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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

Press Office Contact!  
Talesa Eugenio  
(510) 740-0220 x 116

Auction:  
Estate Auction  
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry  
June 13, at 10am

Previews:  
June 6-7 and 12  
Day of sale and by appointment

Location:  
Michaan's Auctions  
2751 Todd Street  
Alameda, CA 94501

### **Auction Characters From Queen Mother of the West to Michelin Man**

*June estate highlights include Victorian amethysts, auspicious Asian banner,  
Carl Sammons oil, Michelin Man bronze*

Over 120 estate auction jewelry lots will provide interesting pieces of adornment to bidders in the month of June. Generous pear cut emerald earrings will be sold as lot 124, totaling at a total weight of approximately 8.00 carats. The large teardrop emeralds are natural stones of a vibrant green grass hue, set in minimalist 14 karat white gold French wire drop mountings. The simple, scaled back mounting lets the beauty of the ample stones shine through, to be sold at an estimate of \$3,000-5,000. A trio of circa 1920-1930s jade, enamel and silver gilt butterfly brooches will also be auctioned, presented as lot 020 (\$300-500). The whimsical butterflies jadeite wings are cleverly fashioned in repurposed, pierced plaques, originally sourced from decorative baskets and clothing. Also held at auction will be an unusual pin by Danish silversmith master Georg Jensen (lot 008, \$300-400). Considering the artist, it centers a rather large moonstone cabochon (12 x 8.50 mm), which is quite rare for a Jensen brooch design. Sterling silver ball beading surrounds the stone upon a tapering, sterling silver leaf motif bar brooch. The Arts and Crafts period piece is extensively marked upon the reverse, finished by a safety pin back.

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A Victorian amethyst, seed pearl and 14 karat yellow gold jewelry suite is a beautiful period set at auction, a feminine and lovely pick. Delicate mountings of very fine, miniature floral motifs hold four royal purple amethysts in a lavalier style necklace. The 1920s to 1950s piece is further accented by numerous natural seed pearls, sweetly finishing the dainty necklace. Light lavender-purple amethyst earrings from the 1930s then accompany the lavalier, to be worn together or as a stand-alone pair. The oval cut amethysts in the earrings have a clear and transparent quality, set in 14 karat yellow gold drop style mountings of twisted wirework and screw backs. The Victorian amethyst necklace and earring set will be sold on Saturday, June the 13<sup>th</sup> as lot 077 at an auction estimate of \$400-600.

Michaan's Asian Department presents over 80 lots in the June estate sale, highlighted by a lively garden scene of quite an auspicious gathering. A large, red ground, embroidered silk banner displays a colorful scene of approximately 34 x 212 inches, with The Eight Immortals, The Three Star Gods, the He-he Twins and Magu in attendance (lot 241, \$500-700). Their powers run deep, with The Eight Immortals bestowing life or destroying evil, The Three Star Gods representing good fortune and longevity, the He-he Twins as a symbol of harmony and Magu as a protector of females. However, the central figure of the piece is the Queen Mother of the West, a royal goddess of numerous blessings. Embroidered dedications complete the scene upon both ends, with further decoration placed below in multi-colored tassels and small circular mirrors upon silk mesh. This delightful piece was originally commissioned for the birthday of a wealthy lady, with the intention of decorating the interior space of a grand residence.

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June estate fine art offerings include Vietnamese sculptor Tuan's "Inspiration" of an approximate measurement of 44 x 29 x 16 inches (lot 336, \$1,500-2,000). The signed sculpture is a celebration of the human form coupled with an air of romance, as a female nude joyously abounds above her lover's outstretched arm. An extensive lot collection surrounds Paul Charlemagne's oil on canvas "Gourds," to be sold as lot 273 at an auction estimate of \$800-1,200. The piece, purchased in 1934 from the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg, PA, comes complete with letters from the artist in his native French and additional correspondence with the Carnegie Institute regarding the painting's purchase, as well as the bank notes that were used in the transaction. Following suit is the mixed media Jim Morphesis triptych "Songs from Homer #22" (lot 308, \$700-900). This piece bears an original Tortue Gallery label and an artist signed Morphesis exhibition catalogue circa 1992 from the venue. Alfred East depicts a quaint image of rural British charm in the watercolor on paper "Girl at Door," to be auctioned as lot 271 at an estimate of \$600-800. Two pieces by Californian Grace Goodrich will also make an appearance at sale, seen in the cement sculpture "Cabasa Grande" (lot 343, \$600-800) and an unglazed ceramic of the same title (lot 344, \$700-900). A Leroy Neiman serigraph titled "Place du Casino Monte Carlo" and a Jack Laycox oil on canvas, "Eternal City," (lot 304, \$700-900) will be the first of multiple offerings from both artists at Michaan's in June, with subsequent works held in future auctions.

A classic Carl Sammons (1883-1968) oil on board reflecting a Palm Springs mountain landscape depicts a grand rock formation in his signature, slight 6 x 8 inch painting (lot 292, \$800-1,200). The signed "Untitled - Palm Springs" stems from a private Northern California collection, with wonderfully contrasting tones utilized by Sammons. The subdued colors of the land and sky pop with bursts of color in his renditions of scattered desert foliage. The Bay Area based Sammons is considered one of the first early California Impressionists, primarily painting en plein air. Sammons remained largely unknown during his career within the art world and beyond. However, John Gamble, a highly regarded early California Impressionist artist, is said to have coined Sammons the best painter of flowers in the West. Many factors contributed to the quality artist staying under the radar, with most of them attributed to his own behaviors. He was known to participate in one California art club (the Art League of Santa Barbara) and did not participate in social art clubs or many public exhibits. He preferred to sell his paintings by private exhibit or by personal contact, thus leaving him out of the running to win awards and notoriety. Coupled with his general inactivity in marketing himself and his works, he also tended to prefer smaller canvases, which arguably limited his audience.

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Noteworthy auction collections stand out amongst Michaan's June estate decorative selection. Numerous medals will be made available at sale, with a top example found in a Life Saving Benevolent Association of New York medal with custom-made Tiffany & Co. presentation box (lot 580, \$5,000-7,000). Beautiful craftsmanship is evidenced upon the medal, fashioned in a three-dimensional sea faring scene upon the front and a finely inscribed presentation note upon the back. The medal, dated to March 29, 1849, is housed in an original Tiffany & Co. leather, fitted presentation box whose interior is ensconced in hunter green satin and velvet. This medal will be joined at auction by a lot of three Indian Peace medals depicting U.S. Presidents (lot 581, \$1,500-2,000), an 1873 Ulysses S. Grant piece as well as a William McKinley medal (lot 582, \$1,200-1,500) and a George S. Patton Freedom's Foundry at Valley Forge medal complete with case (lot 583, \$500-700). Auction groupings of bronze statue will also be sold. From the estate of a private Santa Rosa, CA collector are pieces from Pierre-Jules Mêne (lot 562, \$1,500-2,000), a Remington reproduction of "Wicked Pony" (lot 605, \$1,500-2,000) as well as an original "Bronco Buster" (lot 604, \$700-900) and James Regimbal's "The Roper" (lot 603, \$1,000-1,500).

A highly collectible Michelin Man bronze car mascot is yet another desirable bronze in June at an estimate of \$3,000-4,000 (lot 566). The car trophy mascot is of an approximate height of 4 inches depicting the Michelin Man, also known as Bibendum, with a raised arm and jauntily kicked up leg upon his left-hand side. Inscribed upon the base is "Bibendum Protégé Les Pneus" which translates to "Bibendum Protects Tyres." This symbol of the Michelin tire company was modeled as a cartoonish man whose sectioned, puffed form resembled stacked tires. Also known as Bib or Bibelobis, the Michelin Man is among one of the world's oldest trademarks, introduced to the public at the Lyon Exhibition of 1894. His image has since been reproduced in over one hundred and fifty countries, standing as one of the most recognized trademarks ever known.

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The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com) when it becomes available. Previews for the June Estate Auction will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> as well as June 13, 2015, the day of sale. 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.

## **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).