



My **Best** Investment **Dandy Warhol**

WHO Kathy Poppers, 54, accredited art appraiser, southeast Iowa

WHAT *Flowers*, a 36-inch-square signed print by Andy Warhol

INVESTMENT \$8,000 in 1989

NOW WORTH \$54,000 to \$60,000

It jumped out at her from an auction catalog almost 20 years ago, right after Poppers had earned a big commission. "I just loved it and wanted it," she says. "It's an iconic image." Poppers spent part of the 1960s and 1970s as an art student in New York and saw one of Warhol's first big shows there. "I loved the directness of his work: strong, graphic, right in your face." She held her breath a few years ago when the Warhol estate reevaluated many of the artist's prints, but her *Flowers* is fully documented. Poppers owns works by Jenny Holzer and Mark Ryden, among others, but this piece is her favorite. It's also a reminder to trust her gut. "I've had instances when my instincts told me, 'Buy this,' and I didn't," says Poppers, who had big regrets. "I made a commitment to myself not to make that mistake again." —KATE ASHFORD

Have a story of money well spent? Tell us your best investment, whether it's a horse, a haircut or the stock buy of a lifetime. E-mail us at moreeditors@meredith.com.

A Charity Challenge: Fund Women First

It's not that women don't give; most give generously. But there's a generosity gap, says Helen LaKelly Hunt, 59, heiress and philanthropist, and for her, it hits close to home. Wealthier women, according to some studies, don't give as generously as lower- and middle-income women. And when they do write big checks, says Chris Grumm of the Women's Funding Network, the money often goes to symphonies, libraries or even a husband's alma mater, not to groups that directly help women and girls.

A new campaign, Women Moving Millions, is LaKelly Hunt's effort to change these patterns. Hunt and her sister, Swanee Hunt, 57, director of Harvard's Women and Public Policy program, have kicked in \$4 million and \$6 million, respectively. She's seeking pledges of \$1 million and up, hoping to hit \$150 million by 2009. Part of the pitch: Research by the U.N., among others, has shown that helping women is one of the best ways to build communities. The money will be distributed by the WFN, whose member groups seed diverse projects, from a Rhode Island jobs center to a property rights program in Tanzania.

With American women controlling an increasing percentage of personal wealth in the U.S., says LaKelly Hunt, there's more than enough money out there: "We just have to create a network of women who will fund women first." To give (any amount) or to apply to make your organization part of the network, go to wfnet.org

—JUDITH H. DOBRZYNSKI