

**Sale Name:** Hodgins September Fine Art

**LOT 87 - Roy Thomas**



**Estimate \$** 2500-3500

### Description

#### **Roy Thomas**

Canadian, Anishinaabe [1949-2004]

HERB ROY AND GEORGE SIOUI; 1980

acrylic on canvas

30 x 40 in. (76.2 x 101.6 cm)

signed lower right; signed, titled and dated on the stretcher verso

Provenance: Former collection of Marilyn Sheila Smukler, Montreal QC (original owner) and by descent to family.

The figures depicted in this painting are Herb Nabigon, Roy Thomas and Georges Sioui (Huron-Wendat writer, historian, educator and activist). In his book "Eatenonha: Native Roots of Modern Democracy" (cover artwork by Roy Thomas), Sioui gives special mention to his dear friends Thomas and Nabigon (both now passed away).

On page 108, Sioui recounts the origin of what would become the friends' annual spiritual fast - likely the subject of this painting. In the spring of 1980, at Nabigon's urging, the trio accepted an invitation by Saulteaux and Nakoda Elders from Alberta to participate in a traditional fast and ceremonies on their territorial land. Sioui writes of the transformative experience:

We all had a wonderful, magical time, knowing we were getting (re-)acquainted with the ancestral spiritual traditions of Amerindian peoples and, in our own case as Native persons, with intimate, sacred aspects of our own Aboriginal civilization. We had a great feeling of joy because we knew we were being led on a path of very important self-fulfillment, as (up until then) rebellious, ignorant, deeply colonized young Aboriginal individuals. Herb, Roy, and I did our second fast just the three of us together in a quiet, wooded part not very far from Ottawa, on top of one of the highest hills in the vicinity. After our first such experience the year before, our shared feeling was that we had to start helping spread this sort of knowledge and awareness back out east, where decades, even centuries of colonial repression had had the sad result of making most of our Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples abandon and/or forget their traditional spiritual ways.

Reference: Sioui, George E. (2019) *Eatenonha: Native Roots of Modern Democracy*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press

**Quantity: 1**

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