
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Estate Auction
featuring fine art, jewelry, decorative arts and Asian art
February 3

Previews:
February 1 - 3

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
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Dali Sketch, Spratling Bracelets, Jade Collection, Classic Russian Icon Showcased in February

The Fine Art Department presents approximately 100 lots of differing mediums in the February Estate Auction. Art works are primarily from American and European artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. Offerings include, but are not limited to, ink drawings, oil paintings, etchings, watercolors, bronze sculpture and lithographs. American artist pieces highlighted in the sale include a rural landscape by William John Whittmore (lot 388, \$2,000-3,000), a striking bronze from Jiang Tie-Feing (lot 433, \$2,000-4,000), an oil on canvas still life by Edward August Bell (lot 372, \$2,000-3,000), a realist landscape oil by Alexis Matthew Podchernikoff (lot 392, \$3,000-5,000), a striking oil on board by Conrad Buff (lot 393, \$2,000-4,000) and a graphite on paper nautical sketch from Edgar Payne (lot 420, \$2,000-3,000).

Leading the selection of international works in the sale is a Salvador Dali titled "Don Quixote, 1966" (lot 029). The fluid ink on paper drawing is a rare glimpse of Dali's sketch work. The depiction of a standing figure measures 13.75 by 11.75 inches and is inscribed on the right hand side "Pour Ronnie Chan." Dali's surrealist roots are evident in the simple sketch, from one of the most prominent cultural icons of our time. Signed and dated "Dali, 1966," the piece will be offered at an auction estimate of \$2,000-3,000.

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Diamond, colored stone, jade, cultured pearl, coral and precious metal offerings make up a large portion of the Jewelry Department's 150 plus lot sale. Jewelry pieces are seen from makers such as Tiffany & Co., Cartier and Stambolian. Quality timepiece manufacturers available at the auction this month are quite extensive as well. Represented makers include, but are not limited to, Rolex, Cartier, Michele, Concord, Fendi, Longines and Ernst Benz limited edition.

Highlighting the sale are a highly collectible pair of William Spratling sterling silver cuff bracelets. The matching bracelets bear a repeating pattern of sectioned "V" shapes interspaced by small silver balls. Each cuff opening has a line of three larger, disconnected balls on both sides, handsomely finishing the pieces. The design sensibilities echo a style Spratling is well known for: modern, simple, fresh and angular with a nod to early Mexican culture. His signature style and influence on the growth of the silver industry in Taxco lead him to be largely regarded as "The Father of Mexican Silver." Stamped "Spratling, Made in Mexico, Spratling Silver" (lot 087, \$600-800).

A substantial pendant weighing a total of 136.00 dwts (pennyweights) holds a plethora of precious materials. The opulent piece centers three star sapphire cabochons, one oval cut sapphire and one oval cat's eye chrysoberyl forming a cross. The cross is then surrounded by twenty-four round cut sapphires weighing a total of approximately 20.00 carats as well as four triangular cut and thirty-six full cut diamonds weighing a total of approximately 5.00 carats. The reverse centers a gold medallion style depiction of St. Christopher, with a caption reading "ST. CHRISTOPHER, PROTECT US," encircled by forty-four oval cut sapphires weighing a total of approximately 37.00 carats. A rainbow of alternating gemstones further surrounds the piece with square cut amethysts, peridots, garnets, citrines and blue topaz. A hinged bail completes the pendant, accented by one oval star sapphire weighing a total of approximately 12.00 carats, trailed by two cat's eye chrysoberyls weighing approximately 2.00 carats. All of the stones are set in a 14 karat yellow gold disc mounting measuring approximately 90.50 mm by 10.00 mm (lot 178, \$3,000-5,000).

Highlighting the Asian Department's February estate offerings are a wide range of quality items. From the over 100 lot sale are notable decorative objects including a Japanese enamel painted globular vase (lot 666, \$400-600) and an iron red ornamented dish of the 19th century bearing a Yongzheng (r. 1723-1735) mark (lot 361, \$400-600). From the furniture selection is a huanghuali and mixed wood armchair featuring an ancient jade bi form back splat (lot 702, \$1,500-2,000) and a 20th century huanghuali and mixed wood roll top desk from a private San Mateo collection (lot 703, \$1,000-1,500). Unique and collectible lots are also found in the form of ancient weaponry. A bronze crossbow (lot 332, \$2,500-3,500) and a pair of bronze swords (lot 331, \$1,000-1,500) were both acquired from a collection primarily amassed from Sotheby's Hong

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Kong and New York auctions during the 1970s and 1980s.

A delightful decorative object is seen in a carved bamboo brush pot, being sold as lot 333 (\$300-500). The 19th century piece bears whimsical carvings throughout its exterior, segmented by differing pictorial scenes. The largest continuous carving is of a rural village scene, which is then flanked by two phoenixes, a peacock and a pair of deers. The richly auburn colored bamboo pot measures an approximate 3 1/2 inches in internal diameter with an approximate 1/2 inch in material thickness.

The Asian Department's highlighted jade lots are plentiful, as seen in numerous collection offerings (a pair of lovely jade pendants, lot 305, \$400-600; eight intricately carved jades, lot 312, \$600-800; a grouping of seven neolithic jade blades and pendants, lot 309, \$1,000-1,500). Of note is a lot of four celadon jade decorations consisting of a bookmark and three hairpins. The bookmark is of simple design, as the polished jade displays a lone carved curl at the top. A streamlined hairpin accompanies the bookmark, along with a pair of decoratively carved hairpins. The pair of carved hairpins are fashioned in a stylized foliage motif, executed by cut out carvings (lot 301, \$400-600).

Over 180 lots will encompass the period Furniture and Decorations portion of the auction. Categorically, offerings will be diverse, with ceramics, glass, collectibles, furniture, decorations, rugs, carpets and silver. A grouping of Russian icon lots are also available. Depictions of the Madonna (lot 232, \$600-800), John the Baptist flanked by three figures of saints (lot 230, \$800-1,200) and a group of saints featuring St. Nicholas, St. Justin the Martyr and John the Baptist are included (lot 231, \$600-800). Perhaps the most substantial Russian icon lot is found in a cloisonne enamel 84 work of Jesus. The 19th century piece has retained its rich color palette and remains in wonderful condition. An ornate, iridescent halo illuminates the depiction of Jesus, showing detailed cut out workmanship as it runs off of its scalloped metal frame. He is shown in a seated position, holding scripture in one hand while forming a serene hand gesture in front of his chest with the other. The piece is beautifully and classically painted, as it mirrors historical influences seen in Byzantine art. Measuring approximately 14 by 12 1/8 inches, the work of art will be offered as lot 235 at an auction estimate of \$8,000-12,000.

The illustrated online catalog will be available for review at www.michaans.com. Previews open at Michaan's Auctions on February 1st and continue until February the 3rd, 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.

About Michaan's Auctions

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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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, Michaan's has specialists in the fields of Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary Art, European and American Paintings and Prints, Jewelry, Asian Works of Art and Ethnographic Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year attracting a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the world. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California and the Bay Area's lowest buyers premium Michaan's offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to preview and bid on many unique and desirable property. Some of these pieces realized world record prices. In 2005 A.D.M. Cooper's oil painting, Three Graces 1915, sold for a record \$21,060 and an Eduard Gaertner oil, German City Street Scene 1831, sold for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on its ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with its "no risk consignment policy" free of hidden fees and charges. Michaan's 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.

For a full listing of upcoming auctions or to view a complete catalog, please visit www.michaans.com.