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# Sculpture purchased for record \$2,800

**DAWSON CREEK** — The total proceeds of Friday's art auction were like in a typical year, but a record was set for the amount paid for one piece of local art.

Loud applause went up for buyer Marilyn Boronowski when the bidding for Emily Mattson's sculpture "The Booth" finally stopped and neither Mattson nor auctioneer Ken Haverland could entice bidders to keep raising the price.

The Booth, a scene of a man and a woman sitting at a table, fetched a record \$2,800, bringing the total proceeds of the live auction of 62 donated art works to \$14,960.

The annual art auction, the most important fundraiser for the South Peace Art Society, raises money for ongoing operations of the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

To help the sale of her sculpture, made with cast-iron antique stove parts and mounted on a wooden crate also made by the Rolla artist, Mattson explained the work was inspired by a

scene she observed while at the Alaska Cafe. While the girl just seems to enjoy herself in the moment, the guy appears to expect more, Mattson said.

"Have you ever noticed how young women attract guys?" she said. "They look kinda sophisticated.

"Some guys are really enamoured by that."

The art auction also featured a silent auction that raised an additional about \$1,000 for the art society.

Dawson Creek Art Gallery curator Ellen Corea said the money raised was similar to the money raised in recent years. She said the quality of the works was very high this year.

"I think some people got real good deals," she said.

Some of the works fetching above-average prices were Untitled, oil on board, painted and donated by Laine Dahlen, for \$500; and September Blue & Gold, soft pastel, painted and donated by Joyce Benson, for \$600.

Benson is an accomplished artist who won first prize in a Pastel Artists



Cees Mond photo

**Auctioneer Ken Haverland looks for bidders while Louise Broadley holds up a vase that was on the block during the art auction Friday.**

of Ontario show in Ottawa in October last year.

A watercolour, Resting Spot, by

Robert Guest sold for \$800. The work had been donated by local artist Hilde Bitman.