
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Michaan's Auctions
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PRESS RELEASE

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Auction:
Fine Art, Furniture, Decorative Arts and Jewelry
June 9, 2011 at 10am

Previews:
June 3 – 5 and by appointment

Location:
Alameda, CA

EXTRAORDINARILY VAST SELECTION OF PROPERTY TO BE PRESENTED AT MICHAAN'S

Michaan's Auctions main gallery will be packed with unique and fabulous troves of furniture, sculptures, porcelain, fine jewelry and works of art, from the early 18th to 19th centuries, many with fascinating history and provenance. The highly anticipated Summer Auction will be held on Thursday June 9, 2011 with previews beginning Friday June 3 through June 5 by and by appointment.

The Fine Art Department is offering European art by Masters such as Picasso and Ingres, American floral still life pieces by Paul de Longpre and Martin Johnson Heed and contemporary sculptures by Filepe Castaneda, Warren Cheney, Al Farrow and Benny Bufano.

Les Danseurs au Hibou by Pablo Picasso is a superb impression of the large print in excellent condition depicting a night bacchanal with an owl, number 47 from an edition of 50. This extraordinarily rare linocut (Bloch 936; Baer 1256) was hand signed and numbered by Picasso in pencil and is being offered as lot 1034 (\$15,000-20,000).

Most active in a period when the art world was almost an exclusive enclave of male artists in the 1930's, Jessie Arms Botke (1883-1971) gained extraordinary recognition through a strong work ethic and a talent that flowered rather late in her painting career. Her predilection for white birds, namely pelicans, geese, ducks, cockatoos and white peacocks, inspired her to a high level of artistry. A fine example of this inspiration is

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White Peacocks in Angel's Trumpets (Brugmansia), an oil on canvas in very good condition being offered as lot 1081 (\$25,000-30,000).

Also available in the Fine Sale are striking bronzes by Al Farrow. Farrow is perhaps best locally known as the creator of the provocative Cathedral, made entirely from munitions. Cathedral is held in the permanent collection of the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco. He is also internationally acclaimed for skillfully combining defused guns and bullets to create small-scale shrines and temples. Icarus (lot 1052, \$10,000-15,000) and Daedalus (lot 1051, \$10,000-15,000) are two dramatic bronze sculptures in the sale by this notable contemporary California artist. In Greek mythology Daedalus was a skillful craftsman and artisan who created wax wings for his son Icarus who, ignoring instructions not to fly close to the sun, does so causing the wax to melt and thus fall to his death. Both are signed and dated from an edition limited to six signed and numbered copies with two artists proofs.

The Decorations section of this sale brings an impressive collection of European furniture, clocks, ceramics and decorative works of art from several private collectors. Among the highlighted lots is a unique Royal Vienna plaque of apotheosis of Homer. The octagonal, late 19th century plaque depicts the legendary ancient Greek literary great as a victorious warrior returning home from battle. Brandishing a helmet and spear, Homer is accompanied by an ethereal Diana, known as the goddess of the hunt and also worshipped in ancient Roman religion as a virgin goddess and emblem of chastity. The larger than life Diana is shown with her entourage of amorini surrounding her as well (lot 1180, \$8,000-12,000).

Perhaps considered the most remarkable antique clock in the sale is the George III lacquered, long case clock, offered as lot 1151 (\$3,000-5,000). Beautifully ornate, the clock renders a bucolic scene of a shepherd and shepherdess, jappanned with figures in landscapes. Depicted on the base is a gentleman hunter and lady with borders of continuous scroll ornamentation and vines with lion's heads. Signed Joseph Stephens, London.

Also included in the sale is a Biedermeier fruitwood baby grand piano. The mid-19th century piano is in prime condition, fitted with ivory keys and raised on ebonized tapering legs handsomely ornamented by a gilt frieze of anthemion leaves. Manufactured by Joseph and Adolf Gossi Baumbach Wein, the piano is a true collectors item for music aficionados and collectors alike (lot 1114, \$3,000-4,000).

Fine Jewelry presents a variety of standout lots. Designer fashion jewelry, period pieces, fine watches and a multitude of gemstones provide a well-rounded collection of jewelry, suiting the needs of an assortment of buyers.

A lot of particular interest is a pair of certified natural jadeite jade, diamond, 14k white gold earrings showcasing substantial oval jadeite cabochons accented by forty full-cut diamonds. The jade in these drop earrings are particularly exceptional, containing a rich green color and wonderful translucency (lot 1491, \$22,500-30,000).

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Also being offered is a Cartier Tonneau 18k rose gold Private Collection wristwatch. The House of Cartier created the streamlined Tonneau design in 1906. The watch integrates a movement in a thin, curved case considered by many to be a technical achievement. An original Cartier presentation jewel box, sleeve and papers accompany the expertly crafted watch, auctioned as lot 1462 (\$9,000-10,000).

Another noteworthy lot is a ruby, diamond and platinum Edwardian pendant-necklace. This highly wearable piece is elegantly crafted in the time period's fashion and exhibits gorgeous gemstones and workmanship. The stones are beautifully set in a fleur-de-lys style pendant that hangs elegantly on the neckline from a fine platinum chain (lot 1353, \$3,250-3,500).

For a full listing of upcoming auctions or to view a complete catalog, please visit www.michaans.com.

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, 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.

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