

# Marvin Bentley Lipofsky, California Sketch, glass.

Experimentation is an essential part of the artist's process, but these experiments are rarely allowed to leave the artist's studio. These processes of trial and error offer a unique insight into the mind of the artist and the progression of their ideas, making these works are highly valued for both their historical significance and rarity.

Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer one such work, **Marvin Bentley Lipofsky, California Sketch, glass**

(\$2,5/3,500) for sale in our March Gallery Auction, held on Friday, March 15th.

This glass work consists of thinly blown glass formed into a sphere, which has been allowed to partially collapse and split open. This partial settling of

the glass creates three folds which decrease the circumference of the sphere as it extends towards the top of the form. On one side is an opening that takes the form of a misshapen oval and allows the viewer access to the translucent interior, which mirrors the folds and shapes evident from the exterior. The glass consists largely of this translucent white glass mixed with purple towards the base of the object,



and green is used primarily as spots on the surface of the form. There are a few small spots of brown and blue, as well as some blending of the green spots into the base of white glass near the opening.



Lipofsky is both interested in the recreation of organic forms and the distortions of traditional glass-making forms, a dual interest evident in this work. The broken bubble evident in this work is a motif typical of the artist, it represents a variation to the most basic of glass-blowing forms, thereby bringing the materiality of glass to the forefront of the viewer's perception. The use of

translucent glass and openings allows the viewer to see inside the art and works to complicate traditional delineations between interior and exterior in the medium. The allusion to natural forms, in this case seashells, complicates the artist's interest in glass-making techniques, revealing a sophisticated understanding of the nature of artistic forms.

As detailed by our consigner and appraiser, this piece is likely a sketch for one of the artist's most celebrated works, his California Storm series. This collection, consisting of at least thirty-three objects, was made during his tenure at the California College of the Arts in the Bay Area in the early 1980s. Like many of his other works, these objects are small, highly colorful works in glass that appear somewhere between organic and artificial. While Lipofsky's works frequently resemble seashells, he

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pushes these forms beyond naturalism towards creations that are best described as fantastic. These experiments are combined with the artist's interests in the gestures and forms inherent to the glassblowing process, creating complicated works that evade simplistic interpretation.



Marvin Bentley Lipofsky was an American glass artist born in Elgin, Illinois in September 1938. He studied industrial design at the University of Illinois before becoming one of the inaugural students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison glass program.

Studying under the founder of the American Studio Glass Movement, Harvey Littleton, Lipofsky spread its ideas to the West Coast during his time teaching at UC Berkeley and later the California College of Arts and Crafts, where he founded the glass program. During these years, he continued to spread the tenants of the movement by frequently teaching workshops across the country, as well as in Europe, Japan, and Israel. His work is widely collected by prominent museums and private collectors from around the world.

**Marvin Bentley Lipofsky,  
California Sketch, glass**

(\$2,5/3,500) 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

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the Fine Art Department, which will be offering oil paintings by Frank Duveneck and a lithograph by Stow Wengenroth.

Also included in the sale is a contemporary artwork by Pratchaya Charernsook, a micromosaic gold brooch, and a gold pocket watch.

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.

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