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## Stampede 2009 bronc poster sold for \$105,000

**Sherri Zickefoose**

Calgary Herald

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A painting of next year's Stampede poster subject, Grated Coconut, one of the most honoured bareback broncs in professional rodeo, sold for a record \$105,000 at Thursday's annual art auction.

Titled July Explosion -- Grated Coconut, the Calgary Stampede's 2009 promotional poster image, an original oil painting by local artist Jody Skinner, was bought by Grant Bartlett, a co-owner of the Calgary Flames, and Dawn McDonald, who are avid art collectors.

"We all come to Alberta with a pocket full of dreams and we come here tonight with a pocket full of dreams," said Bartlett. "It's big dream country. It is what Alberta is all about."

Skinner is the first female artist to create a Stampede poster.

"This is a very special commission and I am privileged to have been able to do this for the Stampede," she said before the bidding opened.

About 25,000 posters will be distributed throughout Canada, the United States and the world to promote next year's Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.

For the third consecutive year, the original commissioned artwork was the centerpiece of the Western Art Auction. The first one sold for \$37,000.

Last year's promotional poster, a painting by former Calgary artist Doug Levitt, went for \$64,000.

The proceeds will be shared equally among the artist, the Western Art Auction Committee and the Calgary Stampede Foundation.

The annual auction of 75 original works was a record setter. This year brought in over than \$531,000, smashing last year's record of \$364,000.

A life-sized sculpture of a moose, created by Montana artist Sam Terakedis, sold for \$85,000, the second highest price.

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