
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Estate Auction
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry
Saturday August 6

Previews:
August 5, 6, 11 and 12

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Rare Coins and Clocks, California Impressionists and Vintage Fine Jewelry Bring Treasure Hunters to Michaan's in August

Rare American coins and fine collectible coins of the world are featured in Michaan's monthly Estate Auction [on August 12](#). Specialist Michael Rosenberg presents over one hundred lots consigned by discerning collectors. Top highlights include 19th century and prewar 20th century US gold coins.

Among the older coins in the auction is the 1852 Liberty Head \$20.00 (ANACS, AU-50) estimated at \$2,200-\$2,500. A \$3.00 gold coin from 1854, featuring the beautiful Indian Princess Head motif, is offered with estimates of \$1,200-\$1,300. A Liberty Head \$20.00 gold piece dating from the close of the 19th century is estimated at \$1,600-\$1,800 (1897, NGS MS62).

Collectors won't want to miss the US \$20.00 gold coins from 1907 and 1908, when the transition was underway from the Liberty Head motif to the iconic design by American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, featuring a fierce and majestic eagle in flight reversing to the elegant figure of Liberty bearing an olive branch. A 1907 \$20.00 gold coin from the last

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year of Liberty Head production is estimated at \$1,400-\$1,600, while a \$20.00 piece from the same year with the newer Saint-Gaudens design is offered at \$1,800 to \$2,000 (NGC MS62, no motto). A highlight for collectors is the 1908 Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 gold piece (\$2,000-\$2,200) engraved with the motto "In God We Trust." There's an interesting history behind the "motto/no motto" versions of these 1907-1908 coins. President Teddy Roosevelt is said to have objected to placing the motto on currency, stating that it was a "vulgar" use of such a lofty sentiment. But an act of Congress overruled the President's judgment call, and from 1908 it was required that the motto be engraved on all US coinage.

Besides those listed above, the [August 12](#) auction offers several more \$20.00 gold pieces from 1907 and 1908. Gold coins from many countries will also be sold. These include coins collected by the late Dr. Eldon D. Ream (1939-2017), lifelong resident of the Berkeley hills and intrepid world traveler. Dr. Ream studied in Austria and Germany and earned a B.A. from Brigham Young University in Utah, returning to the Bay Area in the late 1960s to enroll in the School of Optometry at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Ream had a great passion for collecting coins, an interest sparked by his father and eldest brother. His love of coins led him to become an accomplished jewelry craftsman specializing in coin rings; two of his creations are offered in this auction by the jewelry department.

A leading auction highlight from the collection of Dr. Eldon Ream is the very rare 1895 ("S," San Francisco) US Morgan silver dollar in uncirculated condition, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000. The Morgan dollar is "by far the most widely collected and traded numismatic coin in the world" (Louis Golino, [CoinWeek.com](#)). For many collectors, the 1895 coin is the key to completing their Morgan dollar sets, and bidding should be intense for this lot. Dr. Ream also collected European coins during his study abroad in Salzburg, Austria. These will be auctioned [on August 12](#) and include a 1915 uncirculated Austria 100 corona gold coin (\$1,200-\$1,400). Additional foreign gold coins range in date from the 19th century to the 1980s. Inquiries are encouraged by specialist Michael Rosenberg, who can be reached at [510-227-2502](#).

Collectible clocks are highly sought at auction, and Michaan's offers a truly spectacular opportunity for collectors in August with the pavilion style automaton mechanical clock, estimated to sell for \$80,000-\$100,000. The design of this gilded confection was inspired by the splendor of the Orient. Elephants in ceremonial dress form its feet. The housing for the clock face evokes a high temple or royal palace. Its moving parts include eight twirling tropical trees, and the tune played by the clock echoes the delicate music of temple bells. The clock has an irresistible charm that will make it a leading attraction at the August Estate Auction and a great source of pride for the winning bidder.

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California Impressionist William Franklin Jackson (1850-1936) is Michaan's featured fine artist in August. His "California Landscape with Poppies and Lupine" (\$10,000-\$15,000) would make a fine addition to any collection of American Impressionist paintings. With its colorful indigenous wild perennials including the state flower, the work will have a special appeal to Californians. Jackson was the first Museum Director of the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento, where he served for 50 years while also painting and teaching. He was an important figure in the California art world of his day, and his splendid plein-air landscapes continue to inspire artists working in the Golden State today. Also featured are a number of smaller California landscapes in oil by plein-air painter Carl Sammons (1883-1968) including views of Carmel, Palm Springs, and Yosemite. These wonderful works have been grouped into four lots, their estimates ranging from \$1,500-\$3,500.

Many of August's Asian art highlights come from the Sacramento estate of a selective collector who purchased them primarily from Sotheby's Parke-Bernet, Los Angeles. Bids will reflect the excellent provenance of these fine pieces. Beautiful Chinese furniture to be sold includes items of rosewood such as the table and chair estimated at \$3,000-\$4,000. Garden stools of colorful famille rose porcelain are offered at \$800-\$1,200 for the pair. A collection of five stellar Yixing stoneware pieces will attract many bids with its lovely decoration and details. A fascinating lot for collectors is the cloisonné production process kit, a set of seven small vases that reveal the progressive stages of cloisonné enamel creation from start to finish (\$300-\$400). Superbly detailed decorative art objects include a carved white coral maiden and a mixed-metal pumpkin form covered box. Collectibles also include precious snuff bottles carved of jade, amethyst, quartz and carnelian. Antique Buddhist figures are highlighted, with estimates ranging from \$400 to \$3,000. Embroidered silks and archaic bronze pieces can be found among the treasures from China; from Japan, a carp form kettle hanger carved of wood (\$300-\$400).

Jewelry buyers will find brilliant gemstones, precious metals, and wearable estate pieces in the assortment of fine jewelry at Michaan's in August. Jewelry for gentlemen is always in high demand among auction bidders, who will vie for the covetable cultured pearl dress set from G.T. Marsh & Company. Established as a fine Asian art dealer in 1876, the firm also offered unique fine jewelry to clients in the San Francisco Bay Area. The handsome pearl dress set features white gold and Marsh's signature patinated steel, a look for which their designs are known and loved; it is estimated at \$800 to \$1,200. Another estate find is the collection of jeweled gold stickpins (\$300-\$500). Stickpins are a versatile way to get in on the brooch trend, delicate enough to be worn on a thin shirt or in clusters on a jacket lapel. Also on trend is the pair of graceful peacock earrings made of enamel, seed pearls and gold (\$300-\$500). Victorian bangle bracelets and fine pocket watches are among the period jewelry highlights.

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Sparkling rings include diamond and aquamarine styles; a sapphire and diamond ring is estimated at \$500-\$700.

Fine silver is a perennial bestseller at Michaan's and collectors will find compelling options in August. Featured flatware includes a 72-piece Danish set by K.A. Rasmussen (\$1,500-\$2,000, with silver chest) and Christofle's "Marly" (121 pieces, \$1,500-\$2,000). Mexican sterling lots include a coffee and tea service (\$1,500-\$2,000) and an elegant two-handled centerpiece (\$1,200-\$1,500) in the International ("Jensen") style. Lovely hand-painted porcelain by Bing and Grondahl includes a 33-piece botanical themed luncheon service (\$1,500-\$2,000) and a suite of eight vintage 1962 fish plates, each featuring a different sea creature(\$500-\$700).

Of particular interest to Bay Area collectors is the pair of bronze Polynesian-themed candelabra (\$800-\$1,200) designed and signed by the late Victor Bergeron of "Trader Vic's" fame.

Diverse estate furniture in the August auction ranges from the Brutalist burlwood table (\$800-\$1,600) to the ebonized Eastlake 12-piece dining suite 11837-1 (\$1,000-\$1,500) by venerable 19th Century American furniture maker Berkey and Gay. Auction buyers with a taste for luxury goods will find many compelling lots including the three-piece set of Louis Vuitton luggage and the Fortuny-style "Grand Canal" pattern velvet coverlet (\$2,500-\$3,000) in gorgeous shades of bronze and gold.

Michaan's Auctions offers online bidding through liveauctioneers.com, phone bidding, and a live auction with preview days in advance of the sale. The August auction catalog will be posted at michaans.com, where the complete auction calendar can also be found. Consignments are welcomed year-round by appointment and at weekly appraisal events each Wednesday at the auction gallery in Alameda, CA.