PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE OF KEN STEPHENSON



KEN STEPHENSON WAS a beloved philanthropist and business leader based in Alberta. Stephenson was raised in Depressionera Saskatchewan, acquiring a civil engineering degree at the University of Saskatchewan before embarking on an extraordinarily diverse and successful business career. His business interests spanned various sectors of Alberta's economy that included, but are not limited to, energy, ranching, real estate development, automotive retail, mining and transportation, in addition to other diverse industries. Altogether, he led more than 30 companies as either owner, CEO, director, or a combination of these roles.

Stephenson was an active and involved philanthropist. Notably, he is the namesake and founding donor for the Stephenson Cardiac Imaging Center at the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta, in addition to being a supporter of the non-profit seedscale program Creative Destruction Lab (CDL)—Rockies at the Haskayne School of Business, also at the University of Calgary. In 2019, Stephenson was a recipient of Calgary's Top 7 over 70 award, which recognizes achievements by individuals after the age of 70. Stephenson was a posthumous 2021 Southern Alberta inductee into the Alberta Business Hall of Fame, among other prestigious professional accolades.

As a young entrepreneur in the 1960s and 1970s, Stephenson spent significant time in his car for business, driving through the varied landscapes of Western Canada. It was during these long hours on the road that his appreciation for the various communities and vistas began to grow, and his understanding of landscape-based art began to develop. Stephenson and his young family would often travel to local art galleries on the weekends, learning about various art forms and styles. His sharp and intuitive eye led him to acquire high-quality artworks, whether by emerging artists or known Canadian legends. Like business and philanthropy, art remained a lifelong passion for Stephenson, and his collection included important works by Emily Carr, A.Y. Jackson, Cornelius Krieghoff and Maurice Cullen, which Heffel is proud to offer as lots 112 to 115 in this sale.

Additional works from the Stephenson collection will feature in Heffel's online auctions this fall and winter, including works by Frederick Marlett Bell-Smith, Frederick Verner and Nicholas de Grandmaison.