

Declaration for sale in Web auction

NEW YORK (AP) — When in the course of human events, someone wants to sell his copy of the Declaration of Independence, we hold these truths to be self-evident: It could go for millions.

A 1776 copy of the Declaration, in near-mint condition, will be offered on Sotheby's new Web site, Sothebys.com, in late spring, the auction house announced Tuesday in a full-page ad in The New York Times.

The copy went on display on the Web site and at Sotheby's New York gallery on Tuesday. It's one of 25 known to survive, and one of four in private hands. The remaining copies are in museums or public institutions.

Sotheby's said the copy may be the last one to come up for sale because the other private owners plan to donate theirs to museums. It's expected to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million, which would be a record for a historic document sold online, Sotheby's said.

The copy was discovered by an amateur collector in 1989, hidden behind a torn painting that the collector bought for its frame for \$4 at a flea market in Adamstown, Pa.

Hundreds of copies of the Declaration of Independence were printed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, and sent to the 13 colonies proclaiming their independence from Great Britain.

Local gallery exhibits artists' ideas of future

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gallery "code of conduct" can be left at the door because Noyes provides a laid-back atmosphere.

She encourages people to come and look because "everyone wants something beautiful in their life."

"Our gallery is user-friendly. You can come in and have a cup of coffee, hang out and look at things," Noyes said. "It's very different than a museum. Here you can actually touch and hold things."

The variety of works by numerous artists is all for sale, Noyes said.

"We don't have two artists in our gallery that do the same thing," she said.

"If someone comes into this gallery, we probably have something they like."

Connie Jo Gay, who has had work on display at the gallery since July, said working at Noyes keeps an artist busy at all times.

"Since the museum features something new every month, we must always be working and developing," Gay said.

At the end of January, "The Future" will be over, and work by members of the Nebraska Bead Society will be on display as the feature exhibit.



Painting by Ralph Spangler

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Hollywood Walk of Fame welcomes 'The Simpsons'

(AP) — "Overachiever" is hardly the word that comes to mind when you think of Homer Simpson, but let's give the guy a little credit. After all, he did clinch a number of awards at his high school reunion, including oldest car, most weight gained, most hair lost, lowest-paying job and most improved odor.

Homer may not be a big success in his world, but he's a runaway hit in ours. Now the longest-running prime time entertainment show still on TV, "The Simpsons" celebrates 10 years on the air this Friday with a bash that includes getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

It's hard to imagine that a decade ago parents were furious about the message the incorrigible, wisecracking Bart was sending their kids.

The show's first regular season began Jan. 14, 1990. Since then, the Simpsons and their screwball (but

let's face it, all-too familiar) approach to life have done much more than make animated shows safe for thinking people again.

Even people who work for the show are surprised it's lasted so long. After all, creator Matt Groening was best known for the brutal, angst-ridden humor in his cartoon strip, "Life Is Hell." Mother Jones magazine ran a cover story at the time of the show's launch titled "TV Is Hell: Can Matt Groening's Subversive Humor Survive Prime Time?"

Barbara Bush called the show "the dumbest thing" she ever saw.

Bush eventually came around, as did many other viewers initially put off by the merciless satire of institutions like church, school, work and family. Not to mention Homer's celebration of his own stupidity and his seemingly inhuman appetite for donuts and beer.

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