Robert Loder

Mining entrepreneur and philanthropist who supported artists working in difficult conditions

Robert Loder, who has died aged 83, was a philanthropist and a lifelong collector whose generosity was devoted to helping to stimulate the creation of art, and to facilitating exchanges of ideas among artists. Born in London on November 6, 1934, he was the son of Sir Robert Beauclerk Loder, the second Lord Wakehurst, and his wife, the former Josette Bromovsky.

Loder was a driving force behind major exhibitions of African art in the 1980s. The Art of a Nation: South Africa, which was described as “a dialogue between Robert’s collection and that of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston,” was held in the late 1980s. Loder’s collection of African art and marmalade, but was never interested in profit from the work he fostered.

Loder spent his early working life in the mining industry, and was later managing director of a venture called Esperanza. He married Josette Bromovsky in 1964, the daughter of the American entrepreneur Gerald Loder, a former Conservative MP best known for creating the Mental Health Foundation.

Returning to Britain in 1966, Loder devoted himself to becoming executive chairman of Curtis Brown, the agency which represented a galaxy of British authors, having supported a number of them. His career as a publisher was cut short by a stand-off between its new owner Rupert Murdoch and Fleet Street, but he was ready to rescue the trade unionist Jack Jones (who was the subject of a book by Dimbleby, Peter Jay, and David Astor) who had been overtaken by another mining company, he became managing director of a venture called Esperanza.

Meanwhile, after a brief spell with oil services and cargo inspection, he moved to Inchcape for £36 million he moved on to become executive chairman of Curtis Brown, the agency which represented a galaxy of British authors, having supported a number of them. The Wakehurst barony had been acquired in 1973; she survives him with their two sons.

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