

The Smart Collector

# Norman Lewis oil painting part of record-breaking sale in New York

Email

By Danielle Arnet The Smart Collector Jan 16, 2016 (0)



Swann Galleries

A Norman Lewis oil painting circa 1958 sold for \$965,000 at Swann Galleries in New York City.



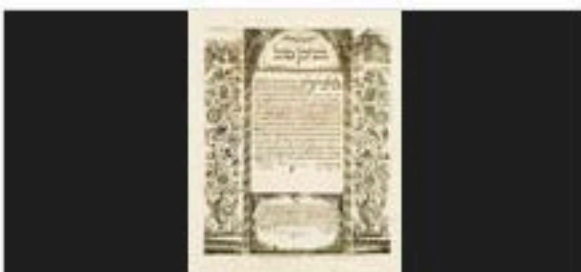
### Fine jewels fetch record-breaking sales in 2015

The boom in fine jewels is a trend that looks to continue.



### Your Belsnickle might be worth something

There have been three iterations of the Santa figure.



### Early American Jewish marriage contract could fetch \$100K

WHAT: The earliest known illustrated American ketubah (Jewish marriage contract), dated 175...



**WHAT:** Market value of American artist Norman Lewis (1909-1979) took a giant leap when his painting, "Untitled," circa 1958, brought \$965,000 in a recent record-breaking sale of works by African-American artists at Swann Galleries in New York. Pre-sale estimate was \$250,000 to \$350,000.

**MORE:** Lewis was the first African-American artist to receive the Carnegie International Award for his celebrated painting, "Migrating Birds" (1953).

**SMART COLLECTORS KNOW:** Works by African-American artists have enjoyed a steady climb during the past decade.

**HOT TIP:** Galleries and auction houses are divided on if black artists should be categorized by color. One thought is that they are American artists, period. Others maintain that collectors of the genre (and there are many) seek them out by race.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Adding to appeal (and probably the price), this is a previously unknown work by Lewis. Originally given as a gift by the artist, it has remained in one family since. New to the market is catnip for collectors.

**MORE:** Auctions are a big business. Heritage Auctions in Dallas announced that 2015 was their second best year ever, with \$860 million in total prices. Coins and currency remain the base strength, but the fastest growth was in sports collectibles. The category grew by 41 percent to more than \$42 million.

