

Arthur Espenet Carpenter, Black Walnut Dining Table



The beauty of fine design is that it elevates items used in everyday life to a level of elegance and excellence which demands constant appreciation, no matter how frequently they are used. Arthur Espenet was an artisan who regularly produced such objects from his carpentry studio in Bolinas, California, at which he created designs that

appeared in homes, businesses, and museums across the country. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Arthur Espenet Carpenter Black Walnut Dining Table** (\$12/18,000) in our January Gallery Sale, to be held on Friday, January 19th.

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The table is defined by its long rectangular top, which is made elegant by its gently curving convex shapes across each edge. Both long edges are capped with a darker wood at the edge, which is held to the other planks with exposed joinery. The planks that constitute the surface of the table are a beautiful glowing brown to gold color, and the black walnut grain's swirling patterns are made easily visible by the artisan. Like many works by the Espenet family, the table features a pedestal design, allowing the table's legs to swoop down and outwards gracefully, with smoothly flowing lines forming the "S" bend. The table is signed "Espenet 6784" on the underside of the surface.

The table is representative of the furniture and other works produced by the Espenet family studio, who frequently use sweeping curves to accentuate the lightweight surfaces that

grace their furniture. These curves bring the eye upwards, where the wood continues to thin, furthering the impression of lightness. This creates furniture that appears impossibly thin, light, and elegant but maintains all the structural integrity of more traditional, heavier pieces.



Arthur Espenet was born in New York in 1920, where, inspired by an exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art, he bought himself a lathe and taught himself the art of carpentry. After moving to Bolinas in the 1970s, he joined the Baulines Craft Guild and

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taught over 250 apprentices through the program while continuing his groundbreaking design work. His furniture was featured in shows at the Smithsonian, MOMA, the Museum of Arts and Design, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Oakland Museum of Art. He was declared a “living California treasure” in 1984 and received The Furniture Society’s Award of Distinction in 2001. He is the author of Education of a Woodsmith, published posthumously by his son, Tripp, who continues his legacy through the family business, which continues to operate at the same Bolinas location.

Arthur Espenet Carpenter

Black Walnut Dining Table

(\$12/18,000) will be offered at

Michaan’s Auctions January Gallery

Auction on Friday, January 19th, which features numerous cars in excellent condition in addition to fine examples from the Fine Art and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by a 2023 Tesla Model X in Plaid Trim with only 3,901 miles, a 1966 Ford Mustang Hardtop Coupe, as well as a 1955 Ford Thunderbird. Also included is a Large Gilt Bronze Figure of an Immortal, a notable oil painting by Joseph Henry Sharp, and a 14k yellow gold charm bracelet.

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