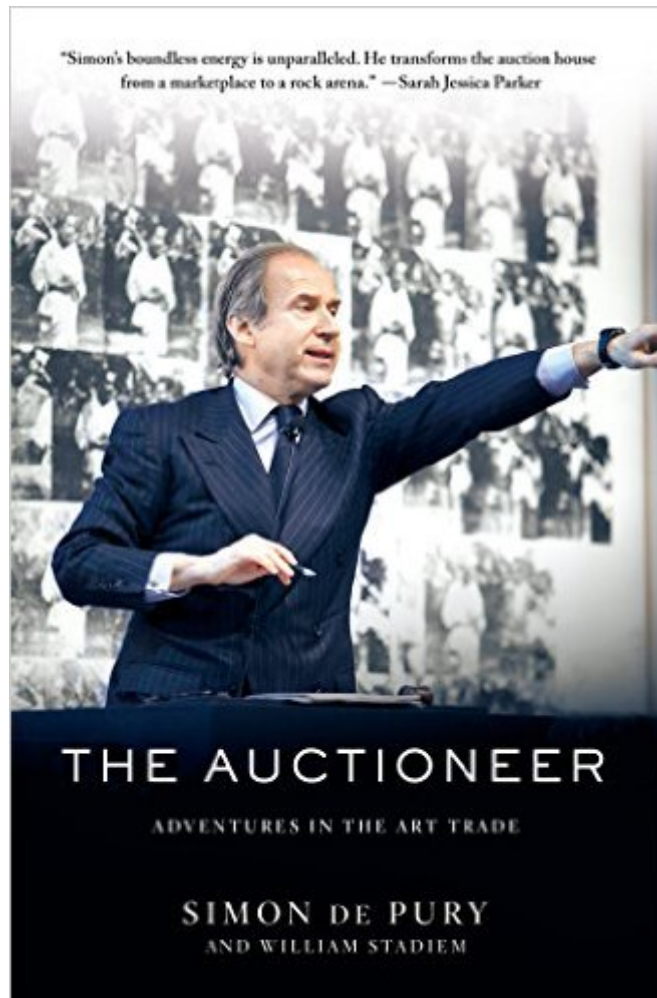




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# **The Auctioneer: Adventures In The Art Trade**



## Synopsis

Just as William Goldman, the ultimate screenwriter, took us inside Hollywood, Simon de Pury, the ultimate art player, will take us inside an even more secretive business, whose staggering prices, famous collectors, and high crimes are front page news almost every day. The former Chairman of Sotheby's Europe, the former owner of Sotheby's rival Phillips de Pury, and currently a London-based dealer and advisor to great collectors around the world, Simon has one of the highest profiles of any non-artist in the art world. Even though he has an ancient title and the aura of an elegant Swiss banker, Simon is famous as an iconoclast and is known as "The Mick Jagger of Auctions" for his showmanship and exuberance. His whole life in art has been devoted to bringing art to the public and to the juxtaposition of high and low. Movie stars, musicians, and athletes compete with hedge funders and billionaires for the great art, and Simon is their pied piper; he wants to turn the world onto art and this book will be his message.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Simon’s boundless energy is unparalleled. He transforms the auction house from a marketplace to a rock arena.”  
—Sarah Jessica Parker  
“Simon de Pury is an aristocrat in the best sense of the word. His mission is to bring beauty to the people. This book is a wild ride that will get you hooked on art.”  
—Russell Simmons  
“In *The Auctioneer*, Simon de Pury, former chairman of Sotheby’s Europe, provides a comedy-rich account of his exploits in the treacherous art world, along with pen portraits of some of his closest allies and enemies.”  
—*The Wall Street Journal*  
“Let’s cheer for the

auctioneer Simon de Pury, the classy international star of the art world. For more than 40 years, de Pury has observed the vital signs of what he calls the "beautiful illness" that infects the super-rich to buy art. [The Auctioneer is] brimming with history and intrigue. The Washington Post "In this eye-opening memoir, de Pury, a distinguished auctioneer and art dealer, provides a lively account of his flashy career and today's soaring art market [and] the book provides an interesting glimpse into a world of artists, collectors, and dealers in which the call of the gavel was the call of the wild. Publishers Weekly "Renowned auctioneer de Pury presents a memoir full of gossip, anecdotes, and tales of the very, very rich [and he] delivers plenty of juicy tidbits about some of the world's 1 percent. However, this is also the story of a man wholly dedicated to his profession, a jet-setter before the jet age [an enjoyable book that lets us live vicariously in the haut monde. Kirkus

SIMON DE PURY is the former Chairman of Sotheby's Europe and the former owner and co-founder of Phillips de Pury. He co-hosted Bravo's series "Work of Art," and has written for numerous publications, including The Daily Beast. He is currently a London-based dealer and adviser to great collectors around the world. WILLIAM STADIEM is the bestselling author of Mr. S, Jet Set, and Moneywood, and is a regular contributor to Vanity Fair.

I really enjoyed the book. What an eye opener Simon de Pury seems sincere and principled, although the mechanics of the buying and selling of artwork, and the vast sums made by the sellers seem very unfair to the artist who creates the work and sees no royalties from sales. Could you cough up 1% buddies? Otherwise, informative, entertaining (if somewhat depressing) look at the marketing of art.

The book is a wonderful story of the underbelly of the artworld and of the rich and famous we have all been privy to read about throughout the years. Loved the wonderful way Simon de Pury allows the reader to learn about his private life as well. A very good read!

Yes like the detail and felt I learned a lot.

Interesting insight into the art auction world. Since I'm old, I recognize many of the names he inserts in his narrative.

A man who knows his craft telling his circuit in the art world as an auctioneer. Well written and informative.

Fascinating autobiography if you love art , interesting personalities and non-fiction.

Fascinating glimpse into a most interesting life.

Very informative re inside of the auction and art business

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