

Hermann Historica To Auction Oded & Tsipora Shermister's Collection December 6



A silver-mounted and gold-plated Sri Lankan *kastane*, circa 1800 (starting price €10,000).



An Indian lacquer-inlaid *Ayda Katti*, Nineteenth Century (starting price €600).



A fine Algerian silver-mounted miquelet rifle, set with corals, second half of the Eighteenth Century (starting price €10,000).



A Japanese *daisho* in *handachi* mountings, both blades signed "Tomomitsu," late Edo period (starting price €4,500).

GRASBRUNN & MUNICH, GERMANY — An exceptional collection of nearly 400 fine Oriental arms will be auctioned on December 6 at Hermann Historica. This collection showcases master craftsmanship and rare pieces, sure to captivate enthusiasts of historical art and antique arms.

If you think that Hermann Historica is resting on its laurels after the triumph of the November auction, you are mistaken. Once again, the auction house is delighted to be able to present yet another fabulous collection. At 10 am on December 6 the famous collection belonging to Oded and Tsipora Shermister of Tel Aviv will come under the hammer in a live auction.

The internationally acclaimed

collection comprises just under 400 unrivalled fine Oriental arms, amassed with the utmost care and attesting to the couple's considerable expertise. From connoisseurs of superlative gold and silver-mounted weapons of courtly provenance to those preferring simple ethnographic pieces made by the tribes of Southeast Asia, art lovers and antique weapon collectors will be in seventh heaven. Of outstanding quality, the collection includes scores of rare and incomparable arms that are virtually impossible to find on the market.

First up, produced during the second half of the Eighteenth Century, a deluxe miquelet rifle from Algeria (lot 10079) deserves a special mention.

Resplendent in red are the sparkling coral cabochons on the cock and two table-cut gemstones on the front. The masterpiece was made for the Algerian court. During the Ottoman rule, weapons of this kind were presented to western delegations by the Dey of Algiers as gifts of state. Bids from €10,000 are now invited for this magnificent firearm.

Another rare piece from India showcases the finest crafts-

manship. Just the grip of the exceptionally opulent *ayda katti* (lot 10168), is made of over 18K gold. Its catalog price of €8,000 will soon be consigned to history.

Next up, the particularly fine *kastane*, (lot number 10215), has also all but disappeared from the market. However, a bid of €10,000 will secure this magnum opus, a special type of sword from Sri Lanka, dating approximately from 1800. The typical, short, slightly curved blade is embellished on both sides with floral, delicately chased gold mounts. The unusually ornate knuckle-bow hilt, with its fully sculptured dragon's heads and the gilt silver scabbard, enhances the exclusiveness of the piece.

Hermann Historica continues the veritable parade of highlights with a *daisho* in *handachi* mounting (lot 10390) that was forged and signed by the bladesmith Tomomitsu during the late Edo period. This pair of traditional Japanese swords consists of a *wakizashi* (short sword) and a *katana* (long sword), both wrought with

superior craftsmanship. Offers from €4,500 are now welcome.

All other masterpieces and showstoppers are illustrated in Hermann Historica's high-quality catalog, a printed version of which is also available. Pre-sale bids can be submitted for all objects online. Moreover, buyers can inspect the lots in person during the pre-sale viewing in the auction rooms from November 28-30 and December 4-5.

Hermann Historica is at Bretonischer Ring 3. For further information, www.hermann-historica.com.

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The Des Moines Art Center Presents 'Samantha Box: Caribbean Dreams'

DES MOINES, IOWA — Samantha Box is a Jamaica-born, New York-based photographer. Her newest body of work, created over the last six years, explores the concept of diaspora: the dispersion of a people from their original homeland. Of Black, Jamaican and South Asian Trinidadian heritage, Box mines her personal experiences of displacement, migration and the search for new homes in unfamiliar places. What happens, Box asks, when a person crosses a border? Which parts of their identity and culture do they retain, and which parts do they renegotiate?

These questions are at the heart of "Samantha Box: Caribbean Dreams," on view through January 19, which features over 60 photographs and a mixed-media installation. As Box has explained, "to be in diaspora is to be engaged in the act of constantly fabricating worlds." As a result, her photographs — a mixture of self-portraiture, landscape and still-life — often feel difficult to pin down, as if they are in the process of falling

apart and coming together anew. In the spirit of montage and collage, her images have a reoccurring cast of characters remixed from one frame to the next, including family heirlooms, houseplants and postcards.

Here, objects and bodies slip between places and times, real and imagined landscapes, presence and absence. The forms Box represents are always in flux, restlessly reappearing and transforming. Throughout, Box provides glimpses into the artist's studio, revealing the artifice of images, particularly those that perpetuate the myth of a Caribbean paradise.

Box holds an MFA in advanced photographic studies from ICP-Bard College. Her work has been widely exhibited, notably in group shows at the Houston Center of Photography, the DePaul Art Museum, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art and the International Center of Photography; as well as a recent solo show at Light Work in Syracuse, N.Y. She has been in residence at Light

Work and the Center for Photography at Woodstock, and has been awarded fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts, the Silver Eye Center of Photography and En Foco Inc.

The Des Moines Art Center is at 4700 Grand Avenue. For information, 515-277-4405 or www.desmoinesartcenter.org.

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