

'Bidders waiting in long grass' as Warhol print set for auction

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If you have always felt your living room was crying out for an Andy Warhol piece of art, your luck just might be in.

A print of his 1971 portrait of Kimiko is just one of the items in Adam's auction of 20th-century design and contemporary art.

The print has a guide of between €20,000 and €30,000, and has a current bid of €16,000.

It made its way to the St Stephen's Green-based auctioneer through an Irish collector, who bought the piece from London's Belgravia Gallery.

Kimiko depicts the influential pop art collector Kimiko Powers, who Warhol continued to photograph throughout the 1980s.

Together with her husband, John Powers, she assembled one of the most significant private collections of contemporary pop art of its time.

Warhol made similar portraits of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly, Mick Jagger and Ingrid Bergman.

Nicholas Gore Grimes, director of Adam's Auctions, told the *Sunday Independent* that this is the third Andy Warhol of similar value he has handled since he started at the salehouse in 1995.

As to what he expects it to fetch, he said there have been "plenty of inquiries so far on the Warhol, but we'll just have to wait and see".

So far, around 350 people have registered for the sale, which will close on Tuesday, and while there are "regular buyers," Mr Gore Grimes added that "there are only so many dining tables that somebody can buy".

Between the 218 lots, Mr Gore Grimes estimates about 80pc will sell.

A rosewood desk by Nanna Ditzel has an estimate of up to €8,000, with

a current bid of €4,000.

Irish designer and architect Eileen Gray is well represented again in the latest sale, featuring in five lots. These include a set of six Roquebrune chairs with an estimated value of between €3,000 and €5,000, as well as a lamp from €600.

Among the more unusual items are two stools bearing the Campbell's soup logo in Italian, from €700 apiece, but guiding up to €1,200.

The timed auction will close on Tuesday from 2pm.

"There can be quite a bit of activity as a lot is closing. There can be a lot of bidders waiting in the long grass," Mr Gore Grimes said.

"If a bid comes in during those final moments, it extends the time by 30 seconds."



A print of Andy Warhol's 1971 portrait of Kimiko is one of the items in the auction