Thiebaud depicts a delicate salmon-colored rose placed inside a simple gray triangular-shaped vase, the wide side being at the bottom with a base whose side slants inwards and the rose entering the vase through a cylinder-shaped opening on the narrow side of the triangular vase. The beautiful rose sits tall on a minimally crooked stem that also accommodates four thorns, two on each side of the stem, and three feathered leaflets, two on its left side and one on its right side. Within each of these components of the piece, Thiebaud's use of eccentric colors for shading and highlighting are seen mostly around the edges of the items. They are permeated with saturated hues, such as shades of yellow, blue, orange, green, and red. Behind the rose is a monotone textured cream background. The textured brushstrokes that construct the composition of the background visibly follow

the curves and edges of the main subject of the painting, giving it a sense of having deep negative space and moves the viewer's eye all around the vase and flower's inconspicuous details. Wayne Thiebaud is most commonly known for his depictions of pastel-colored still lifes of common American items such as food and cosmetics. His goal is to play with the nostalgic energy of everyday items with a warm and subtle approach to making his message known. Salmon Rose intends to convey a deeper meaning behind his more common images of everyday items. The solitude of the rose hints at the idea that consumers intend to fill a void by filling their lives with beautiful and sometimes meaningless items that may contribute to their short term happiness.

Signature/markings: Artist's signature visibly engraved on the top right corner of the painting.

Condition: Salmon Rose is in near perfect condition. The pigments remain vibrant and the edges of the canvas remain in tact. The piece is beautifully framed, and the frame looks as though it is new.

Appraised Value Support:

Auction Results:

1.

November 13, 2003

Sotheby's, New York NY, United States

Lot #: 195

Artist: Wayne Thiebaud

Title: *Café Rose*

Date: 1962

Medium: Oil on canvas

Size: 30.5 x 20.3 cm

Estimate: \$ 250,000 - \$ 350,000

Realized Sale (with buyer's premium): \$ 265,600



2.

May 15, 2013

Christie's, New York NY, United States

Lot #: 52

Artist: Wayne Thiebaud

Title: *Tie Rack*

Date: 1969

Medium: Oil on canvas

Size: 182.8 x 91.4 cm

Estimate: \$ 4,000,000 - \$ 6,000,000

Realized Sale (with buyer's premium): \$ 4,085,000



3.

November 14, 2019

Phillips, New York NY, United States

Lot #: 19

Artist: Wayne Thiebaud

Title: *Candles*

Date: 1965 - 1966

Medium: Oil on board

Size: 20.3 x 25.4 cm

Estimate: \$ 2,000,000 - \$ 3,000,000

Realized Sale (with buyer's premium) : \$ 2,420,000



Comparable Analysis

1. *Café rose*, similarly to *Salmon Rose*, shows us a depiction where a rose is the main subject of the painting. Although the flowers Thiebaud portrays for us is clearly the main topic we can also see that it is surrounded by typical items found on the table tops of a cafe. The tight framework gives us a very limited view of the surrounding of the tased rose. In his renowned style, the artist roughly and almost effortlessly places a coral colored rose in a clear elongated vase with a rounded base. On either side of the vase, which gives us a clear view of the rose's delicate stem, Thiebaud places a salt shaker and a more empty pepper shaker on a sky blue countertop. When we look at the piece closely we can see the comparable likeness in the ways the artist uses saturated hues to define the highlights and shadows of the items displayed. This painting in the way the brushstrokes seem so light yet pumped onto the canvas may remind the viewer of the color trial done by Thiebaud for the *Salmon Rose*. The composition of a lone salmon rose, although less realistic than that of *Café Rose*, speaks volumes to its meaning and the idea of filling voids caused by consumerism with beautiful items. *Café Rose* shows us a similar interpretation of consumerism in an almost eerie scene of beautiful small rose in what we can only assume is an area where vast amounts of food and drinks are being consumed. Because of the quality and clarity of *Salmon Rose* I believe its value should be outstandingly greater than that of *Café Rose*.
2. *Tie Rack* depicts a similar composition than that of *Salmon Rose* in the sense that they each show a singular item contrasted with a monotone neutral background. Through *Tie Rack*, Thiebaud leaves no room for mistakes on his take on consumerism and his portrayals of commercial items. In this painting the artists delineates the beauty of shopping and commodities by accentuating their colors and assimilating them to the simple pleasures of life. In this case the vibrant colors and arrangement of the ties resemble a grandiose cake, hinting to the idea that consumerist culture has become a way for people to fill voids in their life through the constant acquisition of objects. The lively simplicity is extremely appealing to the eye

which definitely adds to the value of the piece for consumers. In this painting Thiebaud discreetly mixes his most popular subject matters, popular retail items painted in dreamlike, captivating techniques and pastries illustrated in delicious joyful pastels. The value of *Tie Rack* is understandably higher than many of Thiebaud's pieces, including *Salmon Rose*, given the remarkable level of quality of the definition of the subject and the near perfect condition of the piece. His famous approach to highlighting and shaken is not lost in the sea of bright colors yet are complemented and all seem to balance each other out.

3. *Candles* is a classic example of Wayne Thiebaud's playfulness in reproducing distinctions between fine art and commercial art in order to depict the beauty and deeper meanings behind the consumerist culture. Here in Pop Art style he portrays rows of beautiful cakes in hopes to show the excessive proportions to which people value consumption of beautiful looking items solely based on aesthetics and the thought that it may be fulfilling. *Salmon Rose* convey a deeper meaning behind his more common images of cakes giving the piece more cognitive value in the sense that the subject is prone to make the viewer reflect on the extent to which consumerism is glorified in a capitalist economy, this translates into the piece holding a higher monetary value. The two art works are from the same year, *Candles* was more of a on going work which he crafter within two years. The artist's process in creating *Salmon Rose* took heavy evaluation of the topics which he was embarking in his other works. The constant representation of repeated items and assessments of consumerism through art gave him a unique perspective in finding the beauty in the manufactured. Hence, the subject of a delicate singular rose whose meaning goes deeper than most of his other pieces.