

THE LAST STITCH

ART IMITATES LIFE FOR NEW YORK PLASTIC SURGEON

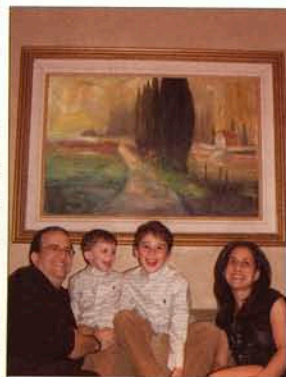
Academy Award®-winning actor Robert DeNiro, who portrayed the young mafia kingpin Vito Corleone in *The Godfather Part II*, thought he made an offer that ASPS Member Surgeon Scot Glasberg, MD, New York, couldn't refuse. But refuse Dr. Glasberg did – and still he lives to tell about it.

DeNiro, an art lover, apparently has his sights set on collecting all the pieces painted by Sebastiano Ciarcia, a Sicilian artist who works in oil, acrylic and chalk to blend classicism with abstraction. But Dr. Glasberg beat him to the punch, and with support – make that insistence – from his wife, Alisa, the plastic surgeon declined the actor's best offer.

"I purchased the piece at an estate auction at a price that was relatively low," Dr. Glasberg says. "But more than the cost, the piece perfectly fit our family room; we chose a tough wall color to try to match, but this piece did it. We weren't going to give it up."

He held his position in the face of a personal visit from the actor to Dr. Glasberg's New York apartment. DeNiro knew about the Glasbergs' purchase because the rolls for that auction were public record, he says.

"Three or so weeks after we bought the painting, I received a call from someone identifying himself as DeNiro's agent, and that the actor was wondering if we would sell it," he says. "I jokingly said I'd think about it – if DeNiro talked to us in person. A few weeks later, he was in our apartment. My son,



Scot Glasberg, MD; his sons, Evan, 2 1/2, and Alexander, 8; and his wife, Alisa, with the coveted Ciarcia painting.



Dr. Glasberg and Alisa enjoy a painting by Paulemile Pissarro, titled, "La Foret."

Alexander, who's a baseball fan and has seen DeNiro in 'The Fan,' took him into his room to show him his baseball glove."

Although they declined to part with the painting – "the offer was very fair" – the Glasbergs did give the actor the "right of first refusal" in the event they were going to sell it, Dr. Glasberg says.

"I never liked art until I was forced to take a humanities class for core curriculum purposes while attending Columbia University in New York. I chose an art appreciation course," he notes. "Now I've got about 10 great works of art – not masterpieces, as they're way too expensive for us. Even our children are interested in art, because they've been coming to the museums with us for some time."

Since DeNiro's visit, Dr. Glasberg has purchased another Ciarcia – one that DeNiro doesn't know about, he surmises. "His agent never called. I guess that means DeNiro doesn't know. But one day, he may."

As a result, Dr. Glasberg won't be surprised if on the other side of the telephone is DeNiro, trying to make him another offer he can't refuse – and maybe this time, he won't. **PSN**