
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
www.michaans.com

PRESS RELEASE

Press Office Contact:
Talesa Santos
510 740 0220
talesa@michaans.com

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Impressive Modern Jewelry opens Michaan's Summer June 5 Estate Auction

In 1940 the Museum of Modern Art in New York mounted an exhibition titled Modern Jewelry that presented a new concept in jewelry: wearable art. Sculptors and designer-craft artisans were creating original, inventive, bold new jewelry pieces where form and artistic sensibility took precedence over gemstones or karat weights. Using silver, brass, copper, wood, stones and other various materials to embellish their concepts, these independent artists set out to redefine modern jewelry, thus giving birth to the Modernist Jewelry Movement. From the 40's to the 60's the movement continued to grow, with Danish, European, American and Mexican designers continuing to create gorgeous and unique works of jewelry art.

Michaan's Auctions Jewelry Department presents in its June Estate Sale an impressive collection of silver items from some of the most collectable and coveted jewelry artisans of the Modernist Movement. Among the important pieces being offered is a Margot de Taxco enamel, sterling silver zodiac pendant-necklace (lot 026, \$300-400), a Georg Jensen sterling silver Mobius ring (lot 041, \$350-450), a Jorgen Jensen glass, sterling silver pendant-necklace (lot 051, \$300-400), a hallmarked A.J. sterling silver necklace (lot 053, \$400-500), a John Lauritzen sterling silver bracelet (lot 052, \$400-500), a Jacob Hull sterling silver gilt bracelet (lot 045, \$400-500), a David Anderson enamel, sterling silver bracelet (lot 048, \$300-400), an Oystein Balle enamel, sterling silver gilt bracelet (lot 046, \$300-400) and a David Anderson whale tail necklace (lot 043, \$400-500).

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The Asian Department is delighted to offer in the Michaan's Auctions June Estate Sale ivory and jade carvings, porcelains, bronzes, glassware, scrolls and textiles among its many wares. Of particular interest is a lovely porcelain fish jar, beautifully painted by Deng Bishan (lot 288, \$400-600). Bishan, famously known as a master painter of fish and algae, came to prominence as a porcelain painter during the Republic period. He has expertly decorated the jar with several fish, associated with abundance in the Chinese culture, gracefully swimming among sea plants. A 'Bishan' seal mark completes the piece, which stands approximately 8 ¾ inches tall.

The Furniture and Decorative Arts Department is highlighting two memorable pieces of yore among its fine selection of silver, rugs and carpets, glassware, porcelains, figurines and American and European furniture in the Michaan's Auctions June Estate Sale. The first is a highly collectable inkwell featuring a bulldog with two pups, sure to be a delightful addition to any decorative collection (lot 530, \$3,000-4,000). The patinated bronze inkwell was manufactured in Austria and exhibits the high quality bronze craftsmanship the region is famous for. The styling of this piece is especially unique in using the animal motif, giving it a charming aesthetic and feel.

Heralding back to a simpler time is lot 577, the Mechanical Man Inc. hunter mannequin with crying baby (\$1,200-1,500). These mannequins are so well crafted and pleasing to the eye because they were actually created from miniature models to be used as a form of entertainment. People would marvel at their likeness and as a result they were often used in advertisements, grabbing people's attention at the mere sight of them. This particular mannequin is a copy of an original period style from the first quarter, 20th century and measures 41 inches in height. Sought after in today's collectables market, these mannequins have found a niche audience all their own.

From a private art collector in Carmel, CA come two extremely different, yet equally striking, works of fine art to the Michaan's Auctions June Estate Sale. The first offering is Study for Waves #2 by intriguing Japanese American artist Masami Teraoka (lot 734, \$300-500). The thought-provoking and internationally revered Teraoka often uses traditional Japanese art methods and images mixed with contemporary objects and issues as a social commentary on modern culture. The fine lithograph depicting a turbulent ocean scene is from an edition of 20 signed and numbered copies.

In addition is Tulips in a Milk Carton by Paul Wonner (1920-2008). Considered a top California artist, Wonner was a leading figure associated with the Bay Area Figurative Movement. He is perhaps best known for his still-life paintings done in a highly realistic style, using strong light and shade similar to

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16th century Flemish still-life paintings. The richly colored lithograph is numbered 2/60 and is in wonderful condition, offered as lot 665 (\$500-800).

Collector interest should be substantial for Tomales Point by Ray Strong (1905-2006). Regarded as one of the last of a generation of master California landscape painters, Strong created the tranquil hillside scene in serenely soft and muted tones. In a private family estate since 1938, the oil on board is in very good condition and is being offered as lot 632 (\$2,500-3,500).

About Michaan's Auctions

Michaan's Auctions is a leading full service auction house on the West Coast. Specializing in the appraisals and sale of antiques and fine art, Michaan's has specialists in the fields of Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary Art, European and American Paintings and Prints, Books and Manuscripts, Jewelry, Asian Works of Art and Ethnographic Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year attracting a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the world. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California and the Bay Area's lowest buyers premium Michaan's offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to preview and bid on many unique and desirable property. Some of these pieces realized world record prices. In 2005 A.D.M. Cooper's oil painting, Three Graces 1915, sold for a record \$21,060 and an Eduard Gaertner oil, German City Street Scene 1831, sold for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on its ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with its "no risk consignment policy" free of hidden fees and charges. Michaan's specialists are dedicated to staying current on the latest issues and developments in the market and are committed to providing personalized and professional attention throughout the entire auction process.