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PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

Press Office Contact!

Talesa Eugenio
(510) 740-0220 x 116

Auction:

Estate Auction
Featuring fine art, decorative arts, Asian art and jewelry
July 9

Previews:

July 2, 3 & 8

Location:

Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Tiffany “Fireworks” and the “Splashed-Color” Hills of Zhang Daqian

July sale also includes W. Acheff still life, “Fates”

Vienna Amphora Turn-Teplitz vase

Michaan's July estate auction will keep festivities going well past the 4th, with a Tiffany & Co. “Fireworks” brooch offered at an estimate of \$700-900 on Saturday the 9th (lot 104). Bursting forth from a linear depiction of firework sprays in 18 karat yellow gold is a beautiful vertically oriented oval amethyst, with the piece accompanied by its original, hinged Tiffany & Co. box. The “Fireworks” brooch will be joined at auction by eight additional Tiffany jewelry lots that include brooches, a ring and suites, with another notable highlight found in an Elsa Perretti 18 karat yellow gold heart set of a brooch and earrings (lot 082, \$600-800).

Chinese painting master Zhang Daqian's (1899-1983) ink and color on paper landscape “Splashed-Color Autumn” presents an exceptional piece in the July estate auction at an estimate of \$200,000-300,000 (lot 260). The uncomplicated image of a vast, largely barren landscape depicts expansive hillsides sprinkled with remote clusters of humble dwellings and trees. A background of arid land occupies the top of the piece, however, the landscape takes an artful turn, as a

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large hillside is rendered from the right hand side as a commanding presence in subtly graduated and deeply rich tones of turquoise. It seems that heaven and earth have flipped in the natural world, with land occupying the sky and the blue tone expected from the atmosphere coming down to earth. The expression is beautifully unexpected and avant-garde, mixing simplicity of technique with bold creativity. Master Zhang Daqian remains one of the most celebrated Chinese artists of the 20th century. His introduction to Pablo Picasso in 1956 in Nice, France was publically touted as an artistic meeting of east and west, paying homage to the level of artistry Zhang Daqian had achieved.

A meticulous attention to detail culminating in realistic still life paintings is the mark of William Acheff (New Mexico, California, Alaska b. 1947), with a wonderful example of his artistry evident in "Still Life" at an estimate of \$2,000-3,000 (lot 290). Variety of texture is skillfully expressed in the painting of a silver teapot, orange and apples upon a handkerchief, lending a photorealist quality to the work. The makings of the artist were actually quite happenstance, when a young Acheff was working as a barber in San Francisco. Established Italian artist Roberto Lupetti came in to get a haircut and the two hit it off, with Lupetti inviting Acheff to attend the art class he taught. Being an artist was the furthest thing from Acheff's mind, however, once he started he proved to be naturally gifted, becoming one of Lupetti's top students. Lupetti lived long enough to see the younger Acheff flourish as an artist, with critical acclaim in his career including being honored twice with the Prix de West award (1989, 2004) as well as winning the Masters of the American West Purchase Award in 1998 from the Autry National Center of the American West.

Highlighting the decorative arts portion of the sale is an ethereal "Fates" Vienna Amphora Turn-Teplitz vase listed as lot 511 at an estimate of \$2,000-3,000. A solemn butterfly winged, dark haired beauty is depicted as a Bohemian nymph, her hair cascading past a bejeweled spider web. A similar, yet larger vase of the same decorative motif also entitled "Fates" was sold in Michaan's June fine sale of December 6, 2013 to exceptional results (estimate \$900-1,200, price realized \$18,880). This segment of Art Nouveau pottery remains highly collectible for its rarity, quality and decorative appeal, once produced in the kaolin-rich Turn-Teplitz region of Bohemia, known today as the Teplice region of the Czech Republic.

The illustrated auction catalog will be posted online at www.michaans.com when it becomes available. Previews for the July estate auction will be held on

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the 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th, the day of sale. For general information please call (510) 740-0220 ext. 0 or e-mail info@michaans.com. Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501.