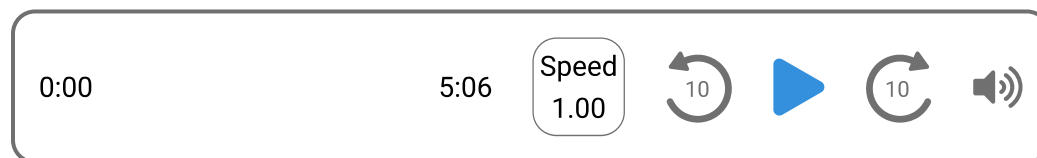


Indianapolis-based art collector is selling Western works through Christie's

June 4, 2026 | [Dave Lindquist](#)

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Betsey Harvey commissioned Kenneth Riley to paint this artwork, "Sacajawea," in 1996. (Image courtesy of Christie's)

After managing the sale of Jim Irsay's guitars and pop culture collection earlier this year, New York City auction house Christie's is working with another Indianapolis-based collector: Betsey Harvey, a Western art specialist who once served as board chair of the [Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western](#)

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Harvey, 88, is offering more than 50 items for sale in an online auction that runs through June 25.

The two paintings expected to attract the highest bids are by 98-year-old Chicago-based artist Howard Terpning.

“Red Blanket Coat” is valued between \$300,000 and \$500,000, while “Mystery of the Human Spirit” is valued between \$150,000 and \$250,000. Harvey’s daughter, Amanda, said the paintings that depict Native American culture have been prized possessions.

“Betsey hung them in her bedroom, so she would wake up to them every morning,” Amanda Harvey said.

Amanda is one of three daughters of Betsey and Jack Harvey, the founder of an Indianapolis-based electronics sales company who died in 1989 at age 60. Betsey embraced the collecting of Western art following her husband’s death, Amanda Harvey said.

“We’d go on trips to Santa Fe, Tucson, Phoenix, Oklahoma and Jackson Hole to visit artists,” she said. “We’d go to their studios and meet them at their houses.”

Betsey Harvey commissioned one of the paintings available in the Christie’s auction from Kenneth Riley. “Sacajawea,” a depiction of the Lewis & Clark expedition interpreter and guide, was painted by Tucson-based artist Riley (1919-2015) in 1996. The estimated value of the painting is \$70,000 to \$100,000.

Harvey said her mother and Riley collaborated on the creation of “Sacajawea.”

“They didn’t know what the subject matter was going to be,” Amanda Harvey said. “They just said, ‘OK, let’s find something that’s juicy enough where we both are really

excited about the story.' I think they had three in mind, and it just landed on Sacajawea. They both studied the subject. Then they would have phone calls to talk about it and inspire each other."

In a statement given to Christie's, Amanda's twin sister, Meg Harvey, spoke about her mother's connection with artists.

"When you look at this collection, you're not just seeing scenes of the American West — you're seeing trust," Meg Harvey said. "You're seeing belief in the artist's voice. You're seeing someone who understood that the real value of art isn't just what hangs on the wall, but who stood behind the easel."

Betsey Harvey co-founded the Western Art Society, a membership and philanthropic support group that partners with the Eiteljorg museum. Harvey's efforts with the Western Art Society allowed the Eiteljorg to acquire a 2001 Terpning painting titled "Blessing From the Medicine Man."

The Western Art Society was instrumental in the launch of Quest for the West, an annual art show at the Eiteljorg that caters to top-tier collectors and others.

Kay Hinds, development coordinator at the Eiteljorg, said collectors have purchased more than \$20 million in art since Quest for the West debuted in 2006. Hinds said 75% of the money goes directly to artists, while 25% has assisted the museum's bottom line.

Hinds cited Betsey Harvey as one of many Indiana-based collectors who have supported artists at the event, which is scheduled Sept. 11-13 this year.

“Quite frankly, there are a lot of Hoosiers who own property in the West and have an affection for the West, so they love to buy Western art,” Hinds said.

The 53 lots that make up “Heart of the West: The Betsey Harvey Collection” at Christie’s won’t match the sales of Irsay’s auctions in March. Christie’s pronounced the Irsay total, \$94.5 million, as the largest “of any memorabilia auction in history.”

Harvey’s collection also isn’t a contender to top a Christie’s auction of Western art that generated \$84.1 million in sales in January. That event featured works owned by businessman and Culver Military Academy graduate Bill Koch.

But the stature of Harvey’s collection and the involvement of Christie’s are worth noting.

“I think it’s wonderful, remarkable and not unexpected because of the quality of the items that Betsey purchased,” said Hinds, the Eiteljorg employee. “Her taste in selecting Western art is exquisite.”

Hinds said it’s unlikely that the museum will be an active bidder during the auction.

“Other folks will have the golden opportunity to purchase, and we would encourage them to do so,” Hinds said. “If Betsey loved it, someone else is going to love it even more.”

Amanda Harvey said the time is right for selling the collection.

“We really feel fortunate to have been able to share this art

with our family for so many years,” she said. “We just feel like the time has come to let other families and collectors experience this beautiful art.”

For information about the auction, visit [christies.com](https://www.christies.com).

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