

# Stow Wengenroth, New York Nocturne, 1945, lithograph



America's history with lithography began long before the advent of photography and its subsequent elevation to a medium primarily associated with fine art. Used in ads, book illustrations, and other commercial works, it was only around the turn of the 20th century that lithography came into its own as an artistic medium. Amongst 20th-century lithographers, Stow Wengenroth stands

out as among America's finest artists for both his detailed draftsmanship and excellent rendering of light and materials. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Stow Wengenroth, New York Nocturne, 1945, lithograph** (\$5/8,000) in our March Gallery Auction on Friday, March 15th.

The print is a rendering of a city scene, taken from the perspective of a pedestrian on the sidewalk, approaching

---

**Michaan's Auctions**

2701 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501  
1-800-380-9822 | (510) 740-0220

a three-way intersection at night. Two buildings open onto the street crossing in front of the viewer, which have a gap between them allowing the viewer to make out skyscrapers beyond a small number of trees, presumably growing in a park situated at a lower grade and thus invisible to the viewer. Facing this gap, on the far side of the street, are three benches, allowing a view of the cityscape, as well as a fire hydrant and a lamppost that extends above the frame. The building on the right appears to be an apartment building of at least three floors and is partially hidden behind a tree with bare limbs. The building to the left appears to be of a similar design, although it is mostly out of frame. Close to the viewer is a street sign, which interrupts the extended view of the city, and another small fire hydrant.

This work depicts a peaceful neighborhood at rest, likely from a

vantage point in Downtown Brooklyn or Brooklyn Heights. The busy city, evidenced by the lights still illuminating Manhattan's skyscrapers, is kept at a distance from the more domestic, and friendlier, neighborhood portrayed here, whose residents appear to be largely asleep due to the darkness emanating from all but one window. While this quiet suburban winter night is separated from the city's bustle by distance, it is invariably connected to the city, as Manhattan looms over the borrowed tranquility of its residents, who, presumably, must return with the morning light.

This work is an exemplary example of the artist's dedication to light, tonality, and form through the medium of lithography. Especially evident is his typically skilled rendering of high-contrast scenes in a manner that allows for deep visual exploration, while

---

**Michaan's Auctions**

2701 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501  
1-800-380-9822 | (510) 740-0220

also maintaining the deep blacks and shining highlights which characterize the medium's finest works. Notably, this work is among the handful that diverge from Wengenroth's typical subject matter of natural and small-town New England scenes by depicting a city scene. The Museum of Modern Art in New York (MOMA) maintains another edition of this work, a testament to its quality and enduring relevance.

Stow Wengenroth was an American lithographer born in 1906 in Brooklyn, New York. He studied at the Art Students League of New York, an informal academy organized by the American Fine Arts Society, before moving to the now-defunct Grand Central School of Art. His work was widely acclaimed during his lifetime, and he is now regarded to be one of America's greatest 20th-century lithographers. His works are widely

collected, including by the Library of Congress, as well as the Whitney and Met Museums. Wengenroth was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, amongst other prominent associations, and remained a prolific artist until his death in 1978.

**Stow Wengenroth, New York  
Nocturne, 1945, lithograph**

(\$5/8,000) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions March Gallery Auction on Friday, March 15th, which features many fine artworks from notable artists, in addition to excellent examples from the Jewelry and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by the Fine Art Department, which will be offering oil paintings by Frank Duveneck and a glass work by Marvin Lipofsky. Also included in the sale is a contemporary artwork by Pratchaya Charernsook, a micromosaic gold brooch, and a gold pocket watch.

---

**Michaan's Auctions**

2701 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501  
1-800-380-9822 | (510) 740-0220

Michaan's Auctions catalogs can  
be viewed on our website  
([www.michaans.com](http://www.michaans.com)), LiveAuctioneers,

and on our Michaan's Live site. Bid live  
in our gallery or remotely via absentee,  
phone, or online.

---

**Michaan's Auctions**

2701 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501  
1-800-380-9822 | (510) 740-0220