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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:  
Estate Auction  
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry  
December 12, 2015

Previews:  
December 5,6 & 11  
and by appointment

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

## **Michaan's Final Estate Auction of 2015 on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Bringing beauty to auction is an approximate 4.01 carat diamond ring, with a stone of undeniable quality that also carries a story of friendship. The old European cut center stone is stunning, graded at a VS2 clarity and J color. Once belonging to an Alameda, CA antique storeowner, it was gifted to her friend upon her passing. Among the other costume jewelry items that her friend had given her, she surprisingly came to learn of the diamond's authenticity after meeting with Michaan's jewelry department. The over 4 carat center stone is flanked by two baguette cut diamonds, all set in platinum at an auction estimate of \$15,000-30,000 (lot 115).

Additional jewelry highlights of quality include a gorgeous, virtually immaculate jade, silver gilt and enamel Asian art deco necklace circa the 1920s (lot 060, \$6,000-9,000). The piece has survived in amazingly pristine condition, holding seven large, natural marquise shape jade cabochons. A modern jade pick at sale is found in a GIA certified gourd motif pendant of wonderful translucency, accented by near colorless diamonds at \$4,000-6,000 (lot 113). Charming baubles are seen in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century slide charm bracelet of nine images of animals in 14 karat yellow gold, enamel and one accent diamond, finished by a clasp of a multi-garnet flower (lot 052, \$1,500-2,000) as well as an early 1900s Shreve & Co. sweetheart locket pendant with near perfect robin's egg

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blue enamel (lot 049, \$400-600).

The 140 lot Asian category will encompass furniture, decorative items, stone and jade carvings, jewelry and textiles to name a few. A December estate auction collection of woodblock prints from artists such as Paul Jacoulet, Kiyoshi Saito, Kawase Hasui, Hiroshi Yoshida and Takeji Asano will also be presented at an estimate range of \$300 to \$1,500. However, Chen Ting Shih's woodblock print "Day and Night" stands as this month's Asian Department highlight as lot 314. Shih's "Day and Night" print series culminates into a stimulating collection of works of stark graphics in unadulterated colors that speak to the natural world. The print for sale is no exception, communicated as a simplified, modern interpretation of a twenty-four hour period. A depiction of an aqua blue atmosphere comprises more than three quarters of a modified circle form, representing the clear sky of day. A sun intersects the upper left hand corner of the sky form, shimmering in incorporated gold foil. Day meets night in the piece in an approximate 6 inch black section upon the bottom, marking an end to the daily, circular cycle. Shih's style and methodologies have left an indelible mark on 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese modern art. The Taiwanese artist lost his hearing as a child, arguably honing his visual skills, which lead to a successful career as an artist. His works can be found at the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, and have also been included in the corporate collections of Chase Manhattan Bank and IBM. Acquired directly from the artist by the consignor in 1969, Shih's "Day and Night" will be sold on December the 12<sup>th</sup> at an auction estimate of \$10,000-15,000.

The approximate 80 lot fine art offerings include numerous European and American paintings and works on paper. However, a variety of sculpture will also be made available, at quite an obtainable estimate range of \$400 to \$3,000. Joining the bronzes at sale is an Edgar Tolson carved wood owl that was purchased directly from the artist at \$800-1,200. From the bronze sculpture selection is the French "Girl" by Kinsburger (\$1,000-1,500) and E.P. Gault's "Pax Labor" at a conservative \$400-600. After Isidore Jules Bonheur is the sporting "Le Grand Jockey" at \$1,200-1,800 and "Ballerina" after Fernando Botero projected at \$500-700.

Highlighting December estate bronze sculpture is an Alexander Archipenko (1887-1964) titled "Woman Combing Her Hair." The posthumous casting bears a forest green patina and sits upon a square marble base, yielding a total height measurement of approximately 14 ½ inches. The artist's use of negative space in the realm of modern sculpture lends to a sense of both movement and mystery. A cut out resides where the face of the subject would be, with a partially hollowed out bosom and thigh utilized upon opposing sides of the figure. In contrast, the rear-view reflects shelved shoulder blades and jutting, geometric legs, representing the stance of the woman. "Woman Combing Her Hair" is signed and dated on the base with "Archipenko 1914," to be sold as lot 408 at an auction estimate of \$2,000-3,000. Also by Archipenko at sale will be lot 404,

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another bronze entitled “Egyptian Motif” (\$2,000-3,000). The experimental Archipenko exhibited some of the first publically known representations of Cubism in Paris. His works are held in public collections from New Zealand to Paris to New York, with recent exhibitions including “Alexander Archipenko: The Berlin Drawings” conducted at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston as well as the traveling retrospective “Archipenko: A Modern Legacy.”

A massive sale section will be presented in approximately 400 lots from the Furniture & Decorative Arts Department in Michaan’s last estate auction of the year. Standing as the largest single estate sale lot count the department has ever had, the section is brimming with property from many of its mainstay categories. Notable among the selections are various porcelain lots just in time for Christmas service, with German Meissen and Royal Vienna pieces on the auction block. A standout is seen in a Sevres style cobalt blue painted eleven-piece porcelain tea service alongside Dresden Saxony service pieces at an estimate of \$500-700. Collectors of Dirk van Erp will also have 4 lots to choose from, among them a set of copper desk articles at \$800-1,200, a suitcase replica copper box with cedar interior projected at \$500-800 and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century silver bowl with estimates of \$500-700.

However, a Dirk van Erp silverplate charger from a private San Francisco estate collection highlights the artisan’s offerings at an estimate of \$1,000-1,500 (lot 787). The piece is a minimalist classic from the silversmith, hand hammered in a stylized petal form rim that bears a dimensional monogram. Measuring approximately 15 inches in diameter with an approximate 1 ¾ inch depth, the underside is stamped with the van Erp windmill mark as well as “Handwrought, Dirk van Erp, San Francisco.”

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com) when it becomes available. Previews for the December Estate Auction will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11th and 12th, 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.