

Michaan's Auctions
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PRESS RELEASE

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Auction:
Estate Auction
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry
December 2 at 10am

Previews: November 30 – December 2

**Michaan's Final Estate Auction of 2012 Holds Variety of Treasures
Edward August Bell still life, jade and serpentine carving artistry,
unique silver flatware collection highlight December estate auction**

The Fine Art Department features American artist Edward August Bell's (1862-1953) "Still Life with Oranges & Cherries" in the December estate auction. Bell is most readily known for his elegant and idealized portraits of women, but is also recognized for his genre, interior and still life works. Bell was a celebrated artist and an influential figure in the Peconic Art Colony, located on the North Fork of Long Island. The oil painting for auction is a vibrant and rich depiction of groupings of lush fruits surrounding the base of a graceful turquoise vase with a trellising floral design. The painting measures 20 x 16 inches and is signed in the lower right corner "E. A. Bell" (lot 116, \$3,000-5,000).

Other noteworthy American art works available in the sale include Ray Strong's "San Miguel Hills, 1965" which was acquired directly from the artist (lot 088, \$2,000-2,500), Theodore Morrow Criley's "Tabletop Still Life" (lot 091, \$2,000-3,000) and Michael David Ward's "Second Star to the Right, 1992" (lot 166, \$3,500-4,500). Highlights from the European selection include Louis Justin Laurent Icart's "Coursing III, 1930" (lot 052, \$1,500-2,500), Thomas Maillard's "Belgian Electric" (lot 017, \$1,500-3,000) and Franz Rederer's tribute to his wife in "Portrait of Margaritte, 1944" (lot 005, \$2,000-4,000).

The Jewelry Department presents a 260 lot sale featuring a myriad of gemstone pieces, numerous certified jades and over 30 lots each of coral and pearl offerings. Impressive diamond pieces in the auction are seen in a diamond and platinum ring featuring a lovely old European-cut stone set in a platinum mounting (lot 421, \$900-1,200) and a diamond and 14 karat white gold covered ladies wristwatch (lot 431, \$800-1,200). Reflecting the breadth of property available from the department is a handsome

14 karat yellow gold and wood presentation cane (lot 449, \$400-600) as well as a beautifully carved meerschaum cameo that doubles as a brooch or pendant (lot 219, \$350-550).

A standout piece found in the sale lies in a jade, diamond, 18 karat white gold and platinum necklace (lot 392, \$800-1,200). The jade plaque measures approximately 30 x 20 x 2 millimeters and bears a delicate green hue. Stylized carvings of a perched bird among flora and fauna decorate both sides of the piece. The plaque is then set in a diamond accented, 18 karat white gold linked bail of geometric form. The pendant hangs from a delicate platinum, open link 16 inch chain, subtly complimenting the overall look. The necklace is accompanied by an original, leather bound box, denoting "Pentington & Batty, Diamond Merchants, Liverpool & Manchester" on its interior.

Pieces of Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Tibetan origins will be a part of the Asian Department's offerings in December. Scholar's objects, scrolls, furniture, statuettes, jade carvings and porcelains will be amongst the represented works of art in the 130 plus lot sale. Notable are decorative vases of various forms, including a creamy turquoise-blue crackle glazed stoneware vase of moonflask form (lot 574, \$700-900), a landscape gilt painted porcelain vase bearing a Qianlong six character mark (lot 552, \$450-650), an enamel painted porcelain vase depicting village fishermen (lot 564, \$700-900) and a pear shape vase featuring a dragon and phoenix upon a bed of peony blossoms in an iron red hue (lot 548, \$1,200-1,800).

Highlighting the sale's Asian decorative objects is a hardwood table screen with a hardstone embellished serpentine plaque (lot 507, \$1,000-1,500). Detailed carving workmanship is clearly seen throughout the piece, in both wood and stone alike. A delicate woodwork pattern borders the serpentine stone inset nature scene, complimenting it beautifully. The plaque's three-dimensional carvings center a long tail bird perched on a blossoming peony tree. Rock formations, additional foliage and a soaring butterfly complete the scene, wonderfully bringing it to life.

Period furniture and decorations features over 270 lots primarily composed of 19th and 20th century European and American pieces. However, a fine selection of international carpets and rugs is highlighted by substantial Persian carpets. Pieces include a Kashan carpet of dense weave bearing an intricate design in lovely tones of red and blue (lot 747, \$3,000-5,000), a Kerman carpet measuring an approximate 14 x 21 feet (lot 746, \$2,000-3,000) and a vibrant floral motif Sarouk corridor carpet, also offered at an estimate of \$2,000-3,000 (lot 815).

Categorically, silver is often a top performer at auction and this month's selection also appears to be quite promising. Available in the sale are lots from Tiffany & Co. (lot 658, lot 648, lot 662), Gorham lot 653, lot 660, lot 644) and Georg Jensen (lot 696). A collection of seven silver lots of Scandinavian origins from flatware to cups will also be sold, with estimates ranging from \$200 to \$800.

Quite unique is a mid-19th century suite of Schulz & Fisher sterling flatware in the Cleopatra pattern (lot 643, \$6,000-8,000). The suite is in excellent condition, originally

given as a wedding present. The pieces are presented in a custom made retail box with Aesthetic Movement silver embellishments to the exterior. The interior is lined, complete with a decorative chenille flower. A lower drawer pulls out to reveal spoon sets, with the entire collection's silver weight measuring 92.8 troy ounces.

The illustrated auction catalog will be on-line for review at www.michaans.com. Previews open at Michaan's Auctions on November 30th until December 2nd, the day of sale. For more information please visit our website or call the front desk at (510) 740-0220. 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. Some of Michaan's specialty departments include Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary, European and American Paintings and Prints, Books and Manuscripts, Jewelry, Asian Works of Art and Ethnographic Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year that attract a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the World. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California, Michaan's offers buyers and sellers the ability to preview and bid on many unique and desirable pieces. Some of these pieces garnered world record prices. In 2005, a world record price was achieved for an A.D.M Cooper, The Three Graces 1915, sold at auction for \$21,060 as well as a Eduard Gaertner, German City Street Scene 1831, sold at auction for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on its ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with the "no risk consignment policy", a policy that sets them apart from other auction houses. Michaan's team of 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.