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# MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Auctioneers & Appraisers

## PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

### Press Office Contact!

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### Auction:

Estate Auction  
Featuring fine art, decorative art, Asian art and jewelry  
March 12, 10am

### Previews:

March 4-6, 11 and day of sale

### Location:

Michaan's Auctions  
2751 Todd Street  
Alameda, CA 94501

## **March Looking Rosy with Barten & Rice Pocket Watch, Charitable Boehm Birds**

Highly collectible and desirable jewelry pieces stand at the forefront of the March sale. Notable pieces of cultural influence can be found in an ornate Mughal pendant as well as a Native American necklace that takes a departure from the traditional squash blossom motif. Miniature, refined crosses are placed along the length of the necklace, further adorned with gorgeous touches of vibrant turquoise. Unusual refinement at auction stands out in two jewelry items in particular, the first being a simple Riker Brothers brooch. Sharp, geometric white enamelwork plays against a 14k gold border, enveloping a frame of seed pearls that center a royal purple amethyst. Bidders should also undoubtedly take a second look at an uncommon Victorian brooch that centers a carved coral mythological scene. The carving of a cherub riding a chariot pulled by two beasts is just as impressive as its yellow gold frame, beautifully rendered as miniature, dimensional sculpture of leaves and cattails dancing about the scene.

Also very desirable is a fine Barten & Rice 18k yellow gold minute repeater pocket watch, simple in style but with wonderfully executed features that give it an aesthetic edge. Hour markers of Old English numerals are fashioned in cobalt blue, a beautiful compliment against the watch's rosy patina. This blue shade is echoed in the second hand, while the minute and hour hands are delicately formed as gold scrollwork implements. The reverse features a custom monogram inlaid in white gold intersected by a trident-like depiction that sprays out on opposing sides as fern-like forms. The gold Barten & Rice New York pocket watch will be offered on March the 12<sup>th</sup> as lot 100 at an auction estimate of \$4,000-6,000.

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Unique in both technique and color palette is a three-layer Chinese glass mallet vase with a Qianlong mark, at an estimate of \$600-800. A base of thick white glass is overlaid first in a vibrant pink, providing an interesting backdrop to a top forest green glass layer. The neck of the vase swirls with pink ruyi clouds as a sinuous green dragon twists and turns about. The base then depicts a lone scholar in a rural garden, in which the pink glass serves as a highlighting element to the primary green glass scene. A mark of period evident upon the base, the three-layer Chinese glass mallet vase will be offered as Asian March estate lot 191.

A fine art sale section, primarily of American and European artworks, is highlighted by Eduardo Tojetti's oil on board painting "Mythological Woman with Cherubs" at an estimate of \$2,500-4,500 (lot 293). The painting centers a beauty gazing lovingly over her shoulder at a cherub in flight, as she sits perched upon a cloud. Two additional cherubs flank the mythological woman, as a butterfly winged youth appears on her right and a nude hoisting a gathering of flowers stands to her left. The ethereal image bears a sight measurement of approximately 32 inches in height by 33 inches in width, held by a wood, gold toned patina frame. Tojetti, born in Rome in 1851 and passing on November 27, 1930 in San Francisco began painting as a youth under his father Domenico's direction. The one time Bohemian Club member was also a partner in a fresco and interior décor business at the corner of Market and Jones. Tojetti was also commissioned to create murals, often collaborating with his father and brother.

A 15 lot auction collection of ornithological and floral themed Boehm porcelain highlights the month of March's American decorative arts sale section. The collection, with a portion of the proceeds designated to benefit the Pacific Union College Biology Department, remains in amazing condition in regards to both form and paintwork. One of the most substantial and arguably beautiful pieces from the collection is in a large figural group of hummingbirds on branches, listed at an estimate of \$500-700 (lot 606). The bisque statue holds three hummingbirds in various states of rest along with one in mid-flight, convening around a depiction of a wooden stump. Ferns and calla lilies are among the groups of foliage surrounding the scene, with some floral elements whimsically designed as articulated pieces. Signed upon the base "Boehm U.S.A.," the man behind Boehm, Edward Marshall Boehm, developed hard-paste porcelain in 1949 to create sculpture. In the early days of Boehm porcelain manufacture, these elaborate and life-like bird figurines became their best-known wares, a segment of Boehm porcelain that continues to be appreciated and collected. Joining the hummingbird piece at auction will be additional bird depictions, including but not limited to, blue warblers, green jays, cardinals, chickadees and wood thrushes ranging in estimations from a low of \$200 to a high of \$800.

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A recent appraisal by Michaan's Coin, Stamp & Ephemera specialist, Mr. Michael Rosenberg, proved to be quite a find to the delight of both the East Bay consignor as well as Rosenberg. The album of two hundred and sixty-five Hong Kong and China origin bills are primarily from the early 1900s, in remarkable, uncirculated condition (lot 175). The virtually pristine, barely handled denominations include \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 and up to \$5,000,000 yuan. The bills were collected upon the consignor's husband's business travels to Hong Kong. These accumulations from multiple trips lead to the presented bill collection for sale. The consignor, now in her 80's, found the bills in a small briefcase in what was their home basement after her husband had passed. Curious as to the value of the assorted bills, she decided to bring them to Rosenberg for appraisal, assuming they were cumulatively worth about \$500. Mr. Rosenberg was immediately aware of the rarity of the condition of the pieces she had brought, putting a conservative \$4,000-6,000 estimate on the collection. Mr. Rosenberg reflected, "Upon cataloging this group for the March sale, I used the title 'Very Attractive Hong Kong and China Paper Money Collection' because that's just what it would be in the eyes of collectors. This amount of uncirculated condition Asian bills of the time is quite a treasure indeed."

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com) when it becomes available. Previews for the March 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.