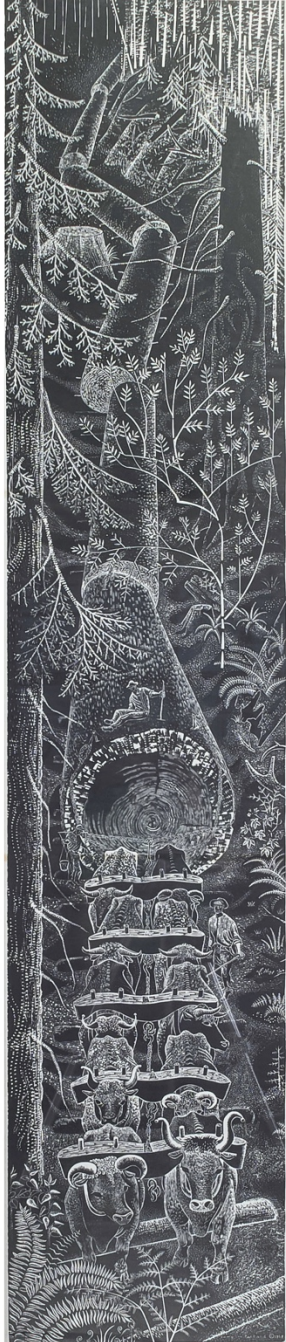


Emmy Lou Packard, Logging in Mendicino, linocut.



Close friend and studio assistant to Frida Kahlo, Emmy Lou Packard's career encompassed the creation of numerous public murals in the Bay Area and the independent production of many fine art prints. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer **Emmy Lou Packard, Logging in Mendicino, linocut** (\$2,5/3,000) for sale in our July Gallery Auction, held on Friday, July 19th.

This exquisitely detailed linocut is over six feet tall and fifteen inches wide and depicts the logging of a Sequoia tree in Mendocino, California. Details are cut in white from a black background, giving the composition a dramatic air and sharp focus. The foreground is dominated by a team of twelve oxen fastened to a harness and pulling a

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series of felled Sequoia trees. Through the employment of an Eastern art-inspired idealized perspective, the viewer can see these trees extend into the lengthy depth of the frame, where they disappear into the abstracted forms of the distant forest. Men are depicted in the foreground, one carries an axe while riding the top of the first section of the trunk, the second carries water behind the team of ox, and the third drive the ox forward with a stick. Ferns are placed along the bottom left of the frame, and a tree extends from these ferns to the top of the image. At right, shrubbery and small plants blend into a decapitated trunk in the middle distance, while a series of vertical lines with horizontal hatchings stand in for the forest in the deep distance.

This work employs several forms and techniques common to South Asian and East Asian landscapes, employing

them in combination with the classic subject of the California landscape to create a uniquely sophisticated work. The extended length of the image is itself a reflection of these influences, a choice which necessitates the flattening treatment of composition so associated with Eastern artworks. The choice of subject matter, the California landscape, would be decidedly traditional within the Western tradition, but is made new by its focus on industry. In a work portraying the natural beauty of California, the artist also manages to highlight the ongoing exploitation of the natural resources that have greatly expanded since the massive influx of Americans to the region beginning in the mid-1800s.

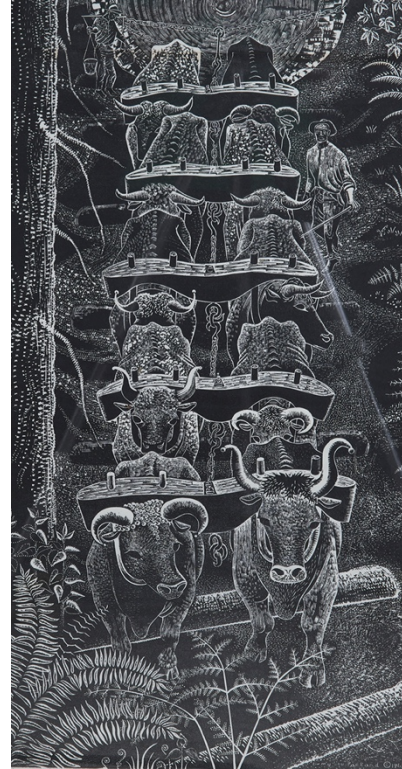
Featuring sharply defined lines and forms, as well as contrasting tones, this work features many of the characteristic marks of Emmy Lou

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Packard's well-loved prints. While the artist rarely works in black and white, the modernist treatment of perspective, figures, and appreciation for natural landscapes is evident in this work. Also present is the artist's activist approach, which commonly featured everyday people and workers while expressing themes of peace, humanity, and respect for the planet. Made in 1962, this work is an excellent example of the artist's mature period as evidenced by her skillful technique and refined conceptualization.

Emmy Lou Packard was born in 1914 to a family of well-respected farmers and agronomist in El Centro, California, a small, rural town on the U.S.-Mexican border. At thirteen and already drawing proficiently, she was introduced to lifelong friend Frida Kahlo while her father was consulting with the Mexican government. She studied at UC



Berkeley and the San Francisco Art Institute, before returning to Mexico to work as a studio assistant for Kahlo in 1939. She served as Diego Riviera's chief assistant on the Pan American Unity mural, and soon earned independent commissions. Working for UC Berkeley, Coit Tower, and the Mission District in San Francisco, she built a career painting and restoring murals across the region. She continued to make works,

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including prints such as this one, until she died in 1998.

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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.

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