

Sale Name: Fine Canadian Art Auction - September 8th - October 18th 2022

LOT 62 - John Scott - Cruise Missile



Artist Description John Scott (1950 – 2022 CAD) Born in 1950 in Windsor, Ontario, Scott began working in a factory on assembly lines at 15 to support his family, later becoming sensitized to the local labour movement and larger political issues. One writer who knew him at the time says he was a street artist. Scott followed his brother to Toronto, and after some time spent at Rochdale College, University of Toronto and elsewhere, eventually landed at the Ontario College of Art in 1972, at the tail end of a tumultuous time when the school, as Scott said, was changing to a more conceptual, rather than a didactic, approach. "It was great. It was a complete mess," Scott recalled. Scott never finished his studies, but transitioned into running the school's gallery. From there, Scott said, he "sort of gradually slipped in" to teaching. He was a professor in the Faculty of Art, primarily in the Drawing and Painting program. In 2019, he retired after 38 years. Scott's graphic drawings in black paint and charcoal with their deliberately childlike motifs, hand and boot marks and misspellings are his signature. Among his themes are power, class, industrialization, and fear. The works he created could be unique. For instance, for a Holocaust memorial work in 1989, he had a seven-digit number, similar to victims of Nazi concentration camps, and a rose tattooed on his inner thigh. He then had this section of skin surgically removed. The drying skin was then displayed in a raised glass case at the entrance to the exhibition. He called this work Selbst. In 2000, Scott was awarded the inaugural Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Description

Mixed Media

No Visible Signature

Sight - 16 ins x 23 ins (40.64 cm x 58.42 cm)

Provenance:

Ritchie's Auctioneers

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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