

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Location:
Michaan's Auctions
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Auction:
Fine Asian Works of Art
December 15, 10am (PST)

Previews:
November 28 – December 1,
December 13 - 15
Day of Sale and by appointment

**Painting Masters, Coveted Decorative Objects in
Michaan's Fine Asian Works of Art Auction**

Michaan's will close 2013 with its Fine Asian Works of Art auction. The over 300 lot sale will be held on December 15th and will present Chinese, Tibetan and Japanese works of art. Virtually every major collecting category will be present, including but not limited to, decorative items, scholar's objects, paintings, scrolls, furniture, bronzes, silver and carved jades and corals. Numerous private collection offerings will also provide exceptional and exciting bidding opportunities from a range of collector worthy genres.

Asian art works are highlighted by classic pieces from two Chinese painting masters. Qi Baishi's (1864-1957) "Rabbits Under Osmanthus Tree (Tian Xiang)" is a quintessential piece from the artist, lauded for his whimsical and playful watercolor works (lot 5243, \$50,000-70,000). A pair of delightful rabbits, one black and one white, huddle behind a blossoming, trellising Osmanthus branch. The painting was acquired directly from the artist in Beijing in 1947 and it has remained within the same private family collection since. A Baishi painting titled "Eagle Standing on Pine Tree" set a record selling price of \$65.5 million in 2011, becoming one of the highest selling paintings ever sold at auction.

Zhang Daqian's "Bamboo" is a skillful brush painting, portrayed by one of the art forms most revered names (lot 5245, \$40,000-60,000). The ink and color on paper depiction of new bamboo shoots is lively and dynamic, with precision brushwork of the perfect balance between control and spontaneity. The variation of the ink's intensity provides a wonderful sense of depth and nuance as well, from one of the most internationally celebrated Chinese artists of the 20th century.

The rarity and desirability of rhinoceros horn carvings continues to intrigue collectors, progressively reaching new levels of value and importance. Fine rhino horn carvings are estimated at a total number of less than 4,000 worldwide, making them continually desirable in the world market. An intricately carved cup will be sold as lot 5199, with a detailed carving of a tree bearing grape vines and Buddha's hand citrons (\$40,000-60,000). The 19th century horn cup has a desirable and luminous light honey brown tone and remains in wonderful condition. An accompanying rhino horn libation cup of a magnolia blossom motif will be sold as lot 5198 at an auction estimate of \$20,000-30,000.

Representing fine decorative items in the sale is a pair of large gilt-silver and enameled lanterns, each measuring approximately 30 1/4 inches in height (lot 5170, \$30,000-50,000). The lantern's filigreed body holds six mythical scenes of miniature applied enamel decorations, topped by an elevated tier of six nature scenes. Detailed dragon heads perch upon each corner of the upper tier with graduating, decorative spheres descending from each upon a linked chain.

A jadeite lotus motif pendant is a fine example of quality carved jade in the sale (lot 5064, \$10,000-15,000). The rounded rectangular stone is delicately carved with a branch of openwork lotus leaves and pods housing a small toad. The natural jadeite jade is of a lovely mottled apple-green color and measures approximately 1 15/16 inches in length. The piece is accompanied by a Gemological Institute of America certificate stating its natural origins as well as its classification as "A jade."

Carved corals also present pieces of excellence in the auction, as seen in a large carving listed as lot 5200 (\$7,000-9,000). The 19th century figural group centers Guanyin flanked by her two attendants. Carvings of various elements of nature support and surround the trio, held by an intricately carved, fitted, pierced stand. Fine carving workmanship coupled with unique form and composition make the piece quite an unusual and artistic find.

Many choice collection offerings will be presented in the auction as well. Porcelain plaques are seen in 11 lots, with depictions of Li Bai, Zhang Guo, Star Gods and vertical formats as some of the offered motifs. An outstanding lot is found in a set of 12 famille rose porcelain plaques, inset into four wood hanging panels with decorative bronze hangers (lot 5269, \$4,000-6,000). The eight square and four circular plaques depict both perched and flying birds, as well as additional design influences such as blossoming flowers and a lone spider upon a web.

Finely embroidered robes of satin and silk are also available, with a court robe and a children's dragon robe up for sale. Also in the auction is an assortment of over a dozen lots of birdcages and their accessories from a private Bay Area collection. Design nuances feature elements such as black lacquer, jadeite and ivory handles, a square form, a tear drop form frame, a hexagonal form and a double birdcage form as well as porcelain, wood, bamboo, ivory and bone fixtures. Estimates range from a low of \$800 to a high of \$5,000 for the pieces. Ivory carvings come in a multitude of art works, including but not limited to, a brush pot, vases, phoenix forms, horse forms, a lotus group, a landscape scene, a scholar figure, female and male warrior figures and a depiction of Guandi.

Private collection offerings in the auction hold over 40 lots of superb quality. Selections from Phineus Schwartz hold the most abundant private collection pieces in the auction. Lots include bronze and gilt-bronze figures, a bronze 'lotus' mandala, Tibetan origin pieces, Chinese export silver and decorative items. Esteemed Beijing (Peking) glassworks from the Sandford and Ina Gadiant Collection include vibrant, world renowned pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries. Offerings encompass decorative objects from the Qing dynasty as well as the Qianlong and Guangxu periods. The Gadiants' collected fine pieces for over four decades with their glassworks being exhibited both nationally and internationally in institutions such as the Corning Museum of Glass in New York and the Lentz Center for Asian Culture at the University of Nebraska.

The private collection to offer the widest variety of pieces categorically is the Reynold Tom Collection. Mr. Tom accumulated his glorious grouping of Asian decorative items over the span of approximately thirty years throughout his travels to Asia. During this time he amassed the finest in ivory and stone carvings, scrolls, furniture, porcelains, figures and literature. Chinese silk fan paintings from the estate collection have been quite successful at Michaan's, as a previous offering in June of 2013 saw a 100% sell-through. Two groups of circular fan paintings by various artists will be made available to bidders in the upcoming sale as well (lot 5241, \$2,500-3,500 and lot 5242, \$2,000-3,000). Textiles from the collection include a high-end example of an embroidered silk dragon robe (lot 5222, \$4,000-6,000) as well as five silk textile panels (lot 5214, \$1,500-2,000). Porcelains include a large Doucai charger (lot 5264, \$3,000-5,000), a fine famille rose jardiniere (lot 5272, \$3,000-5,000) and a pair of famille rose lidded food containers (lot 5294, \$2,000-3,000). A trio of lots of beautifully painted famille rose vases and 6 lots of decorative planters will also be made available to bidders in the December sale.

The illustrated catalog will be posted online at www.michaans.com when it becomes available. Previews open at Michaan's Auctions on November the 29th to December the 9th, including December 15th, the day of sale. For general information please call (510) 740-0220 ext. 0 or e-mail info@michaans.com. 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.