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**For Immediate Release**

**Rago Presents the Smithsonian Visionary Artists Benefit Auction**

**Lambertville, NJ** - Beginning on April 24 and running until May 20, Rago Auctions presents the Smithsonian Visionary Artists Benefit Auction, a timed online-only auction hosted through Bidsquare.com and featuring items created by past and present Smithsonian Visionary Artists, sold to benefit the Smithsonian Institution.

The Visionary Award, established in 2014, is presented annually at the Smithsonian Craft Show to artists who are deemed by curators in the field to have risen to the pinnacle in the world of sculptural arts and design, who have works in major museums, and who have demonstrated distinction, creativity, artistry, and of course, vision in his or her respective medium. The 2019 recipient of the Visionary Award, Joyce J. Scott, joins the small but prestigious list of past recipients; Faith Ringgold, Dale Chihuly, Toots Zynsky, Wendell Castle and Albert Paley.

*Suzanne Perrault, Partner + Co-Director 20th-21st C. Design Dept: "We at Rago are enthusiastic about shepherding this exciting sale, having sold works by most of these artists at auction over the years. We congratulate Ms. Scott on receiving the 2019 Visionary Award, which is richly deserved. She adds considerable depth to this field of makers with her sharp sense of humor, political savvy and righteous indignation. It is an honor to be associated with her."*

This 13 lot sale will include works by Joyce J. Scott, as well as past Visionary Award recipients; Toots Zynsky, Albert Paley and Faith Ringgold. All proceeds benefit the Smithsonian. Full listing of auction items will be available to view and bid on Bidsquare.com on April 24.

**AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS**



Joyce J. Scott  
*Lover #1* from the Still  
Funny series



Albert Paley  
*Meridian* Breakfast Table



Joyce J. Scott  
*Untitled #31*  
Necklace/Brooch



Albert Plaey  
Pair of Double Shear  
Candleholders



Toots Zynsky  
*Avventato* Filet-de-Verre Vessel



Faith Ringgold  
*"Mama Can Sing, Papa Can Blow #2: Come On and Dance with Me"*

**NOTES FOR THE EDITOR**

- **About Rago Auctions:** Rago is a leading U.S. auction house with nearly \$34 million in sales in 2018. It serves thousands of sellers and buyers yearly with global reach, personal service and competitive commissions for single pieces, collections and estates. Rago's expertise encompasses 20th/21st century design; fine art; American, European, English and Asian decorative arts and furnishings; fine jewelry and coins/currency. An internationally known venue through which to buy and sell, it offers free valuations for personal property (from a single piece to collections), as well as USPAP compliant estate and appraisal services. Rago is located midway between Philadelphia and New York with satellite offices in Westchester/Connecticut.

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