

CITY LIFE

Parties, Culture & Society

UNICEF presents an evening of art

UNICEF Canada presented its inaugural Unite with Art auction and gala at the Rocky Mountaineer Station this week. About 300 supporters attended the first in a series of national art-auction fundraisers. They will benefit Unite for Children against AIDS. The agency's goal is to stop the AIDS pandemic by 2015.

More than 75 pieces of art were donated, including work by **Bill Reid**, **Greg Girard**, **George Vergette**, **Tanya Slingsby**, **Danny Singer** and **Tiko Kerr**.

Emceed by Global Television anchor **Chris Gailus**, the program included a cocktail reception, live entertainment and food from restaurants including Chow, Glowbal Catering, Hawksworth at Hotel Georgia, Metro, Vij's, Daniel Le Chocolat Belge and Vino Allegro. Among the art aficionados spotted in the **Simon Cooksley**-designed hall were **Stephen Carruthers** of Zeidler Partnerships Architects; **George Drazenovic** of Sun-Cal Energy; **Terry McBride** of Network Records; **Robert Bailey** of Architectura; **Nigel Fisher**, president of UNICEF Canada; **Jason** and **Monica Soprovich**; **Lisa Wolverton** and **Ford Nicholson**; **Rick** and **Kim Baxter**; and **Joyce Lam** and **Joel Whist**.

Chris Jordan's Pain Killers took the night's top bid of \$26,000; it was followed by **Gabryel Harrison's** piece, for

\$25,000; *Mesa Verde Moon* by Zimbabwe's **Noel Hodnett**, which fetched \$16,000; and *Boys on Shed* by **Fred Herzog**, which went for \$15,000. By evening's end, \$276,000 was raised.

"There is nothing more exciting than witnessing what talent, energy and commitment can do for social change," said **Alison Lawton**, chair of Unite for Children. Added **Julie Lee**, executive director, Unite with Art: "I express my profound appreciation to the gifted artists who created and graciously donated the remarkable pieces for tonight's event."



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PHOTOS BY FRED LEE FOR NATIONAL POST



Artist George Vergette and publicist Shannon Heth.



Unite with Art emcee Chris Gailus of Global Television and his wife, Jane.



Julie Lee, Unite with Art executive director; Alison Lawton, chair, Unite for Children.



Gabryel Harrison's gorgeous gold-leaf "Though Blinded, We Know Love by its Touch" was a big earner.



Unite with Art contributing artist Tanya Slingsby wore a Jacqueline Conoir dress.