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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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

Auction:  
Estate Auction  
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry  
February 13, 2016

Previews:  
February 6, 7, 12 & 13  
and by appointment

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

### **Notions of Love & Artistry Pre-Valentine's at Michaan's**

*February 13<sup>th</sup> sale highlights emerald heart necklace &  
Maitreya's "loving-kindness"*

It's a diamond life, as a variety of sparkling pieces highlight February's jewelry offerings. Top picks of quality include a pair of approximate 1.45 carat, 14 karat white gold diamond ear studs of a VVS11 clarity and H graded color. Also available is a diamond, triangular synthetic sapphire and yellow gold bracelet as well as a diamond, enamel, yellow gold and black bead suite of a bracelet, multistrand necklace and brooch attached as a pendant. Rings of note include a diamond wave design with the stones set in yellow gold, a pick of a full cut center stone set in platinum as well as a GIA certified jade, diamond and 18 karat white gold ring.

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Also offered the day before Valentine's Day, February 13<sup>th</sup>, is a romantic and feminine emerald, seed pearl and 14 karat yellow gold necklace celebrating the spirit of love (lot 033, \$1,400-1,800). Hanging quite close on the neck are four geometric, open gridwork, circular plaques framed by contrasting seed pearl adorned foliate motifs. An emerald perches upon each of the gold grid intersections, flanking the central adornment of a gorgeous heart shaped decoration, blooming with emerald and seed pearl encrusted flower and foliate motifs. In the center of the heart is an emerald cut emerald weighing approximately 1.60 carats framed by seed pearls. Dangling from the base is a pear cut emerald weighing approximately 0.80 carats, also framed by seed pearls, beautifully conveying and finishing the overall motif.

Asian works of art in February will include artists such as Luo Pin, Feng Wenwei, Kiyoshi Saito, Hiroshi Yoshida, Kawase Hasui and Yue Tin Mui to name a few. However, a finely embroidered thangka depicting Maitreya, crafted by an unknown artist during the Qing dynasty, stands as a most significant and beautiful piece in the month's offerings (lot 215). The rather large thangka is expertly woven in saturated shades of red, pink, blue, brown, green and white and measures a substantial approximate 37 by 21 inches. With all considerations, the framed textile centering Maitreya seated in dhyanasana on a double lotus base remains in good condition, presented at an estimate of \$2,000-3,000. Bodhisattva Maitreya is understood as an eventual successor to the present Buddha according to Buddhist tradition. Maitreya, whose name is derived from the Sanskrit word meaning "loving-kindness," has a destiny that is expressed as appearing on Earth where complete enlightenment will then be achieved. This enlightenment would then allow the teachings of the order of life to flow from Maitreya, expressed in its purest form.

Selected from over 100 fine art lots of primarily American and European artists are features by a photography great as well as a rare piece from a local artist and educator. The incomparable Ansel Adams is highlighted in two gelatin silver print offerings in February. "Forest Detail – Winter" is part of a special edition of fine prints of Yosemite by the artist, a black and white image of snow clinging to the bare branches of winter (lot 302, \$2,000-3,000). Adams defines nature as sculpture in "Jeffery Pine," with a photo of a twisted, reaching tree, also

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included in the same Yosemite edition (lot 303, \$2,000-3,000). However, the main highlight of the sale is a woodblock print by William Rice in "Cliffs - Santa Cruz" (lot 305, \$1,500-2,000). The rather geometric depiction of sea cliffs bathed in blocks of color is quite a rare piece from the artist, as the William Rice estate archives evaluated and noted it as an uncommon example. The Arts and Crafts movement artist, originally from the East Coast, settled in California in 1900, eventually moving to the Bay Area. He spent the rest of his professional career teaching art in Alameda and Oakland public schools, as well as in Berkeley at the California College of Arts and Crafts and at U.C. Berkeley. Rice was also commercially embraced, as Gump's was one of the artist's leading dealers.

Works by ceramicist Jun Kaneko will be a noted draw in the February sale, with six lots available in the auction. Estimated at \$800-1,200 per lot are sets of both short and tall tumblers of likeminded designs. On a glaze base of dark blue and white stripes are overlays of multicolored rectangles sprinkled about upon each piece, lotted in two groups of six. A wonderful collection of linear design Jun Kaneko stoneware plaques will also join these pieces at sale, highlighted by number 559 (\$1,000-1,500). The substantial art pottery plaque beams with eleven multicolored lines in blue, yellow and red tones, stemming from a black arc glazed on the bottom center. His use of colorful graphics take differing forms in three additional plaques offered in the sale, with a multicolored stripe example (lot 560), spiral design (lot 561) and branching rectangle depiction (lot 562) also in at \$1,000-1,500 apiece. The Japan born Kaneko came to the U.S. in 1963 where he studied with Peter Voukos, Paul Soldner and Jerry Rothman during The Contemporary Ceramics Movement. He later came to teach at leading art education institutions such as Scripps College, Rhode Island School of Design and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. The internationally revered ceramicist has also recently worked on the design for the San Francisco Opera's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, currently touring the U.S. His production work for Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* premiered in June of 2014 at the San Francisco Opera as well.

Contemporary pieces will present design savvy furnishings and decorative items at auction, lead by a Fornasetti design curved chest of drawers of Palladian imagery (lot 580, \$10,000-15,000). Dubbed "The White Dresser," the classic whimsy of Fornasetti covers the piece in a depiction of a black and white columned structure. Also available is a beautifully asymmetric desk by Swedish furniture designer and architect Greta Grossman (lot 586, \$6,000-8,000). The

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modern, geometric silhouette appears seemingly compact, only to reveal ample storage evidenced in numerous partitioned drawers. At quite a conservative price point is a substantial, convertible settee that can also be utilized as a bed, to be offered at an estimate of \$500-700. Modern ingenuity lets the user position swiveling “pillows” to adjust the piece, changing the furnishing to suit the particular need and comfort level. Upholstered in sumptuous light powder blue leather, the settee/bed will be offered as lot 588. One can also sit cradled in modernism with the “Egg” chair (lot 581, \$1,000-1,500). Bucket seating upholstered in bright red wool is accompanied by a curved, matching ottoman, also perched upon a metal “X” base. Highlighting modern décor is a figural etched glass and mixed media panel by artist KeKe Cribbs (lot 587, \$1,500-2,000). Cribbs, describing her wide approach, once said, "I am a painter, a sculptor, a story teller, and most importantly, an ‘Experimenter’ who does not believe rules or fashion trends should dictate what an artist makes. I work intuitively and from the heart.” Tribal and contemporary imagery appeared to be the inspiration for the piece at sale, creating a bold, yet fun, standing sculpture. Stylized, brightly colored tribal motifs adorn the totem-like figure, supporting a horned head bearing a cheerful countenance.

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

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com) when it becomes available. Previews for the January Estate Auction will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.