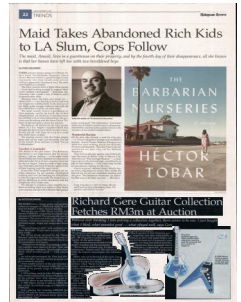


Headline	Richard Gere Guitar Collection Fetches RM3m at Auction		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Reserve		
Date	14 Oct 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	Trend	Circulation	10,500
Page No	22	Readership	31,500
Language	English	ArticleSize	372 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,442
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 10,326



Richard Gere Guitar Collection Fetches RM3m at Auction

Without ever thinking I was putting a collection together, there seems to be one. I just bought what I liked, what sounded good — what played well, says Gere

by **KATYA KAZAKINA**

RICHARD Gere's vintage guitar and amplifier collection brought in US\$936,438 (RM2.94 million) at Christie's in New York on Tuesday.

The top lot was a 1960 Gibson Les Paul that fetched US\$98,500, surpassing its presale high estimate of US\$90,000. The winning bid came by telephone. The room was full of quiet guitar aficionados, including musician Steve Miller and redhead model, singer and songwriter Karen Elson.

"You are being too quiet," said auctioneer Andrew McVinish. "If you want to rock 'n roll — rock 'n roll."

The 107-lot group, amassed by the "Pretty Woman" male star since he was a kid, was expected to realise about US\$1 million. Only 4% of the lots failed to find buyers.

"Without ever thinking I was putting a collection together, there seems to be one," Gere said in his catalogue statement. "I just bought what I liked, what sounded good — what played well."

An active philanthropist for Tibet and HIV-AIDS education, Gere has said the proceeds will go to causes he supports.

Other notable guitars in the sale included a 1931 Martin D-28 that fetched US\$62,500, in the middle of its presale range of US\$50,000 to US\$70,000.

A 1934 archtop made by John D'Angelico and later owned and played by James D'Aquisto, two of the premier New York luthiers, sold for US\$20,000, above its top estimate of US\$15,000.

A 1958 Gibson Flying V sold for US\$74,500, also within its estimate range of US\$60,000 to US\$90,000.

After placing the winning US\$9,500 bid (US\$11,875 with the buyer's premium) on a Gibson ES-335TD with Sunburst finish, Scott Forman hollered: "Yes!"

BB King

"It's gorgeous and the sound is amazing," said the New York ophthalmologist. "BB King plays a guitar he calls 'Lucille'. It's the same model."

What attracted him to the sale was the quality of guitars not the provenance.

"It's not about Richard Gere. It's about the instrument," Forman said. The sale prices in-

Headline	Richard Gere Guitar Collection Fetches RM3m at Auction		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Reserve		
Date	14 Oct 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	Trend	Circulation	10,500
Page No	22	Readership	31,500
Language	English	ArticleSize	372 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,442
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 10,326

clude the buyer's commission; the estimates don't.

Miller, who sat in the back of the room wearing sunglasses, kept his paddle idle. His appearance at Christie's was being filmed for a documentary titled "Burst: In Search of a Perfect Guitar", about his quest to find a pristine 1959 Les Paul Standard Sunburst.

"I wasn't tempted by anything," he said. "I have 450 guitars."

Gere, who won a Golden Globe for his performance in the movie version of "Chicago", studied trumpet as a child and is a self-taught guitarist and pianist.

A March auction of Eric Clapton's guitars, amplifiers and other memorabilia at Bonhams in New York raised US\$2.2 million for the musician's Crossroads Centre Antigua, for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, almost four times its presale total of US\$400,000 to US\$600,000. The priciest item was a 1948 Gibson L-5P guitar that fetched US\$82,960. — *Bloomberg*



A Gibson style A-1 mandolin owned by actor Gere



An active philanthropist for Tibet and HIV-AIDS education, Gere has said the proceeds will go to causes he supports

A 1958 Gibson Flying V guitar owned by Gere, which was sold for RM233,993