

## The Carlyle Group & Co-Investors Announce Sale of Athena Art Finance Corp. to YieldStreet

**Transaction Value: Approximately \$170 Million**

**Sandler O'Neill served as financial advisor to Athena Art Finance Corp. in this transaction.**

**This transaction represents Sandler O'Neill's 296<sup>th</sup> financial services transaction nationwide since January 1, 2015. Sandler O'Neill has served as a financial advisor on more financial services transactions than any other investment bank during that time period.**<sup>1</sup>

**New York, New York – Wednesday, April 10, 2019** – YieldStreet, a digital wealth management platform, announced that it has acquired Athena Art Finance Corp. (“Athena”) from The Carlyle Group (NASDAQ: CG) and co-investors in a transaction valued at approximately \$170 million. Athena is a pioneer in the global art finance market, providing art dealers, art galleries and collectors access to tailored financing alternatives secured by fine art. Since its founding in 2015, Athena’s disciplined, data-driven investing approach has produced cumulative originations of more than \$225 million in loans without any realized credit losses.

This transaction represents YieldStreet’s first corporate acquisition, and comes on the heels of its recently completed \$62 million Series B funding, the fifth largest fintech Series B funding round ever completed in New York City. YieldStreet offers retail investors unique access to alternative investments traditionally only available to institutional investors. Investment funds managed by Soros Fund Management LLC initially invested in YieldStreet’s Series A, followed on with an investment in the Series B, and provides warehouse financing for YieldStreet. “They have exemplified what it means to be a fantastic partner to a rapidly scaling business by providing strategic insights and financial support for this acquisition of Athena,” said YieldStreet Founder and President Michael Weisz.

“Our acquisition of Athena demonstrates YieldStreet’s ability to leverage our technology, proprietary origination channels and efficient direct-to-consumer distribution, to take a traditional capital intensive business and make it capital efficient. We’re thrilled to have the Athena team join the YieldStreet family, and look forward to supporting its existing business and continued scale and success,” said Weisz.

“True to our investor-first approach, we are constantly looking for unique and attractive diversification opportunities,” said Milind Mehere, Founder & CEO of YieldStreet. “Athena is the leading provider of credit solutions for the global art market and has scaled the business with strong growth and asset performance. Art financing is an attractive asset class with typically low correlation to the stock market and low loan-to-values, providing what we believe is both an exciting and sound new investment option for our investor community of more than 100,000 members.”

Athena's experienced team is comprised of finance, art and legal veterans. Athena brings a principled institutional approach to art finance, by applying sound loan structuring, comprehensive art market analysis, and building proprietary data analytics and risk scoring methodologies related to specific artists and their works. Athena’s adherence to data quality, borrower confidentiality, and strong underwriting standards along with the highest levels of client support are a strong fit with YieldStreet’s investment philosophy.

As part of YieldStreet, Athena will continue under the executive leadership of Cynthia E. Sachs.

“Carlyle is proud to have played an important role in Athena’s growth and success,” said Jim Burr, Managing Director of The Carlyle Group. “YieldStreet has an impressive, innovative model and we are confident they are the right home for the future of Athena’s business.”

(1) Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence; excludes minority transactions, terminated transactions, and/or self-advisory roles

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