

Nanopublication – A Rothko's \$85.8 Million Sale
Anchors Sotheby's \$433.1 Million Contemporary Night

by Arnaud Quercy

This is an auction-market report – prices, estimates, provenance chains, and sale dynamics for paintings by Rothko, Basquiat, de Kooning and others – and the framework's vocabulary (idea transmission, codex, diffraction, reception-as-creation) has nothing to engage with in a text that never discusses how these works are interpreted or experienced, only what they sold for and who owned them when.

DECLINED – NO-PURCHASE [1]

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Not evaluated (37) – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: DECLINED:no-purchase – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading’s judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-05-15 · model claude-sonnet-5 · source 12,928 chars · 1 attempt(s)

FIRST PASS – KEPT AS WRITTEN

Reading produced by the T50 RSS pass, before the boundary lens. It is reproduced UNCORRECTED. Keeping it is the point: without it, a changed title is just a changed title – with it, what the second pass refused becomes legible.

Title it carried : « Rothko's \$85.8M Sale and the Dilution of Market-Driven Reception »

This auction represents a structural instance of the DILUTION CRISIS. The Rothko—an emission engineered through chromatic diffraction, designed to activate the receiver's ouverture

through color field and temporal immersion—is here received as RECOGNITION: a fungible asset, a name, a price point. The intentional invariant (why these colors, why this scale, why this temporal demand) is not activated; instead, the work passes through the market's ouverture, which transforms diffraction into liquidity. Maximum emission (433M in sales volume), minimum diffraction (zero new creation in the receiver-only valuation). The work becomes a signal that has lost its capacity to demand the receiver's contribution. This is not a critique of the market per se, but an illustration of how certain ouvertures (algorithmic, price-driven, recognition-based) systematically suppress the conditions under which diffraction survives.

T50 RSS assessment · 2026-05-15 · remplacée par boundary-lens-2026-08

REFERENCES

[1] Rothko from Robert Mnuchin's Estate Sells for \$85.8 M., Leading Sotheby's New York's \$433.1 M. Contemporary Art Sale. ARTnews.com, 2026-05-15. <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/market/sothebys-may-2026-new-york-contemporary-art-rothko-mnuchin-1234785732/>

[2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	no purchase
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 1 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

b9eea8e03cf8a31f4e02de133c0798410f2834c94be68b28ee8b3c63b092ea7c

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

Author Arnaud Quercy

Asset code IDS-RNI0037

Identifier NAN-RDG000062

Version 1

Published 2026-08-05

ISSN: applied for – U.S. ISSN Center, Library of Congress

© 2026 Ideamorphic Studies

Published by Art Quam Anima Publishing New York,
an assumed name of AQA Publishing LLC

c/o Northwest Registered Agent, 418 Broadway Ste N
Albany, NY 12207, USA
+1 917-764-5470

NY DOS ID 7624376 · Assumed Name ID 7658709

publishing.artquamanima.com

Last updated: 2026-08-15

Persistent URI: <https://ideamorphism.org/en/nanopubs/2026/08/IDS-RNI0037-a-rothkos-858-million-sale-anchors-sothebys-4331-million-con.pdf>