



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEST

**CANVAS CACHE:** Janice Halpern of the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange examines artwork donated by anonymous collectors to benefit the nonprofit.

## Art donations boost adoption charity auction

BY BENJAMIN BELL

The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange has been given a stunning \$24,000 art collection made up of 150 pieces from anonymous donors that will go up for auction online today.

"It made my jaw drop," said Janice Halpern, director of public relations and fund-raising for MARE, a Boston-based organization that helps children in foster care find permanent and loving homes. "We are overwhelmed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of these donors."

The collection includes 42 Richard Royce cast paper originals, seven original Jack Coughlin etchings, four lithographs by Leila Copeland and 10 woodcuts by Pearce Bates. The majority of the collection will be put up for sale through the group's Bids for Kids auction, which runs through June 18.

MARE will also auction donated jewelry, Red Sox tickets, restaurant and museum gift certificates, toys, and vacations in Hawaii, Costa Rica and the Bahamas to raise money to fund its mission.

The donors, who came across MARE's auction site while searching online for a place to donate the art, were familiar with MARE's work, having seen the organization's Heart Gallery exhibit featuring portraits of children awaiting adoption at a Jordan's Furniture store.

"What a difference this donation can make to so many children waiting for loving adoptive families," said Halpern.

MARE, a private nonprofit agency founded in 1957, has helped more than 5,200 children and teens leave temporary foster care for permanent homes. It works in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and private agencies throughout the state.

To learn more about the auction or how to adopt from foster care, call MARE at 617-54-ADOPT or visit the organization's Web site at [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org).

Auction bids are now being accepted at [mare.auction.cmarket.com](http://mare.auction.cmarket.com). Bidding for some of the artwork will start as low as \$7, with most starting bids between \$20 and \$40.

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