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Auction Action In Bloomfield, N.J.

Two George Nakashima walnut and hickory conoid chairs, American, late Twentieth Century brought $4,600.

Two Chinese porcelain insert wall plaques, Twentieth Century, realized $12,765.

A pair of Chinese Export gilt-decorated, dragon motif porcelain vases, Twentieth Century, came in at $15,010.

The final price for the sculpture, "Fore Confiante," by Antoine Poncet, (Swiss, 1928-) was $7,500.

A surprising consignment of an oil painting of a male cotton picker by William Aiken Walker (American, 1838–1921) brought in $5,000.

A rare and unusual Andrew Clemens sand art bottle came in at $16,800.

The hammer came down at $25,000 for the bronze statue "Grende Orolirio" by Alicia Penalba (Argentina, 1913–1982).

Chinese And Americana Collections Lead In Nye's June Decorative Auction

BLOOMFIELD, N.J. — Chinese porcelains, sculptures and a unique Nineteenth Century bottle were some of the highlights of the Nye & Co. June 3–17 auction, which included approximately 830 lots from several collectors and Metropolitan-area estates.

Many of the auction favorites came from the estate of a Short Hills, N.J., couple who were downsizing after living in their home for nearly 50 years and particularly received pleasure from their continually expanding collection of Americana: paintings, Sandwich glass, brass, and hearth tools.

One of their prized possessions was a sand art bottle bearing the label on the underside, "Pictured Rock Sand/Put Up By/ A. Clemens/Deaf Mute/McGregor, Iowa." The visual depicts the Great Seal of the United States and an oval reserve featuring a sailing vessel, swallow and a rose with an inscription. Andrew Clemens was a mid- to late Nineteenth Century artist from Dubuque, Iowa, who spent most of his life in nearby McGregor. At the age of five, a case of encephalitis left him totally deaf and nearly mute. He started creating with sand art at the age of 13 and is believed to have made hundreds of bottles, with only a few remaining today. The final price for the bottle came in at $16,800.

Another household from Bernard's Mountain, N.J., auctioned off its Oriental rugs and period pieces such as Regency bookcases, Art Nouveau and Deco cabinets and French furniture. A Tiffany Studios turtleback patinated bronze Greek vase table lamp with a whirling leaves glass shade brought in $9,300.

A very special Americana item came from an African American woman who used to pick cotton in North Carolina. She brought in a painting of a male cotton picker by William Aiken Walker (1838–1931) found in her attic and was surprised to hear about the intended $3/5,000 estimate. Upon learning that the hammer fell $1,500 above the top estimated price, she immediately called her daughter to celebrate.

The Chinese porcelains were of considerable interest, with Internet bids coming in at a healthy pace. Highlights included two insert wall plaques for $12,765; blue and white Twentieth Century fish bowl with a dragon motif for $9,909; and a pair of Twentieth Century export gilt-decorated dragon motif vases for $15,010.

In addition, two Japanese porcelain vases sold at $12,500. One of the highlighted paintings was a still life by Paul LaCroix that sold for $8,100. Bronze was also of interest, with the sculptures "Grende Orolirio," by Argentinean Alicia Penalba (1914–1982) and "Forme Confiante" by Swiss artist Antoine Poncet (1928-) leading the final results.

Owner John Nye appreciates how online bidding is extremely transparent, as well as provides hundreds of buyers worldwide to think about their decisions during the two weeks the items are posted.

All prices recorded include the buyers premium. For information, 973-984-6900 or www.nyeandcompany.com.

Jade Ring Tops Estate Auction At Michaan's

Auction Action In Alameda, Calif.

A Navajo wool rug realized $5,900.

ALAMEDA, CALIF. — A certified jade ring achieved the highest price of the day at Michaan's June 1 estate sale. The beautifully translucent jadeite cabochon was wonderfully offset by a wide band of 18K white gold encrusted in more than 50 diamonds. The ring realized $11,800, right near its high estimate. Yet another jade ring in the sale commanded more than four times the high estimate, selling for $3,245.

In the fine art category, Leonel Gongora's mixed media on paper titled "Exorcismo" sold at $3,245.

A mixed media by Leonel Gongora (b 1932) of Surrealist figures on paper sold for $3,245.

Additional top sellers were found in a vibrant, geometric Navajo wool rug that sold at $5,900. More than eight times its high estimate of $700. A Chinese carpet of an intricate dragon motif design went to $2,655. Michaan's furniture and decorative arts specialist Elizabeth Dalton said about the Navajo rug, "The demand for these Twentieth Century rugs remains high. This piece had a winning combination of excellent condition and a magnificent display of color. It came as no surprise to me that bids flooded in from multiple directions: Internet, phone and the main gallery floor."

All prices reported include the buyer's premium. For information, 510-740-0220 or www.michaans.com.

Another jade and diamond ring, this one in 14K yellow gold, sold for $3,245.

A jade, diamond, 18K white gold ring sold for $11,800.