

Handout for March 30, 2025 Big Discussion re: Both/And Plan

Exploring the possibility of selling some artwork to raise funds to improve our building

Both/And Team notes regarding the St. John's Art Collection

This information is presented to support the goals of SJUU in the context of the current Both/And Conversation. This outline has no next steps for selling art. This is an information gathering and presentation only-document designed to provide an inventory of the art and its approximate value, as part of a conversation about the possibility of selling art to raise funds for the Both/And Plan.

Background Information gathered for the Both/And Team:

- A) The Both/And Team began by thanking all who have currently or in the past acquired, donated, cared for, and documented the legacy of our artwork.
- B) The Both/And Team asked if there is a market for any of the art within St. John's. Yes, based upon prior appraisals/information in our files. Also, the responses received when Meredith recently contacted referred art resources re: evaluation and appraisals have been attentive.
- C) Note that our art collection has no insurance coverage beyond a minimum amount included in property insurance. Insurance policy on "Joy" (large sculpture by H. Bertoia) and "Ephemeral Grouping" (large painting in back of sanctuary by J. Stanczak) was cancelled May 31, 2022 due to budget concerns. The premium was \$2,390.20 on 5/6/21.
- D) Prior valuations available in our files:
 - a. H. Bertoia "Joy" sculpture - \$1,000,000 (replacement value 9/2020)
 - b. J. Stanczak "Ephemeral Grouping" - \$550,000 (replacement value 7/2019)
 - c. Unclear value for the following: "Chalice of the Sun" N. & T. Lee (in chapel) ; "Untitled" H. Weber (in chapel); "A Gathering Within" L. Einfalt (sculpture outside front door); "A Friendly Sign" R. Rolfson (at welcome table); Otters; paper cutting in robing room

The Both/And Team's discussion about art:

1. We believe opinions about the possibility of St. John's deciding to sell a piece of our art could vary widely.
 - o Some members may resist this idea due to emotional connection to the art.
 - o Some members may not care about some of the artwork and/or have no emotional attachment, and would rather that some art be sold in order to make our building more accessible and welcoming.
2. There is absolutely no interest in pursuing the sale of the Bertoia sculpture.
3. There is some potential interest in exploring the sale of the Stanczak (the large orange painting in the back of the church).
4. Our other smaller art pieces may not be valuable enough to support the idea of selling them.
5. We are one of many congregations nationwide whose property insurance coverage was cancelled by Church Mutual. As a result, our property insurance cost with a new carrier has doubled this year (going from \$5,000 to \$10,000). We need to properly insure our art, but at this time we do not know what additional cost this will entail. In order to obtain an appraisal of the value of our art pieces, for the purposes of properly insuring and/or selling them, the Board would need to approve the appraisal expense.
6. We are interested in members' perspectives about this complex issue.