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More victims of Abstract Expressionist fakes scandal revealed

In court documents, Knoedler lists the buyers and prices paid for works brought to the gallery by Glafira Rosales

By Laura Gilbert
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The potential victims of the Knoedler gallery fakes scandal include at least two museums, several dealers and a number of prominent collectors who bought or were interested in buying Abstract Expressionist works through the gallery, most of whom have not been previously identified. The revelations come to light in documents examined by The Art Newspaper, which include a list prepared by Knoedler and filed in federal court where five lawsuits are pending against the gallery and its former director Ann Freedman. All the information on the list here is taken from that document.



Knoedler gallery paid Glafira Rosales \$950,000 in 2001 for a work attributed to Jackson Pollock, *Untitled*, 1950. The collector Pierre Legrange then bought it in 2007 for \$17m (\$15.3m plus commission fees)

The Long Island dealer who brought the works to Knoedler, Glafira Rosales, has admitted as part of her guilty plea to money laundering and tax evasion that the art she sold to the gallery was fake. According to the documents filed with the court, five of the works went unsold.

An asterisk in the list below indicates buyers who have sued Knoedler. Pierre Lagrange's suit was settled on undisclosed terms.

The buyers

Murray and Kay Bring, bought a Diebenkorn, *Untitled*, 1972, for \$94,000 on 9 December 1997. Knoedler paid Rosales \$60,000 for the work.

Michel Cohen acquire a Sam Francis, *Untitled*, 1957. Knoedler bought the work for \$5,000 in 1999: "(net to owner reduced form [sic] \$95,000 to \$5,000) 1999 – Trade + \$35,000 to Michel Cohen in settlement/exchange for a return of a work by Richard Diebenkorn."

*Domenico and Eleanore De Sole, from New York, bought a Rothko, *Untitled*, 1956, for \$8.3m through James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, in December 2004. Knoedler paid Rosales \$950,000.

Larry Evans bought a Diebenkorn, *Untitled (Ocean Park)*, 1972, for \$82,500 on 9 November 1994. Knoedler paid Rosales \$47,500.

Jaime Frankfurt bought a Franz Kline, *Untitled*, 1956, "for a client" for \$3.375m on 10 July 2008. Knoedler paid Rosales \$1.25m for the work "owned jointly by she [sic] and her brother-in-law, although originally from same collection as the other pictures".



Ann and Robert Freedman bought a Motherwell, Spanish Elegy, 1953, for \$15,000 in August 2000. It went "out on approval" in August 2009 to Jaime Frankfurt "for offer to John D. Howard". They also bought a Pollock, Untitled, 1949, "directly" for \$280,000 in September 2000. The couple also acquired a Rothko, Untitled, 1959. According to the gallery's list this was "consigned... net to owner \$160,000. Purchased 12/1996... for \$225,000. Sold 04/1997 to Ann and Robert Freedman (trade)".

Bea and Phil Gersh, from Beverly Hills, bought a Rothko, Untitled, 1959, for \$360,000 in October 1997. Knoedler paid Rosales \$150,000.

Richard Gilson bought a Diebenkorn, Untitled, 1972, "for John Hannon" for \$148,000 on 17 February 1998. Knoedler paid Rosales \$54,000.

*Michael Hilti, from Liechtenstein, bought a Rothko, Untitled, 1956, for \$5.5m in November 2002. Knoedler paid Rosales \$775,000.

*John D. Howard, from New York, bought a De Kooning, Untitled, around 1956-57, for \$3.5m on 19 June 2007. Knoedler paid Rosales \$750,000.

Mr and Mrs David Howe, from New York, bought a Motherwell, Spanish Elegy, 1953, for \$350,000 in March 2000. Knoedler paid Rosales \$90,000.

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri bought a Franz Kline, Untitled, around 1957, for \$475,000 in August 1999. Knoedler paid Rosales \$250,000.

Crosby Kemper, Kemper Museum of Art, bought a Diebenkorn, Untitled (Ocean Park), 1972, for \$110,000 on 3 July 1997. Knoedler paid Rosales \$30,000.

Dr Bernard Kruger, bought a Diebenkorn, Untitled (Ocean Park), 1976, for \$95,000 on 1 February 1994. Knoedler paid Rosales \$50,000.

*Pierre Lagrange bought a Pollock, Untitled, 1950, for \$15.3m in November 2007 through Jamie Frankfurt. Knoedler paid Rosales \$950,000.

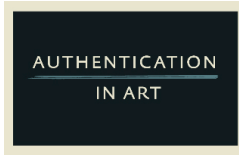
Jack and Fran Levy, from Palm Beach, bought a Rothko, Untitled, 1959, for \$615,000 in October 1999. Knoedler paid Rosales \$155,000.

Jack and Fran Levy, from New York, bought two Clyfford Still works, Untitled, 1947, for \$600,000 in March 1998 (Knoedler paid Rosales \$250,000) and Untitled, 1947, for \$500,000 in December 2000 (Knoedler paid Rosales \$300,000).

Mr and Mrs Jack Levy, from New York, bought a Franz Kline, Untitled, around 1953, for \$560,000 in January 1999. Knoedler paid Rosales \$315,000. They also bought a Pollock, Untitled, 1949, for \$2m in December 2001. Knoedler paid Rosales \$750,000. Three years later, this last work was "purchased back from Mr and Mrs Jack Levy. Then... jointly owned as of 12/2003 by David Mirvish (his share \$1,250,000), Knoedler (share is \$375,000), Ann Freedman (share is \$375,000)". The asking price was \$15m, but the work was list as "not yet sold" by the gallery.

Manny Silverman Gallery in Los Angeles, bought a Clyfford Still, Untitled, 1947, for \$850,000 in June 2000. Knoedler paid Rosales \$250,000.

Masterson Gurr Johns Inc in Switzerland, bought a Rothko, Untitled (Orange, Red and Blue), 1959, for \$7.2m through the agent Urs Kraft on 30 April 2008. Knoedler paid Rosales \$4.6m for the work "owned jointly by she [sic] and her brother-in-law, although originally from same collection as the other pictures".



Hughes and Sheila Potiker, from La Jolla, California, bought a Franz Kline, Untitled, not dated, for \$535,000 in June 1997. Knoedler paid Rosales \$300,000.

Michelle Rosenfeld Gallery, in Ramsey, New Jersey, bought a Rothko, Untitled, 1959, for \$325,000 in July 1998. Knoedler paid Rosales \$155,000.

Mr and Mrs Jon Sandelman, from Boca Raton, bought a Franz Kline, Untitled, 1955, for \$900,000 in March 2000. Knoedler paid Rosales \$375,000.

Donna Schwartz bought a Warhol, Untitled, 1964, for \$30,000 in 1999. Knoedler paid Rosales \$20,000.

Elizabeth Schwartz bought a Sam Francis, Untitled, 1957, for \$148,500 in 2004. Knoedler paid Rosales \$55,000.

Jay Shidler, from Honolulu, bought a Lee Krasner, Untitled, 1949, for \$1m in February 2007. Knoedler paid Rosales \$80,000.

Jay H. Shidler II, from New York, bought a Motherwell, Spanish Elegy, 1953, for \$2.2m in March 2006. Knoedler paid Rosales \$475,000.

Gerald Solomon, of Solomon & Company Fine Art, New York, bought a Rothko, Untitled, 1959, for \$320,000 in June 1998. Knoedler paid Rosales \$170,000.

*Nicholas and Jenny Taubman, from Roanoke, Virginia, bought a Clyfford Still, Untitled, 1949, for \$5m in November 2005. Knoedler paid Rosales \$600,000.

*Harvey and Frances White, from Cardiff by the Sea, California, bought a Pollock, Untitled, 1949, for \$3.1m in April 2000. Knoedler paid Rosales \$670,000.

Jack Wright, of Wright Gallery, bought a Sam Francis, Untitled, 1957, for \$150,000 in 1999. Knoedler paid Rosales \$95,000.

The "Nordrhein-Westfalen Museum" was offered a Barnett Newman, Untitled, 1949, through Oliver Wick, for \$18m, but the work was "not yet sold". Knoedler paid Rosales \$1m.