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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

Michaan's Auctions  
2751 Todd Street  
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## **PRE-SALE PRESS RELEASE**

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Auction:  
Spring Auction  
Saturday, April 3

Preview:  
April 2 - 3

Location:  
Alameda, CA

## **Luxury is Back (and it can be affordable at Michaan's Fine Spring Auction!)**

Michaan's April 3<sup>rd</sup> auction will feature some of the finest lots of silver, porcelain, furniture, paintings and jewelry ever assembled.

Highlighting the sale is one of the largest set of hand-painted Flora Danica porcelain ever to be offered at auction. The 75 piece service for twelve with serving pieces has a pre-sale estimate of \$50,000-70,000 against an estimated retail value of close to a quarter million dollars.

First commissioned in 1790 by Danish King Christian VII, Flora Danica porcelain is the only pattern from the 18<sup>th</sup> century Golden Age of porcelain still produced today: it is considered the most luxurious porcelain pattern in the world.

The name and patterns are taken from an 18<sup>th</sup> century botanical work "Flora Danica," a book with stunning, minutely detailed copperplate illustrations of 1802 known floral species. The original service for King Christian featured all 1802 species and took over a decade to complete. Denmark's Queen Margrethe still has over 1500 pieces from this service.

Floral Danica porcelain is so laborious to produce that Royal Copenhagen estimates that 30 pairs of artists' hands including molders, painters and glazers have touched each piece before it is sold. Applied florals are each crafted petal by petal and stamen by stamen; it

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can take artists up to four hours to create just one quarter-inch flower. The special brushes that the painters use are made from either the hairs from the tips of a cow's ear or hairs from a reindeer's stomach. A piece near completion is destroyed if it is improperly fired or if the tiniest flaw is found.

If you set your table with the Flora Danica you might consider using an 18<sup>th</sup> century English sterling epergne (estimate \$15,000-20,000) as your centerpiece and finishing your table with the 145 piece, service for twelve, of Tiffany's English King patterned sterling flatware (\$9000-12,000). You'd be remiss if you didn't serve after dinner tea and coffee from a French Cardeihlac 8 piece sterling and ivory service comprising coffee pot, creamer, sugar, chocolate pot hot water urn and tray (\$7,000-9,000 estimate.).

Michaan's also has fabulous furniture and rugs in the sale. Highlights include a spectacular Chinese red lacquer cabinet (\$10,000-15,000), a Dutch rococo bookcase (\$20,000-30,000), a French buffet a deux corps (\$8,000-12,000), a calamander desk (\$4,000-6,000) and an Italian painted console cabinet (\$2,500-3,500). Rug highlights include a palace sized Fereghan Sarouk at 13'7" x 23' (\$10,000-15,000), a 14'6" x 7'1" Malayer (\$3,000-4,000), a 10'11" x 16'6" Kashan and a 14' x 21' Kerman.

Landscapes by California painters William Keith, Frederick Ferdinand Schafer, and Angel Espoy will be offered as will a charming reverse glass painted Pairpoint lamp. Contemporary custom made upholstered sofas, club chairs and lounges will also be included in the auction.

Michaan's Spring Sale will also feature fine jewelry and personal property from the estate of philanthropist Mary Skaggs. Items include English and American sterling flatware and hollowware, Steuben glass and fine porcelain. Some of Mrs. Skaggs stunning pieces of jewelry include an Art Deco diamond, platinum and onyx bracelet (\$7,000-10,000), a diamond and platinum Hamilton wristwatch (\$4,000-6,000), a Patek Phillipe yellow gold wristwatch (\$3,000-5,000), a 2.5 carat diamond and platinum ring (\$6,000-8,000), a 2.3 carat diamond and platinum ring (\$9,000-12,000) and a lovely pair of diamond and platinum earrings.

To learn more about this auction, view online catalog or to register to bid please call 510-740-0220 or visit [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com).

## **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.

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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 and the bay areas lowest buyers premium 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 it's 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.