
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Fine Art, Furniture and Decorative Arts
June 9

Previews:
June 3, 4, 8 and day of sale

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

A Strong Finish For Important Russian Paintings At Michaan's June Fine Sale

Michaan's June 9 auction of Fine Art, Furniture and Decorative Arts was led by important Russian paintings from a private collection in Carmel, CA. Highlights included "Wooded Clearing" (Lot 3143, \$72,000 realized) and "Na Beregu Ruchya" (Lot 3142, \$22,800), both by Ivan Ivanovitch Shishkin (1832-1898). Like other artists featured in this auction, Shishkin broke from the Academic painting tradition that had dominated Russian painting for centuries, rejecting classical and religious themes and turning instead to natural landscapes and portraits. Also sold in the June sale was "High Water of River Pisava" by Petr Petrovich Vereshchagin (Lot 3146, \$42,000). Vereshchagin is known for plein air painting in the countryside, and for cityscapes from across the Russian empire that document its historical splendor and first steps toward industrialization. An impressionistic view of a St. Petersburg landmark, "The Anichkov Bridge" (Lot 3157) by Nicolai Semenovitch Samokich (1860-1944) brought \$7,200. "Market Boat on the Volga" (Lot 3160) by Aleksei Stepanovich Stepanov was estimated at \$6,000-9,000 and sold for \$14,400.

There were a number of fine Russian portraits in the sale such as the lot of two (3168, \$7,800), both of a "Mr. Sazanov," by Ilja Efimovich Repin (1844-1930). Repin's stature as an artist in 19th century Russia has been compared to that of the novelist Leo Tolstoy.

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A native of Ukraine, he was not only a leading painter of his day but also was later admired by the Soviets as a model progressive and realist. His 1881 "Portrait of a Man" (Lot 3166), estimated at \$5,000-8,000, realized \$12,000 at Michaan's on June 9. "The Samovar," a figural study by Vladimir Egorovich Makovsky displaying great warmth and striking realism, brought \$48,000 (Lot 3163). An auction highlight was the \$33,000 sale of an oil on board (Lot 3167) by Valentin Alexandrovich Serov. A contemplative turn-of-the-century portrait of a government minister, it was estimated at \$5,000-8,000.

In addition to the exciting sale of paintings from Tsarist Russia, the June 9 auction saw excellent results for diverse 20th Century works by European and American artists. These included a Maynard Dixon landscape (Lot 3193, \$22,800), an Andy Warhol portrait of Liz Taylor (Lot 3202, \$36,000) and Picasso's lithograph of his lovely muse Françoise Gilot, mother of Paloma and Claude Picasso (Lot 3209A, \$54,000). "Bead Bird," a delightful sculpture by acclaimed Finnish ceramicist Birger Kaipiainen, brought \$21,600.

For details and the complete 2017 auction calendar, visit www.michaans.com.