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Variety of Offerings

*Four segments of fine art available during Michaan's Auctions' December 11
Fine Art, Furniture, Decorative Arts and Jewelry Auction*

December 11

Michaan's Auctions

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Michaan's Auctions in Alameda, California, will host its next *Fine Art, Furniture, Decorative Arts and Jewelry Auction* on December 11. Coming to market will be approximately 80 lots of fine artwork across four segments—European, American, California and modern. Included among the highlights of the sale, which begins at 10 a.m., are California landscapes from several key artists.

“We have seen absolutely gorgeous California landscapes,” says Susan Paffrath, a fine art specialist with Michaan’s. “We have Percy Gray, Edgar Payne, [Hanson Duvall] Puthuff, Theodore Wores, Thomas Hill, William Keith, Sam Hyde Harris, Jules Pages. It’s been pretty phenomenal the amount of beautiful California landscapes that have come in.”

Among the California paintings available is Gray’s watercolor *Eucalyptus Trees* (est. \$8/10,000), which shows the artist’s iconic eucalyptus trees against a sunny landscape. “It’s a really lovely, solid representation of what buyers expect from Percy Gray,” Paffrath says.

Puthuff’s *Paso Robles*, which carries a presale estimate of \$20,000 to \$30,000, is another California landscape available. “The main subject is those two great, big oak trees, and it has the rolling California hills behind them. They’re really solid. They take up the entire canvas, almost,” describes Paffrath. “It is



Hanson Duvall Puthuff (1875-1972), *Paso Robles*. Oil on canvas, 24¼ x 36¼ in., signed lower right: 'H Puthuff'. Estimate: \$20/30,000



Attributed to Charles Le Brun (1619-1690), *The Crossing of the Red Sea after Poussin*. Oil on canvas, 62½ x 84 in. Estimate: \$500/700,000



Percy Gray (1869-1952), *Eucalyptus Trees*. Watercolor and pencil on paper, 16¹/₈ x 20 in., signed lower left: 'Percy Gary'. Estimate: \$8/10,000

very typical [of Puthuff's work]. He did a great deal of landscapes. To me, it feels more like a portrait of the trees, where a lot of the other landscapes are busier or more complex."

Others from the segment include Payne's *High Country*, a 12-by-16-inch oil painting estimated at \$15,000 to

\$20,000; a fantasy-style painting by Wores titled *In Lotus Dreamland* that carries a presale estimate of \$20,000 to \$25,000; and Harris' oil on Masonite titled *Malibu* (est. \$4/6,000).

James Guilford Swinnerton features a scene outside of California in his aptly titled work *Arizona Landscape*

(est. \$7/9,000), which is also available during the auction. Seen in the painting are big orange buttes, and a vantage point that looks down on the valley below.

In the European segment of the sale is Henri Lebasque's *Reclining Nude* (est. \$100/120,000), which is going to be featured in the upcoming revision to the *catalogue raisonné* for the artist. "What I like about [*Reclining Nude*] is the background and [the woman] are painted with similar textures," Paffrath says. "...It's quiet, but dramatic how the cloth and her shape of leg and body sort of blend and move together."

Another European work available is one that is attributed to Charles Le Brun. According to Paffrath, "[T]his 17th-century painting, *The Crossing of the Red Sea* is a historic work, a direct copy of Poussin's painting of the same title. It comes to Michaan's from the Cantor Museum in Stanford, California, where it has been on loan." The painting was used to help Carl Villis with the restoration of the Poussin painting, which is at the Victoria National Gallery. The Le Brun is estimated for \$500,000 to \$700,000. ■



Henri Lebasque (1865-1937), *Reclining Nude*, ca. 1925. Oil on canvas, 18¹/₈ x 25⁵/₈ in., signed lower left: 'Lebasque'. Estimate: \$100/120,000