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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Design Auction  
April 6, 2013 at 1pm

Previews:  
April 5 - 6

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

### **Modern at Michaan's**

Michaan's follow-up 20<sup>th</sup> Century Design sale brings exciting offerings of furniture and decoration to auction on April 6, 2013. Over 175 lots will comprise the sale, with featured artisans such as Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson and Peter Hvidt. The available range of pieces is quite varied, providing a broad catalog of modern lots to the bidding public. Wonderful examples reflecting this range are seen in the following auction highlights, personally selected by Michaan's 20th Century Design Specialist, Greg Favors.

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy collections in the sale lies in over 15 lots of Joseph Eichler furniture. The pieces are part of an Eichler family estate collection and reflect his career as well as the classic Eichler style. Featured from the collection are a CSS wall unit (lot 1213A, \$3,500-3,750) and an Omni shelving unit (lot 1100, \$750-850). Both pieces were once furnishings in a model Eichler home and their open designs mirror Eichler's architectural sensibilities. Modern collectors should find great interest in the pieces as their rarity, signature style, functionality, practicality and wonderful condition are evident.

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Another substantial furniture grouping in the auction is found in 7 lots of George Nakashima pieces. Estimates are conservative for the furniture, whose desirable designer continues to command premium prices in the marketplace. Michaan's Auctions will present a free edge desk in black walnut (lot 1126, \$7,500-8,500), a pair of grass seat foot stools (lot 1128, \$2,000-2,500), a free edge side table (lot 1131, \$2,000-2,250), a square table in black walnut (lot 1130, \$2,000-2,250), a bar stool (lot 1129, \$1,500-1,800) and a Sundra occasional table by Widdicomb (lot 1159, \$800-1,200) from the designer in April.

A free form sofa from modern furniture designer Vladimir Kagan makes an appearance in the auction as well (lot 1132, \$3,750-4,250). Reupholstered in teal microfiber, the sofa of fluid design measures an approximate 88 inches in length, 43 inches in depth and 15 inches in height. The New York Times recognized the modern furniture great's influence on the genre, noting, "Vladimir Kagan is one of the most important furniture designers of the 20th century. Furniture designed by him in the forties, fifties and sixties have become icons of Modernity and an obligatory reference to every designer. He is the creative grandfather of a whole new generation of designers." Examples of Kagan's work are found in the V&A London, the Vitra Design Museum and the Die Neue Sammlung in Germany as well as in some of the most recognized museums in the United States.

Yet another wonderful furniture piece is found in lot 1258, a Harvey Propper rosewood chest (\$1,800-2,250). The chest is a prime example of his work, as it is understated and modern with form and function taking precedence. Numerous shelves and drawers are condensed into the interior, making the piece quite a practical storage unit as well. The use of bookmatched Brazilian rosewood is another rare and coveted element of the chest. The harvesting of Brazilian rosewood has been extremely controlled for over a decade, making it quite an expensive and sought after material.

Reflecting modern design's playful and distinctive side is a multicolored ball clock by George Nelson for Howard Miller (lot 1201, \$500-700). Hour markers are fashioned by skewered, painted wooden balls in powder blue, coral, olive green and black. Animated hour and minute hands compliment the overall look, set upon a simple white, round face. Jovial modern pieces such as this ball clock helped George Nelson make his mark at the Herman Miller furniture company, as he produced some of the 20th century's most iconic modernist furniture pieces.

Michaan's Modern Furniture and Decorations Auction will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013 with previews beginning on March the 29th and continuing until the day of sale. The illustrated online catalog will be available for review at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com). For general information please call (510) 740-0220 ext. 0 or e-mail [info@michaans.com](mailto:info@michaans.com). Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

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## **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 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).