

The Potomack Company

A U C T I O N S ~ A P P R A I S A L S ~ E S T A T E S A L E S

Press Release – September 3, 2010
For immediate release

Salahi White House Sari at The Potomack Company Auction

The Potomack Company will auction on October 2 the red-and-gold sari that became an item of accidental White House history and public fascination when Washington socialite Michaela Salahi wore it to President Barack Obama's first state dinner in November 2009 allegedly as an uninvited guest.

The live auction at the Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, gallery will be attended by television stars Michaela and Tareq Salahi and will coincide with that episode of the Bravo television network's "The Real Housewives of D.C." that will feature the excitement and controversy caused by the Salahis' attendance at the White House dinner for the Prime Minister of India.

Lucie Holland of The Potomack Company, a Washington, D.C. area all-female owned and managed auction house, said that she and her colleagues "are pleased to help the Salahis 'make lemonade out of lemons' from their White House experience by selling the sari that was seen around the world to raise money for the benefit of two worthy charities." The Salahis have directed the auction gallery to forward 80 percent of their proceeds from the gown's sale to the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund and a Washington, D.C. charity to be announced on September 15.

Elizabeth Wainstein, The Potomack Company's owner, said the gallery is "very happy to support these two charities by donating a matching percentage from our seller's commission."

"We are supporting the former presidents' relief effort in Haiti as one of the charities because it does so much to meet the dire needs of the Haitian people and because we appreciate its bipartisan nature," said Michaela Salahi. While this is the first public sale of a world-renowned sari, there is precedent for the auctioning of high profile and iconic dresses to raise

The Potomack Company

A U C T I O N S ~ A P P R A I S A L S ~ E S T A T E S A L E S

funds for charity. Such charity auctions have been held for dresses owned by the actress Audrey Hepburn and Diana, Princess of Wales.

Viewing of the sari at the auction gallery will begin on September 25. The exhibition will be open daily from September 25 until the auction on October 2. Advance registration for telephone, absentee and internet bidding will be available prior to the auction, and live bidding will be held in the gallery's showroom beginning at 10 a.m. on the day of the auction.

The October Catalogue Auction will also feature furniture and paintings from the former owners of the Statehouse, one of Alexandria's most elegant and historically significant properties, as it was at one time the capital building of both Virginia and West Virginia. Also included are important Chinese and Japanese works of art that descended in the family of one of the nation's top mid-20th century Asian works of art dealers. The collection includes a Qianlong white jade table screen, important pieces of jade and hard stone and several works by Edward I. Farmer.

The Potomack Company is a fine arts and antiques auction gallery located at 526 North Fayette Street in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information about this auction or to consign, please contact Lucie Holland at Lucie@potomackcompany.com, visit www.potomackcompany.com or call 703-684-4550.

Join us for lemonade on October 2!