

RHODE ISLAND ESTATES AUCTION

“Mid-Century Modern”

Early Americana, Kelim Collection, Clocks, Paintings

Newport County Auction Gallery

1676 East Main Road (Rte 138) Portsmouth, RI

WEDNESDAY, July 20 at 10 AM

Inspection: Tuesday, July 19 from 1 to 4 PM
and one hour before sale on Wednesday



“Merrilton”



Watercolor, “Portuguese Band”,
15” x 17 ½” Francis Smith



o/c 40” x 30”, “Evening
Storm”, D. Hamilton Fraser



Anatolian grain bag



Height: 40”



Dial reads:
Samuel Rockwell,
Providence



Eastern Turkish Mafrash (bedding bag)



o/c Anna c. Freeland



H: 42”



Wooly



o/c 14” x 24”, A. Glendening



Life-size



Gustave White is a traditional company selling antiques at auction since 1926. In all that time we have never sold what is called “Mid-Century Modern” so before taking on the consignment from “Merrilton”, Newport’s oldest “summer cottage”, which is furnished principally in “Mid-Century Modern”, we sent four White staff members to the mansion for a look. They returned using the following words: “bizarre”, “out there”, “funky”, and “repulsive”. An assessment like that by persons with no axe to grind was discouraging.

We needed a professional opinion and got it from R & R Design, a respected interior decorating firm. They returned from the house ecstatic. “You people had better start getting with it. That’s some of the greatest “Mid-Century Modern” we’ve ever seen.

It’s all terrific and “ATTRACTIVE”. So now “attractive” has taken on a broader meaning for us, although we still think the most valuable piece in the auction is a tallcase clock from a different estate. What makes it so valuable? It was made in 1770 and has a name plate reading “Samuel Rockwell, Providence”.