

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**21st ANNUAL HIGH MUSEUM ATLANTA WINE AUCTION
RAISES \$1.5 MILLION**

More than \$1.14 Million in Auction Sales; Highest Single Auction Bid \$60,000

ATLANTA, July 10, 2013 — In its 21st year, the 2013 High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction reached a Live Auction total of more than \$1 million and a Silent Auction total of \$148,400 under the tents on Saturday, March 23. Coupled with the Paddle Raise during the Live Auction, benefactor and event ticket sales, the events raised \$1.5 million to support the Museum's exhibition and educational programming. The dates for the 22nd annual High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction are March 26-29, 2014.

The 2013 Wine Auction celebrated "A New Vintage," featuring a more organic approach and a new spin on events. Organized by volunteer co-chairs Christie Baty Hudgins and Alyson Rogers, the weekend events were held in Atlantic Station under festive big-top tents.

There were 57 Live Auction lots and 128 Silent Auction lots that offered exclusive opportunities to taste, tour and visit with more than 100 vintners from the world's premier wine regions and 50 chefs from across the country. The lots also offered opportunities to purchase cult wines, rare vintages and large-format bottles.

The High Museum Wine Auction's Special Guests of Honor for 2013 were Andrew Beckstoffer of Beckstoffer Vineyards and Claude Giraud of Champagne Henri Giraud. Special Guest Chefs for the March 22 Vine-to-Table event included Chef Chris Hall of Local Three (Atlanta, Ga.), Chef Patrick Owens of Langdon's (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.), Chef Greg Hardesty of Recess (Indianapolis, Ind.), and Chef Chris Hastings of Hot and Hot Fish Club (Birmingham, Ala.).

The 8th annual Paddle Raise was held in support of youth education at the High, including programs such as special exhibition-inspired teacher and student workshops and after-school programs. This year's Paddle Raise, held in memory of longtime auction supporter Taylor Stuckey, allowed bidders to contribute between \$250 and \$10,000 to the fund, with the total amount raised reaching over \$150,000.

"We are consistently amazed by the generosity of our Wine Auction supporters, and this year was no exception," said Cate Candler Singerman, Wine Auction Manager. "From the Paddle Raise to the amazing bids for our Live and Silent Auction lots, our guests truly embraced the excitement of the day in support of the High and its mission."

One auction lot sold twice on Saturday for the highest bids of the day at \$60,000. The lot featured a Beckstoffer Vineyards & Realm Cellars Collection plus an adventure in Napa Valley with Beckstoffer and Realm, including vineyard tours, lunches, dinner for up to four couples, and 12 magnums of wine.

At \$36,000, the second highest bid of the day was for a Blackbird Vineyards' Ultimate California Experience including three nights for two in Los Angeles for the 2014 Elton John Academy Awards Viewing Party. The lot also includes a private viewing of Chopard's Red Carpet Collection with roundtrip Delta airfare, plus a Chopard timepiece and a two-night stay for two couples at Bardessono Napa Valley with wine tastings, dinner and three 6-liter bottles of wine.

Another very popular lot was the Barbeque Boys Throw-Down – A Swine & Wine party for 20 that sold twice for \$35,000 and \$30,000. The lot includes the party at the winning bidder's home with local pork from Tommy Searcy of Gum Creek Farms and an assortment of wine from Sherlock's Wine Merchant. Also included in the lot are A La Caja China pig cooker, a keg of Muddy Waters from Chris Neill, an original Tracy Hartley pig painting, and a spread from the winners of the 2012 Cochon 555 BBQ competition. Chef Chris Hall of Local Three will lead the group of some of Atlanta's best chefs from 4th & Swift, Leon's Full Service, Muss & Turner's and Venkman's to do the barbequing for the winning bidders.

A surprise Saturday Live Auction lot was also introduced for guests featuring two days and nights for two couples in New York City. The winning bidders will tour art studios, bars and restaurants in Lower Manhattan with High Museum of Art Director Michael Shapiro, Chef Linton Hopkins of Restaurant Eugene and Holeman & Finch and his wife Gina Hopkins, and Holeman & Finch bartender Greg Best. The trip includes roundtrip Delta airfare and an Astor Suite at the St. Regis New York compliments of Tavistock Group. The surprise lot sold twice, garnering bids of \$32,000 and \$30,000.

High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

Founded in 1993, the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction is the largest fundraising event for the High Museum of Art, the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. The Wine Auction is the top charity fundraising event in Atlanta, the fifth largest charity wine auction in the United States according to *Wine Spectator* and the number-one charity wine auction benefiting the arts. The funds generated by the Auction, which amount to more than \$20 million over the last 20 years, are a significant contribution to the Museum's exhibitions and educational programming. Proceeds help to make possible special exhibitions and partnerships such as the multi-year, multi-exhibition partnership between the High and The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and it also provides funds for dynamic youth education programs, which draw thousands of schoolchildren to the High each year. For more information about the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction, please visit www.atlanta-wineauction.org.

High Museum of Art

The High is the leading art museum in the southeastern U.S. With more than 13,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the first major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. For more information about the High, visit high.org.

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