

# Eric de Kolb 14k Yellow Gold Necklace.

The designer of classic pieces of Americana, including most prominently the bear-shaped honey bottle, the Austrian Baron Eric de Kolb, had a second career in his late life creating jewelry inspired by his sizable collection of ancient artworks. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer one such piece, an **Eric de Kolb 14k Yellow Gold Necklace** (\$1,5/2,500) for sale in our May Gallery Auction, held on Friday, May 17th.

The necklace, titled "Crusader Battle," consists of a large gold pendant hanging from a long yellow gold chain. The pendant takes the shape of a European heraldry shield, with two oval shapes defining the body, with a smaller floral motif on the top that connects to the bail. This shape largely consists of an

outline, with significant negative space in the center of the design, featuring floral motifs and other ornamentation



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throughout. At the center of this outline are two knights in the act of drawing their swords, with shields being pulled from their backs. The knights stand ready for combat, with plumed helmets on their heads, and large breastplates, with further armor evident on their arms and legs. The knight at left has a shield emblazoned with the German cross, a motif repeated at the base of the pendant, where the pictorial ground meets the structure of the pendant.

Eric de Kolb was born a Baron of an aristocratic family in Vienna, Austria in 1916. His family consisted of numerous prolific art collectors, and it was during the family's commissioning of a large ceiling painting that a young de Kolb first expressed his interest in art. His father obliged, placing him in art lessons with Austrian sculptor Otto Koenig, who recognized and nurtured the talent of a young de Kolb. Eric de

Kolb continued his studies at the Academy of Arts in Vienna as well as the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He was commissioned as an officer in the French Marines during World War II while simultaneously continuing his career, earning commissions for Lucien Lelong, Elsa Schiaparelli, and Balenciaga. Upon the fall of the Third French Republic, he was given an emergency visa by the United States and immigrated to New York.

After a brief stint designing for a New York department store, he opened a firm of industrial designers, packaging cosmetics and other products for companies. Many of his designs, such as the bear-shaped honey bottle and footie pajamas with snap openings for diaper changes, have become iconic representations of mid-century American culture. Some of his clients include the cosmetic and perfume

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companies Helena Rubinstein, Coty, and Schiaparelli, and his packaging designs played an important role in the creation of the modern perfume market. He also designed home goods for the manufacturer Fuller Brush Company, whose door-to-door sales method earned the company wide recognition.

A prolific collector of Persian, pre-Columbian, Greek, and Etruscan art, a 1970 house visit from the Metropolitan Museum of Art inspired him to sculpt replicas through the use of the lost-wax process. Soon after, de Kolb was approached by luxury department store Bonwit Teller & Co. to sell his replicas of ancient artworks. By the end of 1970, he had designed an assortment of jewelry pieces based on his extensive art collection which were sold in major department stores throughout the United States and Italy. Enjoying long-lasting success, Eric de Kolb continued

to work prolifically until his death in 2001.



**An Eric de Kolb 14k Yellow Gold Necklace** (\$1,5/2,500) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions May Gallery Auction on Friday, May 17th features excellent furniture, lighting, and decorative pieces from the Furniture & Decorations Department, in addition to important works from notable artists in the Asian Art Department, and a number of fine pieces from the Jewelry departments. The auction is led by the Furniture & Decorations Department, which will be

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offering a salon set, chandeliers, and tables in prominent French and Italian styles, while the Asian Art Department offers works of calligraphy and painting by important Chinese artists. Also included in the sale are platinum, diamond, and gold items, including

works by Eric De Kolb, presented by the Jewelry Department.

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