

Spanning the Globe

MICHAAN'S biannual Fine Art, Furniture, Decorative Arts, and Jewelry auction will be held on Friday, December 9 in Alameda, Calif. Two canvases by Sam Francis—*Untitled (SF70-723)*, estimated at \$60,000–80,000, and *Point Reyes Self Portrait* (est. \$150,000–200,000)—will headline the sale. Francis' work, which is loosely associated with the second wave of



Abstract Expressionism (and that of artists like Joan Mitchell and Helen Frankenthaler), often employs an expressive use of color, with drips and drops of pigment dotting and smearing large “empty center” canvases, as seen in *Untitled*.

Though typically thought of as a California painter (he spent his formative years in Berkeley), Francis lived and worked all over the world—in Paris, the South of France, Bern, and Mexico City, as well



as other cities. His time in Tokyo and his interest in Zen Buddhism had a large influence on his work. In

Point Reyes Self Portrait these influences are evident, bringing to mind the work of postwar Japanese artist Kazuo Shiraga (an abstractionist and practitioner of Mikkyo or esoteric Buddhism). The consignator purchased both paintings directly from Francis, and they will both appear in the next printing of the artist's catalogue raisonné. Another highlight of the



sale is a painting by Fernando Amorsolo, one of the foremost artists of the late colonial period in the Philippines. *Marikana*, a lush oil on canvas estimated at \$50,000–70,000, depicts a sunny landscape heavily influenced by French painting of the late 19th century. The sale will also include *Coastal Town with Lighthouse, South of France*, an ink and watercolor on paper by French Expressionist Bernard Buffet. The energetic piece is estimated at \$20,000–30,000.