From the Publisher

The writing and editing of *Leonard's Price Index of Latin American Art at Auction* has been a stimulating and exciting project. The first step was to define the term "Latin American art." The category, as used by the major New York auction houses, includes works by an artist born in South or Central America or the Caribbean basin, and works of art by artists from other countries whose subject matter is Latin America or depicts Latin American subjects. The search yielded a surprisingly broad range of artists' names and over 25,000 auction prices. The images range from 17th-century landscapes by the Dutchman Frans Post to the modernist paintings of Rufino Tamayo and the photo-realist images of Claudio Bravo. The art cited covers a span of more than 400 years.

Because auction prices are a public record of sales, they are cited in comparing values or tracing the sale price of a particular painting. The auction prices were mined from the Auction Index database, compiled over 18 years, and from catalogues of auction sales held prior to 1980. (Refer to page 24 for specifics on how to use this book.)

Much of the biographical information in this index has never before been published in English. Our research was conducted through newly published specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, artist monographs, libraries' ephemera files, periodicals, the Web, and oral history. Biographical information, especially death dates, was unavailable for some of the artists. Collectors, dealers, and families of the artists are invited to send biographical information for future editions of this book.

Much of the original biographical information was sent by galleries throughout the hemisphere. Most valuable was the loan of older auction catalogues from the library of Mary-Anne Martin and August Uribe. Alejandro Anreus was especially helpful as a source of original and anecdotal information for many of the Cuban and Mexican artists. Ruth Reid, of the Gallery Arc-en-Ciel in New Jersey, read the Haitian biographies and corrected data wherever possible. The value and accuracy of this index owes much to their gracious sharing of scholarly information, and I am truly grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Theran". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Theran".