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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:  
Arts & Crafts  
October 11, 1pm (PST)

Previews:  
October 4 – 6

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

### **October 11, 2013 Marks Michaan's First Arts & Crafts Auction**

Michaan's presents an exciting new addition to its auction lineup with an October Arts and Crafts Auction. The sale will encompass furniture, artwork, lighting, decorative objects, rugs and textiles in an over 400 lot sale. Prominent manufacturer names, including but not limited to, Stickley, Roycroft, Limbert, Arequipa, Shreve & Co., Tiffany Studios and Caledonia Studio will be included. Collections of American art pottery are also handsomely represented, with over 30 available lots from Rookwood, over 50 from Roseville and over 10 from Weller. Multiple offerings will also be presented from Grueby, Newcomb and Fulper amongst a varied catalog of American pottery artists.

Perhaps the most iconic piece of the sale is a Forbes chair, to be offered as lot 121 at an estimate of \$3,000-5,000. The chair is considered to be the first Arts and Crafts furniture piece made in the United States. It is also understood to have spawned the Arts and Crafts movement as we know it. The prototype for the Forbes chair was a collaboration of at least six artists including Joseph Worchester, A.J. Forbes, A.C. Schweinfurth and Bernard Maybeck. Commissioned for the Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco, the simple, handmade maple chairs showcase rush seats and flared feet. Manufacturer A.J. Forbes produced the first of the chairs in 1894 for the church. It

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would become a defining piece for all Mission style furniture to follow, including the well-known designs of Gustav Stickley and many others.

The estate of Mr. Francis Marion Smith (1846-1931) brings an Arthur Mathews sheet music cabinet to auction (lot 79, \$180,000-200,000). Smith was a California and Nevada entrepreneur who discovered borax, thus establishing the Pacific Coast Borax Company. Smith's luxurious Oakland estate, known as Arbor Villa, was featured in The Art of Arthur and Lucia Mathews, where the music cabinet was documented in the Drawing Room. The cabinet features three hand painted panels of ladies enjoying various leisure activities. The panels are flanked by a pair of carved front facing angels, further accented by scroll work. The cabinet's main compartment opens to reveal music sheet storage shelves, with a single pull out drawer directly below. Standing upon four raised feet each measuring approximately 10 1/2 inches in height, the entire cabinet measures approximately 39 1/2 inches in height. The piece remains in excellent condition along with its original patina.

Another exceptional furniture lot in the sale is found in a Maybeck Library table (lot 106, \$15,000-18,000). Designed by architect Bernard Maybeck for Andrew Lawson in 1907, the table has descended through the family from the Andrew Lawson House in Berkeley, California. Maybeck designed very few furniture pieces in his career, making them extremely rare and important as well as scarcely available to the public at large. This white oak table features signature Maybeck design elements such as a slot dovetail table top and tapered legs with Mackmurdo feet. The design is both simple and elegant, with arguably perfect proportions measuring approximately 66 x 42 x 30 inches. The top has been expertly repaired and refinished, seamlessly matching the piece's original base and drawer.

A remarkable Dirk van Erp and Thomas Gotham copper table lamp highlights the offered lighting (lot 123, \$17,000-20,000). The van Erp designed copper accents feature repeating cut-out oak tree motif decorations upon the approximate 19 inch diameter mica shade. Yet another copper oak tree cut-out is prominently displayed as the shade's finial. The lamp's porcelain body is a brown glazed Thomas Gotham creation, beautifully decorated by cascading, flowering pale pink crystals. The entire piece sits upon a hammered copper base, creating a standing height measurement of approximately 28 inches. The lamp was commissioned for renowned San Francisco architect Charles F. Strothoff in 1923, remaining by descent through the family to the present owner.

The illustrated auction catalog will be available for review at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com). Previews open at Michaan's Auctions on October 4th to the 6th as well as on the 11th, the day of sale. Bidding will commence at 10 a.m. in Michaan's Auctions Main Gallery. For general information please call (510) 740-0200 ext. 0 or e-mail [info@michaans.com](mailto:info@michaans.com).

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Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 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 and Asian Works of 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).