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Michaan's Auctions
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PRESS RELEASE

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Auction:

Treasures of Louis C. Tiffany from the Garden Museum, Japan
Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 1pm

Location:

Alameda, CA

Japan's World Famous Garden Museum's Major Tiffany and Art Nouveau Collections are Sold

Michaan's Auctions of Alameda, California is proud to announce the acquisition of the Garden Museum Collection.

The Garden Museum Collection came to fruition due in large part to the special partnership of Mr. Takeo Horiuchi and Mr. Alastair Duncan. Mr. Horiuchi was at once the founder and director of the Louis C. Tiffany Garden Museum. Mr. Alastair Duncan is the world's foremost authority on Art Nouveau artworks and Art Deco, having served as Senior Vice President of Christie's Art Nouveau and Art Deco Department as well as authoring dozens of books on the decorative arts of the era. In 1992 Mr. Horiuchi attended a travelling exhibition in Japan that Duncan had curated, "The Masterworks of Louis Comfort Tiffany". Mr. Horiuchi was impressed with Duncan's level of knowledge and took him on a personal tour of his Tiffany Studios accumulation at the time. Duncan recalls being in awe as he was led to storage room after storage room of outstanding Tiffany Studios pieces, recalling one room with a "crush of Tiffany lamps." A working relationship developed with Duncan becoming Horiuchi's trusted advisor, helping him to seek out and acquire the most coveted Tiffany selections both at auction and from private collections. If Duncan found a masterpiece, Horiuchi became relentless in his pursuit to acquire it. Together they traveled throughout the world, scouting and obtaining the most exceptional Tiffany and Art

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Nouveau pieces available. Duncan's expertise and Horiuchi's determination proved to be a winning combination in amassing what became the finest Tiffany Studios and Art Nouveau collection in existence; The Louis C. Tiffany Garden Museum Collection.

When Mr. Horiuchi decided to sell the collection, Mr. Duncan notified his longtime friend and business associate, Allen Michaan. Mr. Michaan quickly assembled a group of private investors to make the transaction possible, reflecting that, "This acquisition, which is the largest single transaction to ever occur in the world of decorative arts, elevates Michaan's Auctions from a well known, fast growing national player on the antiques and art scene to an entirely new international level. I am very proud and excited that Michaan's Auctions is at the center of such a history-making event and that we will be able to offer many of these spectacular works of art at our venue."

Mr. Horiuchi opened the doors to his first Tiffany museum in Nagoya, Japan, in October, 1994. He became concerned about the ever-present threat of earthquakes in the city and soon began a search for an alternate locale, eventually settling on the town of Matsue on the Sea of Japan, where he built a museum in which to house his unparalleled collection. What set the museum's treasures apart from many others lay in its quality and comprehensiveness; every artistic discipline produced by Tiffany Studios was represented, with the highest artistic level displayed in each category. Horiuchi's unwavering passion for Tiffany's works of art translated into a level of collecting excellence never before seen. He expressed his ideals and vision for the collection in the massive 2004 publication, *Louis C. Tiffany: The Garden Museum Collection*, by Alastair Duncan. He closed the museum in Matsue several years later and was preparing to construct a new home for his collections at the base of Mount Fuji as he had decided to relocate it to a location that would generate more visitors.

Following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that led to the meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear plant on 3rd March, 2011, the Japanese government published its seismology forecast for future earthquakes in the island nation, predicting a series of earthquakes within the immediate future, three in the region near Mount Fuji. Faced thus with the overwhelming evidence of a catastrophic earthquake that would destroy his beloved glass collection, Mr. Horiuchi made the magnanimous decision to forgo his passion and to have his collection depart his native shores for safety elsewhere. A supremely selfless sacrifice, certainly, and one that no-one familiar with his uncompromising pursuit through the years of Tiffany's masterworks could have anticipated. The search for a worthy successor was therefore begun, terminating with the purchase of the collection earlier this year by Mr. Michaan's Group.

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That prized artworks from the Louis C. Tiffany Garden Museum collection are returning to the marketplace will be met with frenzied anticipation as collectors ready themselves to compete at auction for such an array of treasures thought never again to become available. The Horiuchi provenance alone will ensure the importance of every work for time immemorial.

Michaan's Auctions is honored to present a selection of remarkable Tiffany Studios artworks from The Garden Museum Collection on Saturday, November 17th, 2012, in Alameda, California. This grouping from the finest Tiffany collection ever assembled will account for approximately 140 lots including lamps, windows, vases, paintings, enamels and mosaics, providing a unique opportunity for the most discriminating museums and collectors to share in Mr. Horiuchi's proud legacy. The selection of non Tiffany Paintings from the museum will be offered in the Fine Art Auction on December 1 at Michaan's Auctions.

Michaan's Auctions looks forward to collaborating with Sotheby's Paris to offer the French Art Nouveau collection from The Louis C. Tiffany Garden Museum in February 2013. Bidders worldwide will now have the opportunity to buy some of the finest Art Nouveau masterworks from this acclaimed collection. Highlights include some of the most important pieces of Gallé furniture ever created as well as numerous objects by René Lalique, Louis Majorelle and their contemporary artists exhibited at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle and other international exhibitions of that period.

For more information on the Treasures of Louis C. Tiffany from the Garden Museum, Japan auction please call (510) 740-0220 or visit our website at www.michaans.com. Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, California 94501.

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

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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.