
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Estate Auction
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry
January 9, 2016

Previews:
January 2,3 and 8
and by appointment

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

Influences from the Corners of the World Highlight Michaan's January

Mexican, Taiwanese, Russian Federation and Thai artists featured in sale

Work by legendary silversmith Antonio Pineda is featured among approximately 100 jewelry lots in January. A striking piece is found in an articulated collar of interlocking silver arcs adorned with obsidian. The front seven intersections of the necklace each cradle a pear shaped obsidian cabochon, measuring approximately 1 inch in length by $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width at the widest point. The necklace is beautifully handcrafted and sophisticated with a touch of a tribal aesthetic, to be sold at an estimate of \$1,600-2,000 (lot 10145-111). Antonio Pineda began as a silversmith apprentice at the tender age of eleven, working for William Spratling. Considered by many the most brilliant modern silversmith artist, his prominence was unrivaled from the 1950s to the 1970s. Pineda's career took off in 1944 when his pieces were displayed at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. It was there that his jewelry caught the eye of Richard Gump, heir of Gump's department store, where he proceeded to buy one hundred and sixty pieces, which were then sold exclusively. Pineda's modernist silver jewelry eventually came to be adored the world over. Pineda's fans spanned politicians, dignitaries and art critics, as well as Hollywood legends such as Bette Davis, Rita

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Hayworth and Marlene Dietrich. Also available in the January sale is lot 10145-112, an Antonio Pineda bib necklace of three-dimensional crescent shaped obsidians set in sterling silver at an estimate of \$1,300-1,800.

A largely decorative Asian presentation in January is highlighted by a Chan Liu-Miao (b. 1946) figure sculpture (lot 10819-001, \$1,000-1,500). The renowned leather artist amazingly brings cowhide to life, as seen in the depiction of a rural worker carrying two pouches upon his back. Created facial features and textiles take on distinct and remarkably realistic properties in his hands, marking him as an unparalleled artisan. His one-of-a-kind leather sculptures have been gifted to heads of state the world over and in 1986 Liu-Miao was declared a "National Living Treasure" by the Taiwanese government. Praise for the artist includes commentary from Paul Zueger, owner of Galerie Zuger in Santa Fe, who said of Liu-Miao, "He is one in a billion. I followed his work in the 1980s; it was so rare, you couldn't get it. His sculpture is very difficult to make and so totally unique – that's what makes him a treasure to the art world."

January brings over 100 fine art lots to sale, with multiple offerings from Salvador Dali, Edward Borein, Alexander Wyant, Norbert Schlaus, Terry Suave and William S. Rice to name a few. Highlighting the sale section is Russian Federation artist Eugene Garin's (1922-1994) oil on canvas "Crashing Waves" at an estimate of \$800-1,200 (lot 10720-019). A preeminent figure of contemporary seascape art, the artist perfected the "Garin Wave," or transparent wave, a technique utilizing transparent glazes to create dimensional effects. The innovation of this technique helped to break and expand upon the classic restraint of traditional seascape painting. Garin's work has received broad and wide reaching appeal, embraced by both novice collectors as well as the fine art community. Held in the permanent collections of the Russian Consulate in San Francisco and the Presidential Palace in Panama, Garin's hybrid of European tradition fused with his contemporary technique has helped to solidify his stature in the art world. "Crashing Waves" is a classic Garin example, depicted as an expansive seascape on a clear day, measuring approximately 24 by 47 inches.

Specialty auction groupings are found in collectible teddy bears as well as fine silver. Steiff bears will appear in 6 lots at auction at an estimate range of \$300 to \$600. Of the bears are miniatures, articulated examples and a 1920 Humpback with Growler. Additional animals, costumes and a Margeriette Steiff sailboat will also accompany the bears in the multi-item lots. Over 50 silver lots should also delight bidders, including offerings from Tiffany, Reed & Barton, Gorham, Shreve and Wallace. However, a Siamese Thai export sterling silver drink set is spotlighted in January at an estimate of \$2,500-3,000 (lot 4647-005). Twelve cocktail glasses, a cocktail shaker, two oval serving trays and a pair of candlesticks are presented in

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custom boxes, retailed and manufactured by E. Seng Chong. The pieces are in excellent condition, with a mirror-like shine and largely unblemished surfaces. Adornment centers upon dimensional Thai motifs, focusing on a native figure in prayer. Accompanying the drink set at auction are additional pieces in the suite, including coffee and tea service (lot 4647-004, \$2,500-3,000) as well as a one hundred and eight piece flatware set (lot 4647-006, \$2,500-3,000).

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at www.michaans.com when it becomes available. Previews for the January Estate Auction will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th, the day of sale. 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.