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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 arts, Asian art and jewelry  
Saturday November 12

Previews:  
November 4,5,11 and by appointment

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

### **"Galloping Horses" and "Zebras at the Watering Hole": Every Picture Tells A Story at Michaan's in November**

Michaan's anticipates a robust holiday shopping season which opens with our live Estate Auction on [Saturday, November 12](#). In this month's auction, midcentury and contemporary works of art will attract particular interest. Jewelry sales continue to be strong, supported this month by unique estate pieces. The Asian Art Department presents artworks from many periods in a variety of media: paintings, pottery, textiles and more. Furniture, tableware, silver, and other collectable finds complete the November sale.

California artists are of great and growing interest to collectors. Two excellent oil paintings by Frank Ward Kent (1912-1977) are positioned to meet this market demand as well as the ongoing clamor for quality Midcentury Modernist works. "Lavanderas" is rich in surface texture and leans toward Cubism without obscuring the grace of its figural subjects. In "Mexican Still Life Motif", tribal figurines surround the traditional fruit bowl, adding enigmatic symbolism to a classical composition. Each of the Kent paintings is estimated at \$600-800, a fantastic price for such dynamic works. Also in this auction are two paintings by

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preeminent Cuban artist Manuel Mendive (b. 1944), who explores the spiritual journeys of the African diaspora in his mystical works, "La Adoracion" (dated 2000) and "Elegua y Gallo" (2002). Each is estimated at \$2,000-4,000. The auction also features the unmistakable image of Frida Kahlo in "Autoretrato" (Self Portrait in White), a pastel on paper, attributed to the artist, dated 1946 (\$1,500-2,000). Another highlight is "Lithograph II" (\$1,000-2,000), a playful biomorphic abstraction instantly recognizable as a work of Joan Miró.

A longtime leader in using recycled materials to create art, self-described "junk sculptor" Leo Sewell (b. 1945) is represented in the sale by "Cat", his life-size figure assembled from found objects including costume jewelry, small toys, eyeglasses and more. This highly collectable piece is estimated at \$1,000-1,500. Another popular contemporary artist's work, "Zebras at the Watering Hole" (\$1,500-2,000) by A. John Pelletier, will attract many bids with its generous size and the bold graphic impact of its beautiful subject.

November jewelry highlights include several coral lots for ladies and gentlemen. A suite of salmon coral beads and a brooch (\$500-700) has period appeal, as does a weighty Victorian gold charm encrusted with red coral cabochons (\$400-600), very striking worn as a pendant. A pair of finely carved coral seahorse cufflinks (\$600-800) come nestled in a gift box bearing the chic Paris address of the venerable jeweler, Zolotas. Of particular note is a slender Chinese double bangle of wood, wrapped in 20k embossed gold and featuring a motif of bats for good luck (\$800-1,200). Precious gems include an elegant Victorian pink sapphire ring (\$500-700) and a pair of large but delicate openwork drop earrings centering blue sapphires, accented by diamonds (\$700-900). A stunning ladies' retro wristwatch (\$700-900) features rubies and diamonds set in rose gold, the precious metal of the moment.

Among the most ancient objects in the November sale is a charming glazed ewer (\$500-700) in the form of a plump chicken, from 4th century China via a Bay Area art lover with four decades of Asian art collecting experience. A straw-glazed Tang Dynasty amphora (now mounted as a lamp base, \$700-900) comes from a collection largely donated to the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Two ink and watercolor paintings of Ye Zuibai, late 20th century, depict galloping horses in a style informed by earlier Chinese painters but displaying the compositional freedom and kinetic energy of contemporary art. Also offered by the Asian Art Department is a large mid-20th century woodblock (\$1,000 to \$1,500) by Japanese master printmaker Kiyoshi Saito. The print's subject is a multi-layered

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image of a simple Haniwa clay figure, a relic of early Japan, which gives it deep cultural resonance. A Chinese altar table (\$800-1,200), from the collection of a prominent San Francisco philanthropist, leads the furniture auction, which also includes a sleek Jonathan Adler desk and a late 1800s American oak desk and cabinet.

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online, when available, at [www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com). Property offered in the [November 12](#) Estate Sale can be previewed in the gallery on the previous Saturday and [Sunday, November 4](#) and [5](#); [on Friday November 11](#); and on the day of the sale. For general information please call  [\(510\) 740-0220 ext. 0](tel:(510)740-0220) or e-mail [info@michaans.com](mailto:info@michaans.com).  
Michaan' s Auctions is located at [2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501](#).