

Robert Devlin Schwarz memorial service remarks

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Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Robert Devlin Schwarz (1943-2004)
Title	Robert Devlin Schwarz papers
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	2004
Extent	1 item
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	The remarks at the memorial service constitute ten pages of typescript.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

Robert Devlin Schwarz was the second-generation owner of the Schwarz Gallery on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. Over the course of several decades his gallery became known for the excellence of its catalogues and for its commitment to high standards. Schwarz took the antiques business founded by his father in 1930 and turned it into one of the most respected art galleries in the United States. In the early 1970s he helped foster a renewed interest in Nineteenth Century European and American paintings and the fine and decorative arts of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Philadelphia. Robert Schwarz was a graduate of Philadelphia's Episcopal Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Dickinson College in 1964. He studied the fine arts at the University of Vienna and the Barnes Foundation. Following college, he joined his father's firm and began to work with prints and paintings. As curator of the Stephen Girard Collection at Girard College from 1970 to 1980, he documented that important historical collection in a scholarly catalog. Subsequently, he published more than 70 informative catalogs in conjunction with the gallery's exhibitions.

The Schwarz Gallery has sold paintings and other works of art – American and European – to a wide range of private collectors as well as many of the country's major museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brandywine River Museum, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Timken Museum of Art and the Winterthur Museum. Robert Schwarz was a longtime member of the Art Dealers Association of America, The Art and Antique Dealers League of America and La Confédération Internationale des Négociants en Oeuvres d'Art (CINOA).

His oldest son, Rob Jr, joined the family business in 2002 and has paid tribute to his father by successfully learning the workings of the art world.

Robert Schwarz married Pamela Pillion of Philadelphia in 1972. Their children are Robert D. Schwarz, Jr, a graduate of Villanova University, an art dealer at the Schwarz Gallery; Elizabeth, now a graduate student at Georgetown University; and Jonathan, 14, a student at the Vanguard School. He is also survived by his mother Marie, sister Frances Echague, and brother Richard D.

This past January, Robert Schwarz, Sr, his mother Marie and his son Robert, Jr, exhibited for the 13th time at the 50th annual Winter Antiques Show in New York. This year will mark the firm's 17th appearance at the Philadelphia Antiques Show in the 33rd Street Armory (April 17-20). Marie and Robert Schwarz, Jr, will also continue to exhibit at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts' USArtists show (also held in the 33rd Street Armory), as they have every autumn since 1994.

Robert is remembered as an honest man who was adored by all who met him. His charisma allowed him to charm and impress all. His love of his family will always be remembered.

An April 1 memorial service took place at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at Broad and Cherry streets in Philadelphia.

Scope and Contents note

The remarks at the memorial service constitute ten pages of typescript.

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Provenance note

The remarks were taped at the time of the memorial service and transcribed by a staff member at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. The audio tape is stored separately.

Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Memorial service remarks for this Philadelphia gallery owner	2004	1	1