

Armin Carl Hansen, "Sardine Barge," Etching on Handmade Paper.



**Armin Carl Hansen,
"Sardine Barge," etching
on handmade paper**

(\$3/3,500) in our March
Gallery Auction on Friday,
March 15th.

The etching consists of
a small sardine barge, tied up
to the docks in an uncertain
location. The barge takes up

It is always a pleasure to offer
works from local artists, especially when
they come from Alameda. Such is the
case with Armin Carl Hansen, a
renowned painter of marine scenes who
was raised on the island and later
attended school in San Francisco.

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the center of the frame, with a dock
visible alongside the very right side of
the frame, while the rest of the image
consists of gently swelling water. The
viewer looks down from the docks onto
the barge, where two men stand at the
helm. To their right is a man standing in
the sea, with waterproof boots extending

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nearly to his waist, affixing a rope to the rear of the barge. Behind the barge is a dingy, which contains a man with a long oar attempting to cast off towards the sea behind him. The barge is tied, both to the pier and an unseen object to the right of the frame, through a ring affixed to its bow. It casts a dark shadow that extends toward the viewer, disrupting the artist's rendering of the lazily undulating ocean.

In its choice of subject matter and location, this work centers the realities of working people in the fishing industries. In contrast to works that highlight the freedom of the ship on an open ocean, we are invited to view men pushing through thick mud to cast off under the hot sun, which casts deep shadows across the water's surface. The pier's utilitarian construction and long ropes further highlight the connection to industry, which provides the basis for

ships to be at sea in most artworks, although it is rarely acknowledged.

This work is highly characteristic of Hansen's work, particularly in its choice of marine subject matter. Hansen was a prolific painter of marine scenes, typically with a focus on shifting light and its interaction with the water's surface. However, this work is a departure in the choice of medium, as Hansen is primarily known for his oil works, and in his focus on industry in this print, which greatly differs from his usual interest in boats far from the shore and unencumbered by the necessities of life on land. This is made even more evident by the lack of color, choosing instead to emphasize the rough surfaces of the boat, pier, and ropes, at the expense of a more luxurious rendering of light. The movement of the ocean's surface is also accentuated in this medium, with thin wandering lines

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rendering the ever-changing surface with amazing detail.

Armin Carl Hansen was born in San Francisco, California in 1886 before moving with his family to Alameda at the age of five. His father taught him the basics of drawing and watercolors, and Hansen was inspired to attend the Mark Hopkins Institute, the predecessor of the recently shuttered San Francisco Art Institute. Following credible accusations of assault on a fellow student, in addition to the 1906 earthquake, Hansen fled the country for Germany, where he studied in Stuttgart and Munich. It was during this time that he worked on numerous commercial ships and traveled widely throughout European capitals. In 1912 he returned to the United States, eventually settling in Monterey, where he continued to teach and exhibit widely before his death in 1957.

Armin Carl Hansen,
"Sardine Barge," etching on handmade paper (\$3/3,500) 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 oil paintings by Frank Duveneck and a lithograph by Stow 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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