

Signed Salvador Dali, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

The most popular work of fiction from the Victorian era was reimagined in the 1960s by the world's most recognizable surrealist artist, Salvador Dali, who created a set of twelve woodcuts and etchings to commemorate the work. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Signed Salvador Dali, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** (\$5/7,000) for sale in our July Gallery Auction, held on Friday, July 19th.

Salvador Dali was born in Catalonia, Spain, near the French border, in May 1904. Born the son of a lawyer, Dali had plenty of opportunities for artist experimentation and education, which led him to move to Madrid to study at the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts. During his

education, he formed friendships with fellow avant-garde students and was introduced to Pablo Picasso by Joan Miro. He moved to Paris to join his mentor, where he began to study Freud. He quickly reached significant acclaim through his affiliation with the surrealists, with whom he made his most acclaimed works between 1929 and 1939. He was expelled from the group in April of 1939 after announcing his



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support for Franco and fled to the United States (specifically Monterrey, California) after the outbreak of World War II, where he had several retrospectives at important museums. Following the end of the war, he returned to Franco-led Spain, where he lived with his wife until he died in 1989.

This lot includes twelve woodcuts and etchings from the Spanish artist Salvador Dali in a clamshell case produced by the Maecenas Press in 1969 during his return to Spain. The first page features the work's title printed on the right of the sheet with a signature in pencil by the artist. The left side features a print of two loosely rendered figures on an open landscape, one appears to be a woman jumping rope, and the other is sitting with a cane. Other pages included sharply defined black ink forms against empty fields and strong colors. Flowers, trees, and caterpillars are depicted in

varying levels of specificity. On some pages, excerpts from the book are printed on one side of the page, while the other half is filled with Dali's prints.

The works are meant to illustrate the iconic children's novel, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," a 1865 work by Lewis Carroll who was working as a math tutor at the University of Oxford at the time. The story of a young girl who enters a fantastic world and meets many anthropomorphic characters has remained so popular that it has never been out of print since its first publishing. The first edition contained forty-two wood-engraved illustrations by the artist John Tenniel, who drew on sketches done by the author himself. The **Signed Salvador Dali, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** (\$5/7,000) set of prints offered at Michaan's Auctions continues in the long tradition of illustrations

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derived from the fantastical story, continuing over one hundred years after its initial publication.

This collection of work represents the mature period of Dalí's work. While the artist still shows his characteristic interest in dreams and the subconscious, there is evidence of his return to Catholicism and traditional themes in this portfolio. Rather than the fantastical creations of his 20s work, which are fully unbound from narrative structure much in the same way as dreams, this work is structured around the narrative of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in

Wonderland." As a story with strong moral themes, it makes an excellent subject-matter for the late-career Dalí, who attempting to balance his interest in Freudian subjectivity with conservative religious beliefs. In making work which expresses a clear subject matter, Dalí here reflects a shift in the broader art world from pure abstraction and subjective experience to the reintegration of narrative and the objective world in art pieces, while still maintaining his lifelong interest in the world of dreams, where the objective and subjective blur.

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(\$5/7,000) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions July Gallery Auction on Friday, July 19th. This sale features interesting and important pieces from the Furniture & Decorations Department, works from important artists brought to you by the

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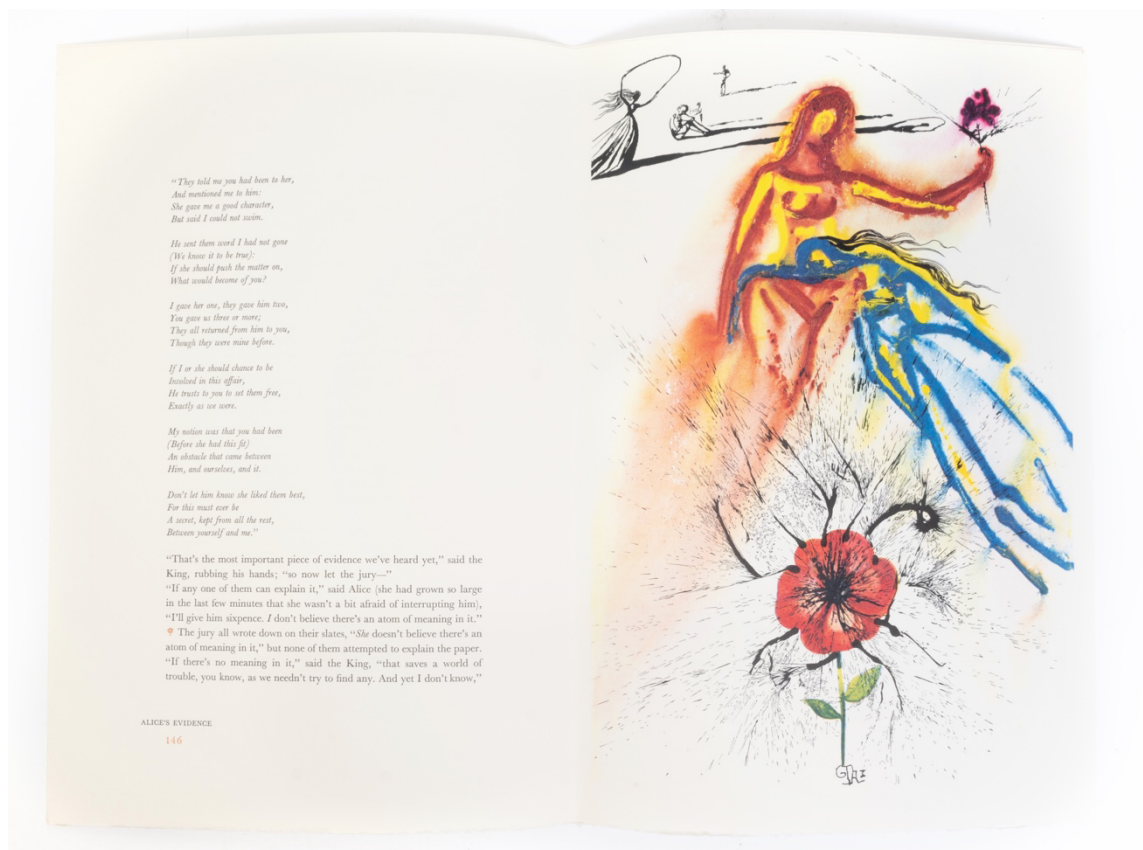
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Fine Art Department, and a collection of well-regarded pieces from the Jewelry Department. The auction is led by a pair of candelabras in the Rococo style by French sculptor Claude Michel, a portfolio of woodcuts by the preeminent Surrealist Salvador Dali, and an

impressive Rolex watch in black and gold.

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