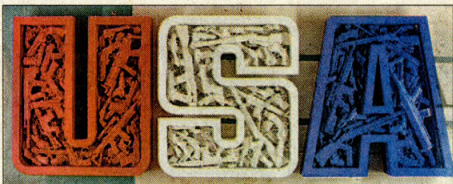


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Ben Turnbull's *Home of the Brave* sold for £20,000

MARKET NEWS

Soho art dealer Steve Lazarides, who represents the fashionable graffiti artist Banksy, appears to have another hit on his hands. An exhibition for the little-known British artist Ben Turnbull opened at his Greek Street gallery last week, and has virtually sold out.

Entitled *U.S. vs THEM*, the exhibition satirises American gun culture and politics with a series of sculptures made from accumulations of flea-market toys painted in the colours of the Stars and Stripes. Emergency fire alarms with plastic guns placed behind the glass were priced at £2,750 each.

Home of the Brave, made from hundreds of toy guns crammed into perspex frames in the shape of the letters "USA", sold for £20,000.

● One hundred and thirty drawings made by Andy Warhol before he found fame as an artist go on show at the Timothy Taylor Gallery in central London on Thursday.

Although there is little here that anticipates Warhol's later obsession with fame and the media, the drawings, made between 1948 and 1960, ooze style. Some are studies for commercial work for clients such as *Harper's Bazaar*; others – still lifes and portraits – are more personal.

Taylor bought the drawings, which are priced between £10,000 and £100,000, from London dealer Anthony d'Offay, who put together the collection over a number of years.

D'Offay worked with Warhol – commissioning

Early bloomer: Female Figure (with Plants), c1955, by Andy Warhol



him to make the celebrated fright-wig self-portraits – and is currently co-curating a large Warhol exhibition at the National Gallery of Scotland for this year's Edinburgh Festival. D'Offay also plans to give 50 early drawings which he has retained to the Tate and the National Gallery of Scotland.

● The Kangaroo stamp made by forger Jean de Sperati and illustrated on this page two weeks ago sold at Sotheby's for £3,720 last week, a record for a Sperati forgery, and more than the price of an original Kangaroo stamp.

● Princess Michael of Kent has been appointed president of Partridge Fine Arts, the 100-year-old New Bond Street firm that deals in the upper end of the market for 18th- and 19th-century English and Continental furniture, porcelain, works of art, jewellery and pictures.

Last year, Partridge was bought by Amor Holdings, the investment vehicle of former auctioneer Mark Law, for £14 million in a deal partly financed by Christie's.

Former MP David Mellor and Lady Cobham are non-executive directors.

As part of the deal, Partridge sold £6.8 million of stock at Christie's.

In her new role, the princess will advise on acquisitions and on the presentation of the gallery.

Her first job will be to advise on the design and decoration of the Partridge stand at next month's Palm Beach Fair. **CG**

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