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PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
May Estate Auction
Featuring fine art, decorative arts and jewelry
Sunday May 4, 10am (PST)

Previews:
May 2 - 4

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
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East/West Abstract Master Zao Wou-Ki Work at Michaan's in May

Fine artworks of American and European origins will be available in over 100 lots in a sale abounding with paintings, works on paper and prints. A fluid abstract Zao Wou-Ki (1920-2013) color etching acquired from a Bay Area corporate firm collection is bound to entice both Eastern and Western bidders alike (lot 090, \$2,000-3,000). The Chinese-French artist was regarded as one of the most successful Chinese painters during his lifetime. Zao was a member of the esteemed Académie des Beaux-Arts and his early exhibitions were praised by both Joan Miró and Picasso. Former French president and friend Jacques Chirac also appointed Zao to the Legion of Honor in 2006, a bestowment understood as the nation's highest artistic recognition. His canvases are well-known for powerful modernist lines in harmony with a perspective that mirrors traditional Chinese landscape paintings. This formidable combination of merging both Eastern and Western aesthetics in the abstract painting realm helped shape avant-garde art in postwar Europe. His style also attracted a wealthy Asian following, solidifying him as one of the most commercially successful living artists at the time in both hemispheres. Since 2011, sales of his paintings have totaled

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approximately \$90 million USD. Sotheby's Beijing Art Week of December 2013 ended with a record set by Zao's "Abstraction" from The Collection of The Art Institute of Chicago, which sold for \$14,718,771.

The month of May brings over 270 jewelry lots to auction, with a range of interesting and collectible conversation pieces to be made available to bidders. A delightful Tiffany & Co. brooch will be sold as lot 262, fashioned as a sea crab made of lapis lazuli, diamonds and 18 karat yellow gold (\$600-900). Also of note is a 14 karat yellow gold and coral bracelet of seven oval cabochons, each measuring approximately 10 by 8 millimeters (lot 281, \$600-800). Each cabochon is interspaced by eight stylized figure eight decorations, with the remainder of the hinged bangle mounting featuring continual scroll work. An abstract sculptural brooch offers a modern design inspired piece to bidders at an estimate of \$400-500 (lot 265). The 14 karat yellow gold stylized standing figure is formed as an openwork, looped silhouette decorated by two round opals as well as one cultured pearl.

However, a decidedly classic jadeite jade ring stands as the sale's jewelry highlight, due in large part to the exceptional quality of its certified stone (lot 329, \$11,000-15,000). The natural jade's translucency is ideal, as well as the desirable apple green hue preferred by both domestic and overseas bidders. Set in a simple, clean silver mounting, the ring comes complete with a GIA certification declaring the "natural color" of the stone as well as stating that there are "no indications of impregnation."

The decorations portion of the sale presents numerous categories on the auction block in May. Over 180 lots will be offered including, but not limited to, porcelains, fine silver, bronzes, portrait miniatures, lighting, art glass and stemware collections, as well as a variety of standing clocks. Over 90 furnishing lots primarily of American and European origins will also be sold, alongside a selection of Middle Eastern and Native American origin carpets. Highlighting Michaan's Furniture and Decorative Arts Department's May sale are two lots containing collectible U.S. Naval relics. The first is an oil portrait of a handsome young unidentified naval officer. The unframed painting is of an oval orientation, measuring approximately 27 3/8 by 20 3/8 inches. The portrait will be sold as lot 786 at an auction estimate of \$500-700. An 1850s officer's dress sword and scabbard will also be a part of the May sale, listed as lot 787 (\$1,500-2,000). The hand guard features foliage and eagle motifs, as well as metal work denoting "USN." The shagreen covered handle is finished by an ornamental metal wire tassel decorated by braid and coil work. Braid and animal motifs continue down

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the length of the sword sheathe, interspaced by black leather segments. The sword itself is also highly decorated throughout, reflecting naval and nature themes as well as a manufacturer mark of "W.S. Mancue & Co. San Francisco CA."

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at www.michaans.com when it becomes available. Previews open at Michaan's Auctions on May 2nd until the day of sale, May 4, 2014. 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.