

Frank Duveneck, Meadow Village View, oil.



Kentucky, would defy the expectations of small-town life to become an internationally acclaimed painter, overturning the Hudson River School and influencing a generation of Mid-West painters through his teaching position at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

American artists during the 19th century often struggled to meet the avant-garde credentials of their European counterparts, but some, such as Frank Duveneck, helped cultivate the eventual rise of American artwork through careful study. Duveneck, born in the small town of Covington,

Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Frank Duveneck, Meadow Village View, oil** (\$7/10,000) in our March Gallery Auction, on Friday, March 15th.

The painting's subject is a landscape, rendered from the perspective of a small hill just outside of town. Looking down on the village, the

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viewer can make out a small dirt road that appears from behind the foreground's rolling hills to wind its way between a few modest wooden homes. The buildings, each with a strongly peaked roof, are painted in light pastels that match the yellow and green found in the summer countryside. Each has at least one chimney and appears to be a single-family home, except for a church in the distance and what appears to be a commercial building in the foreground. In the distance, trees cover rolling hills that continue towards the horizon, with a farm or other clear-cutting evident in the distance on the right side of the work.

This painting represents a landscape typical of the Pennsylvania and Ohio region of the country. With its peaked roofs, rolling hills, and partial deforestation, this painting accurately depicts a rural life existing outside the

demands of rapidly modernizing city life. Duveneck, a lifelong resident of the area surrounding Cincinnati, Ohio, would have been familiar with the area, especially as he was known to have frequently traveled to Gloucester, Massachusetts through Pennsylvania. As such, it is likely that this work represents to the painter both a feeling of nostalgia, in that the symptoms of a rapidly modernizing America are conspicuously absent, and idealization, as Duveneck spent most of his life living in large, industrial cities.

This work, likely painted in the years following his return to the United States in 1888, marks a unique period in Duveneck's career. After returning to Cincinnati with significant wealth, Duveneck produced paintings at a slower rate than earlier in his career, while primarily attending to private life and teaching at the Art Academy of

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Cincinnati. This work reflects a new approach to painting, one perhaps driven more by his desire to create, rather than the constraints of the art market or an engagement with the latest works of his peers. Instead of the high-contrast portraits realized with thick, viscous marks, in this work, we see Duveneck's interest in light expressed through the interaction between sunlight, homes, and natural forms over the summer landscape.

Frank Duveneck was born a second-generation German immigrant in Covington, Kentucky, a Cincinnati suburb known for its tobacco production, in 1848. Duveneck began studying painting by the age of fifteen and soon moved across the river to Cincinnati, Ohio, but was kept outside the artistic community due to his Catholicism and German heritage. When he was twenty-one years old, he traveled

to Munich to study at the Royal Academy, a period which greatly influenced his high-contrast, realist method of painting. He continued to work in Germany, achieving success both in Europe and the United States, and soon opened a school in a very small village halfway between Munich and Innsbruck, Austria. After his wife died in 1888, he returned home, where he began teaching at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, until his death in 1919.

Frank Duveneck, Meadow Village View, oil (\$7/10,000) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions March Gallery Auction on Friday, March 15th, which features many fine artworks from notable artists, in addition to excellent examples from the Jewelry and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by the Fine Art Department, which will be offering this and other works by Frank Duveneck and a lithograph by Stow

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Wengenroth. Also included in the sale is a contemporary artwork by Pratchaya Charernsook, a micromosaic gold brooch, and a gold pocket watch.

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