

Endnote

1. Some collectors supported artists in unconventional but deeply practical ways. Jenny Landfield, Ronnie's wife, relayed a fun recollection about bartering collectors, recalling how Sydney Lewis and his wife founded and ran the Best Products Company, a department store selling everything from home appliances to household goods. Their system was simple: they brought artists a catalog each month and said, "Choose what you need—a washing machine for the loft, a refrigerator, or a TV—just pick a certain number of items, and in exchange, give us a painting." Artists marked their choices in the catalog, sent it back, and soon the items arrived. In return, the Lewises quietly built a substantial art collection. The Sidney Lewis Collection still exists today, though it has diminished over time as people have passed away. For young artists with little money who needed to live and work, this kind of barter was essential. It wasn't about market value or fairness. It was about survival, mutual trust, and keeping artists working. Ronnie added, "Art is art. Art will never be like a washing machine, used for several years. I mean, good artworks are forever."