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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRESS RELEASE!

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### Auction:

#### **19th & 20th Century American & European Fine Art**

*Featuring Paintings, Sculptures, Prints, Photography & Works on Paper*

June 9 at 10am

### Previews:

June 1 -3, 8-9

### Location:

Michaan's Auctions  
2751 Todd Street  
Alameda, CA 94501  
www.michaans.com  
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#### **19th & 20th Century American & European Fine Art**

*Featuring Paintings, Sculptures, Prints, Photography & Works on Paper*

Michaan's Auctions June Fine Sale features superior works of art from many notable American and European masters of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Property was primarily acquired from estates, private collections and institutions throughout the West Coast. The selection of lots includes oil paintings, prints, sculptures and works on paper, highlighted by several outstanding pieces in a variety of categories.

American artists comprise over half of the featured lots in the sale. An important and desirable work of art is found in a rare piece by William Herbert "Buck" Dunton. The oil painting titled "The Trail Boss (Settlers & Seeds, Civilization's Forerunners)" is estimated at \$200,000-300,000. "The Trail Boss" was commissioned by the D.M. Ferry Seed Company in 1910 who hired Dunton to create an iconic image that encapsulated the totality of what it meant to migrate to the west. The painting depicts the Trail Boss, or wagon train foreman, traveling on horseback through a western plain with covered wagons in tow. The Trail Boss cradles what appears to be a Winchester model 1866 rifle in his lap, keenly on the lookout for the next threat to his charges. Dunton's unique style of painting in bold, patterned brushstrokes of rich color is as distinctive as his

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themes of the Old West. In demand by high-end collectors as well as those seeking Western genre pieces, Dunton's works are widely and critically acclaimed with numerous public institutions and museums holding his best work.

Also available is Hermann Herzog's "Farallon Islands, Pacific Coast." The tranquil oil is lovely in its understated subtlety, utilizing muted tones in a realist style. Seabirds in flight dot the ocean scene of crashing waves, measuring 22 by 29 inches (\$20,000-30,000).

In striking contrast is Gilbert Gaul's "Unexpected Encounter." The dramatic winter scene depicts a High Sierra cowboy upon horseback unknowingly coming across three wolves (\$20,000-30,000). Gaul received many prestigious recognitions over the span of his career. In 1882 he was the youngest person to be elected a full academician at the National Academy. He was also awarded medals by the American Art Association, the Paris Exposition, the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the Buffalo Exposition.

Frederick Ferdinand Schafer's popularity has sky rocketed in recent years and collector interest continues to grow for the quintessential California nature artist. His pieces are known to bring \$125,000 at auction and high hopes are held for landscape painting "Morning on Feather River, California" (\$6,000-9,000). A local artist, Schafer had studios in San Francisco and homes in Alameda and Oakland, where he died in 1927.

Simplistic in its beauty is William John Whittemore's "John Dickerson Farm, 1901" (\$4,000-6,000). The rural scene of barns amongst a country landscape is played out in shades of rust tones, conveying a crisp, autumn feel to the piece. Whittemore's painting career spanned an impressive sixty-five years. He also studied under renowned teacher J.J. Benjamin Constant and Jules Joseph Le Febrve at the Academie Julian.

Another wonderfully understated oil is George Frederick Bensell's "The Watering Hole" (\$3,000-5,000). The landscape scene is painted in shades of sepia and centers naturally formed rocks scattered amongst a declining forest. A misty mountain surrounded by billowing clouds complete the background of the painting. Bensell was well-known for commissioning portraits, landscapes, historical and "poetical genre" subjects for his wealthy clientele. He is also recognized as a cofounder of the Philadelphia Sketch Club, one of America's oldest existing artists' groups.

Notable offerings from international artists compose many Fine Sale lots as well. From Spanish painter Emilio Grau Sala is the lively "Paddock en Normandie." The late 1950s, early 1960s modernism race horse scene is in absolutely pristine condition. Bought from a gallery, it then remained in a private family estate for two generations. The vibrant oil depicts horse race revelers consorting with a jockey as additional jockeys upon horses and patrons mill about the scene. The vivacious brush strokes and vibrant

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colors bring a palpable energy to the painting; a piece sure to draw strong collector interest (\$18,000-26,000).

Wolf von dem Bussche began his career as a painter, but despite the positive response to his work he was never completely fulfilled by the medium. As a result, he made the transition to photography. His sensibilities as a painter remained evident in his photographs as he continued to address thematic issues that interested him in his former career. The German artist is perhaps best known for his images of the World Trade Center Towers in New York City. Michaan's is pleased to have a portfolio of twelve silver gelatin prints depicting the World Trade Center and Washington Square. The collection provides a reflective tribute to some of von dem Bussche's most compelling work (\$10,000-15,000).

French artist Jehan Georges Vibert's paintings held quite a prominent following during his career. John Jacob Astor IV and William Vanderbilt included his pieces in their collections and heiress May Louise Maytag amassed a large amount of his paintings on behalf of the then Bishop of Miami, Coleman Carroll. The Maytag accumulation was eventually donated to St. John Vianney College in Miami. "The Cardinal," depicts a Roman Catholic figure on a garden stroll. The lot includes an informative article of Vibert written by Bill Rau from the "Fine Art Connoisseur," April 2011 (\$15,000-25,000).

Another highlight from a Parisian artist lies in Henri Joseph Harpignies' "Washing the Laundry" (\$6,000-9,000). The realist painting portrays two hand maidens washing laundry in a bucolic lake setting. Harpignies experienced some of his greatest successes at the Salon as a regular exhibitor and award winner. He also completed the decorative panel the Vallée d'Egérie for the Paris Opéra, shown at the Salon of 1870.

A founder of the Artists' Association of New Orleans, Bror Anders Wikstrom was a Swedish artist who was at the forefront of the New Orleans art scene in the late 19th century. His offering, "Florida Marsh," depicts grand cypress trees growing in a shaded swamp (\$4,000-6,000). His delicate use of light and easy brush strokes make the piece come to life in quite an inspiring way.

The illustrated auction catalog will be online for review at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com). The sale will be held on Saturday, June 9th, 2012 with bidding to commence at 10 a.m. Previews begin on June 1st and continue until the day of sale. For more information please visit our website or call the front desk at (510) 740-0220.

## **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

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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).