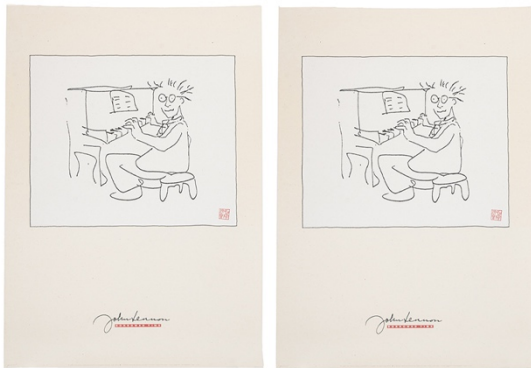


# John Lennon, “Bag One” and two lithographs.



Few artists have had as significant an impact on culture as John Lennon, who helped revolutionize post-war Anglo-American culture through his music and activism. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **John Lennon, Bag One, and two lithographs**

(\$3/5,000) for sale in our July Gallery Auction, held on Friday, July 19th.

This lot from Michaan's Auctions includes the bag that housed the original “Bag One” portfolio, as well as two later lithographs from the artist titled “Borrowed Time.” The bag is one of only three hundred editions and is personally signed by the artist at the lower left, while the prints each include a printed signature and the stamp of the John Lennon estate. Also included is a small metal key for the golden zip-lock, this piece is often missing in similar offerings.

The prints are a posthumous publication of the John Lennon Estate, personally selected and approved by Yoko Ono Lennon in 1990. Each print

depicts a figure, presumably Lennon, sitting at an upright piano and looking back towards the viewer. The forms are loosely rendered, resembling a sketch, with only basic outlines and no shading. The title “Borrowed Time” refers to a track from Lennon’s final album, “Milk and Honey,” which was coproduced with Ono and released in 1984, three years following the artist’s murder.

Undoubtedly, the title also reflects the early end of Lennon’s life, but his self-portrait here shows the artist joyfully at work. The design of the bag reflects the so-called white album, i.e. The Beatles’s self-titled album, which was released only two years before this work and is constructed of white leather with its printing executed in a simple black type.

The bag included in this lot is one of only three hundred produced and originally contained a set of thirteen prints, a poem, and a title page. The

prints were produced by John Lennon around the time of his wedding and honeymoon to Yoko Ono in March 1969. In the weeks and months that followed, Lennon continued to refine these works, which feature the couple in a variety of scenes from the time, including several erotic depictions of the newlyweds. He then gifted these works as a wedding present to Yoko Ono. Coinciding with the famous Bed-Ins, fourteen of these pieces were collected into a portfolio in 1970 and exhibited internationally shortly thereafter. They have proven to be of enduring popularity and are held in the collections of MOMA and private collectors around the world.

The production of these works coincides with the couple’s notorious Bed-ins for Peace, a series of two-week-long anti-war protests held in Amsterdam and Montreal. During the protest, the couple invited the press into

---

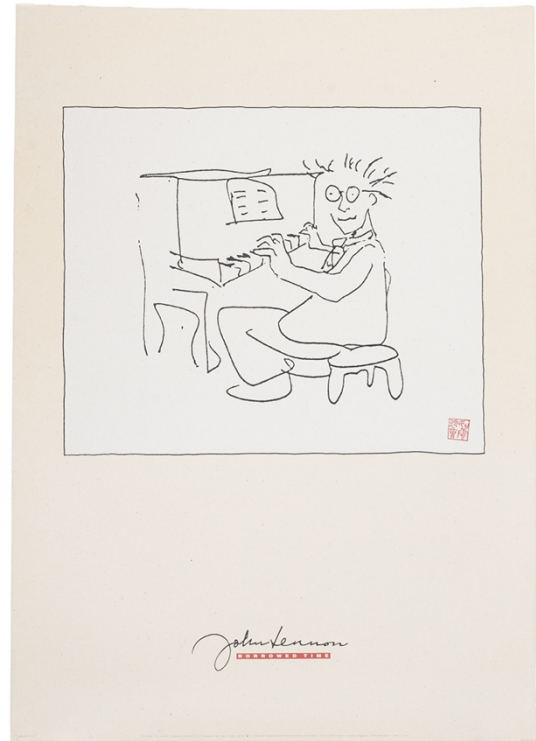
**Michaan’s Auctions**

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

their hotel room during their honeymoon between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. each day. Wearing pajamas and discussing the importance of peace, the events drew attention to the ongoing U.S. war in Vietnam. The Montreal sit-in was originally planned for New York, but Lennon was denied entry to the country. During the second bed-in, the couple invited prominent guests to their room and recorded a pair of songs.

Following the bed-in for peace protests, the couple organized an exhibition of the printed works at the London Arts Gallery. The opening was a success, selling multiple pieces before it was raided by police, who seized eight of the works and charged the gallery with obscenity. The charges were ultimately dismissed, and the notoriety burgeoned the success of the American opening, which was packed with celebrities,

including Salvador Dali and his pet ocelot.



John Lennon was born in Liverpool, England in 1940, the child of a merchant seaman. By sixteen years old, Lennon was involved in the local music scene and formed the band which would become The Beatles. He was the initial leader of the group, which quickly rose to fame. He became associated with the anti-war and counterculture movements in the 1960s and came to collaborate predominately with his

---

**Michaan's Auctions**

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

second wife, Yoko Ono, by the time The Beatles dissolved in 1970. After a five-year hiatus from music to raise his second son, he returned to the industry in 1980 and was murdered by a Beatles fan in December of that year.

**John Lennon, Bag One, and two lithographs** (\$3/5,000) 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 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.

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