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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:  
Fine Asian Works of Art Auction  
December 11

Previews:  
November 30 – December 2  
December 7 – 8 and by appointment

Location:  
Michaan's Auctions  
2751 Todd Street  
Alameda, CA 94501  
www.michaans.com  
[info@michaans.com](mailto:info@michaans.com)

### **Rhinoceros Horn, Furnishings, Decorative Finery in Michaan's Asian Auction**

*December Fine Asian Works of Art Auction Debuts a Variety of Outstanding Property*

Michaan's Auctions is excited to have once again acquired an exceptionally carved rhinoceros horn libation cup (\$20,000-30,000). A larger rhinoceros horn cup was offered in the Fine Asian Works of Art Auction in June of this year, drawing international attention as well as a \$70,200 selling price. The cup for sale is anticipated to follow suit in the interest it will bring to the auction house, as the piece is a wonderful testament to the traditional art form. The cup is carved as an open magnolia blossom with carved chilong dragons, fruiting lychee branches and floral petals utilized as decorative motifs. The horn is dated to the 17th century and displays a beautifully rich, dark coffee brown hue as well. Similar examples of like-minded caliber are held in the Durham University Oriental Museum collection as well as in the Beijing Palace Museum collection.

Quality furniture pieces have consistently been a top performer in the current Asian art market. The category has a following amongst Asian art and furniture enthusiasts as well as decorators and antique collectors, providing a multidimensional buyer base. Highlighting the range of furniture pieces for sale are a large Ming style rosewood altar

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coffer and a zitan side table. The coffer was acquired in Beijing in the 1920s, remaining in the family through multiple generations. The piece is quite ornate, as intricately detailed carvings are crafted throughout the entire front. The concentrated carvings cover most of the space, as swirling dragons navigate their way through a continuous pattern of ruyi clouds. Brass hardware finishes the piece, that comes complete with working locks and a key (\$20,000-30,000).

A more compact piece of furniture is offered in a zitan side table at an auction estimate of \$20,000-30,000. The streamlined design of this table lets the true beauty of the zitan wood shine through. The piece displays coveted deep purple undertones characteristic of the prized hardwood. Zitan is presently on the verge of extinction and has been in short supply for thousands of years. As a result, only the imperial household was allowed to use zitan in China from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Zitan furniture's rarity has led most marketable pieces to museums or private collections, with the ability to command premium prices.

A jade carving of a water buffalo is not only a collectible piece of artistry, but a lot offered to benefit the needy in San Mateo County (\$8,000-12,000). The recumbent animal is simply carved with an attentive gaze. The natural qualities of the stone are immediately evident, wonderfully complimenting the overall look of the piece. The jade displays an even, milky, pale celadon color. Patches of russet inclusions are then scattered primarily amongst the lower portion of the body of the animal. The piece is being sold to benefit HIP Housing in San Mateo, California. For 40 years, HIP Housing has helped those in need find stable living accommodations through the various programs it provides. On average, HIP Housing aids over 4,500 people each year in San Mateo County.

A repousse gilt bronze figure of Amitayus is another fine decorative item for auction in the sale. Amitayus is a celestial Buddha, principle to a branch of Buddhism practiced primarily in East Asia. According to scripture, Amitayus' merits are infinite as they have resulted from his good deeds over past lives as a bodhisattva named Dharmakara. Amitayus' alias "Amitabha" is translatable as "Infinite Light," therefore he is often revered as "The Buddha of Infinite Light." The figure is dated to the 18th century and features a serene Amitayus seated in dhyanasana upon a double lotus base. He appears quite royal, furnishing a tiered crown and layers of beaded jewelry upon his flowing dhoti and draping sash. The excellent craftsmanship of the period is clear in the detailed work evident on the figure (\$15,000-20,000).

For more information on Michaan's winter fine auctions, including the Asian offerings on December the 17th, please visit us on the web at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com) or call the front desk at (510) 740-0220. Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

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## **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.

For a full listing of upcoming auctions or to view a complete catalog, please visit [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com).