
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

February 11, 10am

Previews:

February 4, 5 10 and day of sale

Location:

Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Objects of Desire at Michaan's in February Include Enchanting Jewelry, American Paintings, Treasures of Asia and French Furniture

Exceptional jewelry is the heart of Michaan's monthly Estate Auction to be held Saturday, February 11. "Michaan's is always a destination for very special gifts," says appraiser Elise Coronado, "and this month's jewelry selection is brimming with truly outstanding opportunities, not only for giving but also for collecting." Among the many rings in this sale are Art Deco diamond and platinum styles including one for a gentleman, and several diamond solitaires set in bold settings of yellow gold. Fancy yellow gold links of substantial weight and unique design are featured in a modern bracelet (\$4,000-6,000), and there are classic necklaces of large gold links and gold beads. Many gold and gemstone pieces feature animal motifs crafted with great style and expertise. These include the chic horse necklace (\$1,800-2,500), a giraffe jewelry suite (\$2,000-3,000) and several lots for elephant lovers including hoop earrings (\$300-500), a pair of rings and a multi-stone, diamond and yellow gold suite of a bracelet and ring (\$1,500-2,500).

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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Additional highlights for February bidders seeking gifts of fine jewelry:

- The ladies' Bucherer diamond and 18k gold covered wristwatch (\$1,500-2000).
- The platinum bracelet featuring seven South American emeralds and scores of diamonds (\$5,000-7,000).
- The long strand of old Chinese jade beads in a coveted pale celadon color (\$400-600).
- The smart yellow gold bangle featuring rows of illusion-set princess cut diamonds (\$700-900).

Artisanal handcrafting with gold and jewels is a legacy of the Mughal Empire, which fostered splendid achievements in Indian culture. Mughal art and romance come together not only in the great Taj Mahal but also in the tourmaline, diamond and yellow gold necklace (\$3,000-5,000) offered by Michaan's in February. Balancing its weighty proportions are the lovely soft colors of the gemstones and a rich patina of age, imparting tasteful serenity to this spectacular piece. Enchanting jewelry from another deeply artistic culture will be showcased in February's sale, with many fine Native American treasures crafted of silver, turquoise, spondylus shell, coral and more. "Native American jewelry has done very well in our recent auctions," notes Coronado. "Collectors will be excited to find these diverse pieces crafted by tribal artisans and from designers inspired by their traditions." Highlights include the striking Zuni bolo centering a Yei figure made of silver with turquoise accents (\$300-500), and a silver and multi-stone concho belt designed by Kirk Smith (\$1,000-1,500). Additional conchos and bolos augment the large assortment of bracelets, rings and necklaces. A miniature village of cliff dwellings wraps around a silver bracelet, carved of turquoise in high relief (\$300-500 for the bracelet together with a lizard motif ring). Motifs come from the animal (horses, eagles, bears), natural, and spiritual realms.

Following on the success of American paintings in the January Estate Auction, February's noteworthy Fine Art lots include California landscapes that capture the beauty of our rolling hills and cloud-scattered skies. Works by California artists are perennial favorites with Michaan's bidders and enjoy enduring popularity in the art market far beyond the region. Two that stand out in this month's sale are "Mt. Tamalpais" (\$2,000-3,000) by Hector Serbaroli (1881-1951), and "Near Gilroy" (\$1,000-1,500) by James Everett Stuart (1853-1941). Another important February highlight comes from the other side of the country. The historic cotton kingdom genre painting, "Cabin Scene" (\$5,000-7,000), is a

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

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portrait of sharecroppers and their home by William Aiken Walker (1838-1921), a prominent Carolinian best known for paintings of the reconstructed South, its countryside and people ravaged by war. "Cabin Scene" is compelling not only for Walker's composition and technique, but equally for its value as a record of American history.

February's Asian Art highlights include pieces from China, Japan and Tibet. A lady with a fan, carved of precious pink coral (\$2,000-3,000), epitomizes the graceful formality that has made Chinese art so appealing to generations of collectors. Two lots in the sale date from Japan's richly artistic Meiji Period: a pair of splendidly decorated Satsuma vases (signed Ryozan, \$1,500-2,000) and a fish form dish (\$300-400) from Arita, the birthplace of Japanese porcelain. Collectable Tibetan objects include a brass teapot, a wood bowl, and a set of traveler's accoutrements. Chinese famille rose porcelains and several bronze figural sculptures will be offered, as will an ancient cast bronze ding, or cauldron (\$2,000-3,000) from the Warring States Period.

Buffalo nickels and Confederate bills are among February's finds for coin collectors, along with Austro-Hungarian and old Japanese coins. A large collection of international stamps will be auctioned in one lot estimated at \$3,000-4,000. Bidders are invited to examine these lots on Preview days or by appointment with specialist Michael Rosenberg.

February's furniture and decorations highlights include romantic French pieces led by a trio of Louis XVI style marquetry pieces: the semainier and chest of drawers each estimated at \$1,000-1,500, and the marble-topped commode at \$1,200-1,500. A handsome Napoleon walnut chest (\$1,000-1,500) is decorated with columns in the Neo-Classical style, and a charming Normandy armoire (\$800-1,200) features carved shells and floral motifs. Another French delight is the Erté 1987 limited edition bronze sculpture of a woman (\$2,000-4,000). The stunning Art Deco figure wears a radiating sunburst headdress and stands nearly two feet tall.