
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 July 8 at 10am

Previews:
July 1, 2, 7 and day of sale

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

Chihuly Glass and Danish Modern Jewelry, Bisque Dolls and Chinese Jade at Michaan's in July

Michaan's monthly Estate Auction is the path of discovery to a fascinating range of high quality auction finds. July's sale offers art lovers some very special American treasures. Of particular interest to West Coast auction followers are two watercolors by Millard Sheets (1907-1989), a California native whose work has special significance not only for art collectors but for all who love the Golden State. An accomplished painter and prominent art educator, Sheets was also a prolific Mid-Century Modern muralist for public buildings such as San Francisco's Scottish Rite Temple. Throughout Southern California, branches of the Home Savings Bank feature his bold murals depicting the history and culture of the state. Sheets also served as the architect on many of these unique bank buildings, cherished by Southern Californians. The chance to own an original work by this visionary artist will attract many bids for his "Church" (\$6,000-8,000) and "Sand Clipper" (\$3,000-5,000).

Another highlight of July's sale is the set of nesting bowls by the glass artist who needs no introduction: Dale Chihuly. Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, the brilliantly colored bowls are instantly recognizable as the work of one of America's best loved contemporary artists.

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Fine Art bidders will also fall in love with "Black and White Sheep" by the Icelandic-American painter, Louisa Matthiasdottir (1917-2000), praised by the New York Times for her "bold, unfettered directness." From the New York gallery of Robert Schoelkopf, longtime art dealer for Matthiasdottir and her husband the painter Leland Bell, this striking work in oil on linen is estimated at \$6,000-8,000.

July's collectibles, furniture, and decorative art objects are diverse and intriguing. They include Chinese stamps, U.S. gold coins, and several third phase Navajo chiefs wearing blankets. From a Peninsula doll collector with a keen eye for quality and detail, Michaan's offers fine bisque porcelain dolls in eight separate lots. Several are German by Kestner and Simon & Halbig, and two are French including the mechanical blue-eyed strawberry blonde who moves her arms and says "Maman" (\$800-1,200). A collection of four handmade Black Americana dolls (\$400-600) includes a fascinating "reversible" one: flip the skirt to change her ethnicity.

Clock collectors will be thrilled by two industrial automaton models: one fashioned as a mill, the other a locomotive sold together with a thermometer and barometer (\$3,000-4,000). Michaan's is always a great resource for fine Persian rugs, and July's assortment includes a handmade Isfahan carpet estimated at \$4,000 to \$8,000. An Art Deco brass armoire (\$400-800) brings a touch of Hollywood glamour to the auction, and collectors won't want to miss out on the handsome pair of painted and gilded wooden blackamoor figures (\$1,000-1,500).

Top designer names and one-of-a-kind estate pieces stand out among July's jewelry finds. In the mix are a ladies' 18k gold Rolex (\$3,000-5,000), a Cartier panther pendant glittering with jewels, and various Tiffany & Co. designs for men and women. Paloma's Caliper ring, offered together with a pair of cufflinks (\$400-600), was inspired by designer Paloma Picasso's passion for classic cars and racing. Two Mid-Century Modern necklaces from A. Michelsen, each estimated at \$800-1,200, are highlights in this sale. Michelsen, the venerable Danish silversmith founded in 1841, has been part of the Georg Jensen company since 1975. Lovely antique jewelry pieces in the sale include a gold and enamel Art Nouveau brooch 11308-3 accented by diamonds and seed pearls.

Antique pottery, rare white jade and a fine Chinese brush pot 11054-3 carved of lustrous Zitan wood (\$1,000-1,500) await collectors of Asian art in July. A stately Luohan carved of wood is one of the fine symbolic and decorative figures in the sale, as is the Sancai lead glazed pottery guardian; each is estimated at \$500-700. The budai monk or "laughing Buddha" figure (\$300-400) and a set of four plaques (\$800-1,200) are the top lots among the high quality famille rose porcelains in this sale. A fine specimen of rare white jade, expertly carved to resemble a landscape, is estimated at \$3,000-5,000. Antique Chinese pottery made for

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export remains very popular with today's collectors, who will find a beautiful underglaze blue bowl (\$400-600) among the treasures at Michaan's in July.