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PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

Press Office Contact!

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Auction:

Estate Auction

Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry

May 7, 10am

Previews:

April 30, May 1, 6 and day of sale

Location:

Michaan's Auctions

2751 Todd Street

Alameda, CA 94501

Jade & Dragons, Painted "Cairo" & Zoltar's Prophecies

The month of May will treat bidders to many enchanting jewelry pieces, with whimsical motifs that seem almost certain to bring a smile. Diamond accented leaves of 18 karat gold hold carved coral cherry forms in a lovely brooch listed at an estimate of \$800-1,200 (lot 051), while a bouquet of bundled and shaped stickpins of insects, flowers and novelty motifs sparkle with ruby, sapphire, emerald and diamond among its precious materials (lot 020, \$800-1,200). Dangling from the collar of an enamel, ruby and 18 karat yellow gold brooch of Yorkshire Terrier is a tiny emerald (lot 031, \$800-1,200), joined at auction by a diamond encrusted toad brooch, hopping into the sale at an estimate of \$700-900 (lot 032). Also of note is a miniature work of art found in a gent's 18 karat yellow gold ring centering a multicolored, geometric abstract design of enamel, listed at an estimate of \$400-600 (lot 034).

The sale's primary jewelry highlight is both fashionable and beautiful, as jade, diamond and 18 karat white gold earrings fuse a traditional arabesque pattern with modern jewelry design (lot 092, \$1,200-1,600). Delicate teardrop shape carved jade plaques of an openwork arabesque design measure approximately 46 by 27 millimeters, held by simple gold ear wires and subtle diamond accents

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of a total carat weight of 0.20. The type 'A' jade is certified as being of a natural, untreated color as well, documented by a Hong Kong Gems Laboratory Jade Identification Report.

A striking decorative piece from the Asian Department is found in a Japanese bronze of a dragon, listed at an estimate of \$1,000-1,500 (lot 311). With a reptilian crawling posture and the long, sinuous body of a snake, this depiction of a dragon leans upon more realistic animal forms found in nature. The raised head bears a pair of long horns with an open mouth that appears to be a cry coming from the beast as well. Dimensional details from scales to a bearded mandible are noted in this skillfully crafted piece, measuring approximately 19 ¼ inches in length by 8 inches in width across the widest foot points.

From over 100 lots of fine art to be offered in the May sale is a lively Louis Vogt (American 1864-1939) depiction of "Cairo" listed as number 348 (\$2,000-3,000). The saturated watercolor on paper laid on board shows a bustling Cairo scene of numerous laborers by the shore with a cluster of boats docked nearby. The activity depicted is a departure for the artist, as Vogt tended to paint more traditional landscapes, cityscapes and portraits. Born in Cincinnati then eventually residing in California, Vogt died in Palo Alto on February 3, 1939. During his career, he was exhibited at the National Academy of Design, the Boston Art Club, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. "Cairo" bears a Chappellier Galleries label as well as a Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts label upon the reverse, with the framed and matted work measuring approximately 19 by 21 inches.

Unique collectibles are found in a range of items in May, among them a circa 1930s Art Deco Jacques-Pierre Bellenger Dilecta motorcycle poster at an estimate of \$800-1,200 and a figural Chu Chin Chiu perfume bottle in the form of an Asian man estimated at \$500-800. However, the auction spotlight is in a speaking Zoltar Fortune Teller machine, sure to delight the young at heart (\$3,000-4,000, lot 593). Once a part of the collection of the Pritikin Museum in San Francisco, whose art collection was recently estimated to be valued at over \$50 million, the Zoltar Fortune Teller machine may be best remembered in recent years as playing a pivotal role in the beloved Tom Hanks movie *Big*. In the 1988 blockbuster a young boy places a wish with Zoltar to be an adult. The Zoltar Fortune Teller machine then dispenses a card that says, "Your Wish is Granted." The character becomes a man overnight, played by Tom Hanks, who then navigates the world as a twelve-year-old boy trapped in a man's body.

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The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at www.michaans.com when it becomes available. Previews for the May estate auction will be held on April 30th, May 1st, 6th and 7th, 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.