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February 28, 2023

Vol. 46 No. 12

**ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK** 

## 1903 bar measuring 20 feet long served \$6,000 bid

YPSILANTI, Mich. — Materials

Ypsilanti was like walk-

BY NANCY KELLY

ing through a portal stations, and businesses back in time. Owner Reynold Lowe had spent Walking through the the last 50 years salvag-Unlimited ing furnishings and shop in downtown accessories from old homes, churches, train



Above: An attractive stained glass window with stylized floral motif in its original pine sash finished with a high bid of \$600.

and giving them a new life. The historic inventory included ornate windows, beautiful lamps, wood furniture, and so many amazing antiques from the 1800s and 1900s from around the Midwest, as well as France, Italy, and other countries. Recently. Lowe decided to retire and sell the contents of his business. Braun and Helmer Auction Service was hired for the task, and it required two auctions to sell off this massive selection of 555 lots.

In addition to the inventory for Materials Haab's Unlimited, Restaurant in downtown Ypsilanti added their massive 1903 Brunswick Balke Collender Company 20-foot birch bar which included the



Above: Haab's Restaurant of Ypsilanti added this massive 1903 Brunswick Balke Collender Company 20 foot birch bar and backbar mirror fixture to the auction. It was claimed with a high bid of \$6,000.

20 foot backbar mirror. counter, and leaded glass doors. After serving the area for 87 years, this popular eatery and gathering place permanently closed its doors.

This massive fixture left for a new job with a high bid of \$6,000.

A spectacular selection of restoration hardware was presented for consideration. Fourteen

well-stocked boxes of hard-to-find brass, wood, and glass doorknobs, drawer handles, hinges, plates, and sev-

See Bar page 4

FEATURE

## The big eyes of Margaret Keane

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

chances are you saw the movie Big Eyes, a If you like Amy 2014 American



Adams as an actress, biographical drama. The movie covered the relationship between American artist Margaret Keane and second husher band, Walter Keane, who, in the 1950s and 1960s, took credit for Margaret's phenomenally popular paintings of children with big eyes. The movie focused on Margaret's long battle to receive recognition for the paintings she created.

Today, Margaret Keane's paintings and prints are still highly collectible. In the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s, her work flourished and was hung in hundreds of thousands of American homes, in dormitories, in galleries, and in art Right: Entitled "Rejected," this Margaret Kean print, circa 1962, is valued at \$200

museums. Today, while artistic passion has changed, many people still collect Keane's big-eyed people.

Peggy Doris Hawkins, better known as Margaret D. H. Keane, was born in 1927, and she died in 2022. She became famous for her oil paintings of women, children, and animals with big eyes. Keane was a very successful artist due to her inexpensive reproductions on prints, cups, and plates. Due to print transfers, Keane's work was literally everywhere for a while. Speaking once on why she painted Big Eyes,



Left: "Hibiscus Miss" by Margaret Keane, circa 1968, that is valued at \$2,500.

See Big Eyes page 11

## SINCE 1978 THE WEEKLY AUCTION & COLLECTORS **GUIDE FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**







#### PUBLIC & UCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 10:00 AM LOCATION: 5075 RUSSCHER ROAD zone 4 HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423 Cross cut saws; eveners; vintage tools; large pulley; cast iron pots; Fisher Price toys; collection of Tonka toys-Dump, crane, grader, cement, fire trucks; Nylite Michigan Cranes; lots of misc toys; Murray Diesel pedal tractor; Dump Trac pull trailer; cast iron banks; galvanized incubator; misc. oil cans - quart & 5 gal; metal coolers-7 UP, Pepsi; Ralph Boidie gas pump meter; Miller High Life mirror; misc. glassware; glass butter churn; misc. lamps; Musicale

Record Player; 10 cent candy dispensers; vintage cameras - Argus, Kodak, Brownie; paint sprayers; power tools; lanterns; Remington wood box; Compound bows - Browning Cobra, Darton Viper, Golden Eagle Hawk, Pearson, Huntsman Sentry safe; records; portable Singer sewing machine in wood cabinet; Milk Bottles-Elm Valley, Kempels Dairy; galvanized wash tub; Keller ladder; Huffy Jackal bike; patio chairs; stuffed living room chair; office chairs; large patio deck box; GE washer/dryer 2019 Coleman CT 200U-EX scooter & 2021 Coleman CT200U-EX scooter

AUCTION NOTE; Owner has collected for many years, and is thinning down his inventory. Auction held indoors heating and seating. Payment cash, check, Credit card (5% fee)





## Saturday, March 4, 2023 of the march 4, 2023 of the

150 GUNS • AMMO • SAFE • MISC. COINS • SUPPORT ITEMS

Luger pistols w/Nazi stamp; Broomhandle Walther P-38, Webley Mark II, Colt 1911 Government & other Colts; Sig Sauer, Browning; many S & W; Ruger; Dan Wesson; Berreta; many older original old guns;



Desert Eagle; Ruger Blackhawks; High Standard & more.



#### LONG CUNS

Blue Sky M-1 Garand; US Carbine M-1 Carbine; Winchester: Model 42, Model 12, Model 37, Model 94; 1890 Stevens 22/410 over under; Crack Shot; Browing BAR 30-06; 2-nice old Kentucky LR: J Stutzman & Leman; Henry 22 LA; Nagant; other Chinese & Japanese Rifles & many more.



Approx. 30 steel ammo boxes; varied reloads; old vintage ammo boxes; numerous gun cases, hard; lg. amt. of original box ammo; varied caliber & shotgun ammo; Nazi stamp double barrel flare gun.



Super nice South Bend ladies watch, gold around edge

### **CONSTRUCTION/HEAVY** zone web **EQUIPMENT & SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT Online Auction | Tuesday, March 7**

**AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS:** 

-2022 Agrotk H12 Mini Excavator -2012 International DuraStar 4400 6x4 Flatbed Dump Truck and Moffett Telemount 55.4 Forklift -1996 Ford Aeromax L-9000 Water Tanker Truck -2017 Kenworth T880 Heavy Spec Day Cab Semi -2017 EAST Dump Trailer Train Set -2016 Powerscreen Warrior 1800 Mobile Track Scalping Screen -Trojan 4000 Wheel Loader -2006 Genie S-65 Telescoping Man Lift Caterpillar CB24 Vibratory Drum Roller -1970 Caterpillar D8H Dozer -1996 Trail Eze DHT7048 Hydraulic Tail Trailer

-2009 Wilkens 6-Axle Walking Floor Semi Trailer -1991 John Deere 2755 Tractor,

4WD, Diesel -2016 Gerenuk 500 All Adaptable Multi Lifter

-Several Exmark Commercial Zero Turn Lawn Mowers -Several NEW & UNUSED Skid Steer Attachments Plus Much More













For detailed information & to bid visit Repocast.com or call 616-261-4988.

## MECA PAWN AUCTION **SUNDAY, MARCH 5 – 12 PM** Location: Rowley's Auction Service, 124 S. Lake Pleasant Rd., ATTICA, MI 48412

DIRECTIONS: From I-69 & Lake Pleasant Rd. (Exit #163), go N on Lake Pleasant Rd., go 11/2 miles, auction house is on the west side.

Due to their excess inventory, Mega Pawn has hired Rowley Auctions to conduct an auction to sell a large amount of assets

Auctioneer's Note: Listing is just a small overview to be auctioned, see RowleyAuctions.com for an updated list, photos and complete catalog!

Firearms & Handguns: H&R Arms Co. M1 Garand .30 cal Rifle (1955-1956), Ruger Mini 14 .223 Rifle, New Frontier Armory C-4 .350 Legend Rifle, Remington Side x Side Pre 1905 .16ga, Maastricht M71 .11mm Rifle (1878), Savage Model 112 .338 Lapua Rifle, Savage Axis .22/.250 Rifle Timney Trigger with Boyd Stock, Winchester 1894 .30cal Rifle Octagon Barrel (1904), Akkar Tactical 612 .12ga Shotgun (New), Black Aces Tactical Pro Series X .12ga Shotgun w/Pistol Grip (New), SDS LH-12 .12ga Shotgun (New), Henry Lever-Action .410 Gauge shotgun, Savage Mark II Bolt-Action .22LR with Nikon Scope, Ruger M77 Rifle, Law Enford cal. 5.56mm w/ 4-Position Stock, 2-Position Flip Up Rear Sight and Original Fixed Stock, Colt Goverment Model .45acp Pistol (New), Sig Sauer P229 Legion .9mm Pistol, Smith & Wesson M686 .357 Mag 6-Shot Stainless Steel 4.125" Barrel Taurus Raging Bull .357 Mag 7 Shot, Charter Arms Pink Lady .38SPL, Beretta Neos .22cal Pistol, Rock Island XTM-22 .22Mag Pistol, Glock 29 .10mm Pistol (New), Sig Sauer P320C .9mm (New), Konus Pro NV-2 Night Vision Rifle Scope, Equipment & Tools: McGraw 20 Gallon Air Compressor 64857, OTC Hub Grappler Kit 6575, Astro Pneumatic Tool 7897 Ball Joint Service Tool, Century Flux-Cored 90 Wire Feed Welder (NIB), Traveller X 6000lb Syn-

thetic Winch (NIB), Mikasa Tamper Ramper MTX-80, DeWalt 20V 4gal. Backpack Sprayer (NIB), Herkules Professional Paint Gun Sprayer, Stihl TS420 Cement Saw, Yale 1 Ton Hand Hoist, Digital 50lb Trolling Motor, Coins: 1oz .9999 Fine Gold Bar, 1 Kilo .999 Fine Silver Bar, 2000



W Eagle PF 69 Ultra Cameo Gold Coin, 1890 Carson City Morgan Dollar, 925 Stone Mountain Half Dollar, 1946 Booker Washington Half Dollar, Carson City Mint Set Morgan Type (Complete LIS. w/ Display Case, US State Quarter Collection w/ Display Case, US Statehood Innovation Dollars w/ Display Case, Jewelry: 1.75ct Diamond Men's Ring, 2.50ctw Diamond Ladies Ring with 1.75ct Center Diam., Rose Gold Diamond Jewelry, 3ctw Diamond Tennis Bracelet, Natural Cushion Cut Emerald, .85ct Diamond Solitaire, Gold Cuff Links, Gemstone & Diamond Jewelry, Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings, Charms, Pendants and Much More! Electronics & Misc.: iPad Pro 12.9" (5th Gen) Tablet A2379 (New & Sealed in Box), Playstation 5 8K 4K, Xbox Series X 1TB SSD 4K, TCL 4K 55" TV (New In Box ), NVR IP Camera System New SV-16IPTD4-N w/ 10 Cameras,



15-jewel ladies engagement ring; large amt. U.S. collectible coins; slider pocket watch fob; approx. 25 various pocket watches; Elgin Keywind, American Watch Co; Seth Thomas; Norwich Swiss made; Illinois Keywind & more; Case & other knives; misc. old jewelry; watch fobs & chains; 8-day travel automotive clock circa 1915.





Large combination safe; Craftsman rolling stackable tool box; bait casting reels & rods; lg. amt. of large 5" & down fish baits; containers approx. 100% are Muskie baits, they are in super condition; and much more.

## Dr. Walter C. Anglemeyer Living Trust, Owner





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Terms: Cash or personal check w/ current photo ID, major credit cards. 5% buyer's fee. 6% Michigan sales tax. All purchases must be paid in full day of auction. Some items will be auctioned with the owner's acceptance (or rejection) of the last bid. \*\*Gun/Firearms Terms: The NICS background check will be run on all gun purchases. Items listed may not be exact items on auction day. Inquire day before auction to confirm. Lunch Available



#### Bar FROM PAGE 1

eral other useful replacement parts were eagerly claimed with a high bid of \$725.

Lighting fixtures and parts dominated this auction, with many beautiful options available. Leading this category, a set of three antique Arts & Crafts single lantern hanging fixtures were accented with decorative strapping around an etched glass cylinder. They hung 16 inches and were dated circa 1915. This stately trio found a new home with a high bid of \$700. A much more elaborate example came with an interesting history. A pair of antique dows and other objects late Victorian silver-plated gas and electric sconces with ornate scroll arms and original etched glass shades were from the James Gamble house in Cincinnati, Ohio, one of



Above: Featuring delicate acanthus leaf rose flower details, this graceful, handcarved antique marble urn closed with a high bid of \$260.



Above: Despite the rusty condition, a Kingsbury Toys "Little Jimmy" metal fire truck still managed to pull a final bid of \$220

the founders of Procter and Gamble. These delicately designed wall mount lamps drew a final bid of \$675. An intricately crafted pair of 1910 cast bronze ship lights from a Chicago mansion added a nautical flair and were taken with a high bid of \$600.

Stained glass winwere prominent in the inventory of Materials Unlimited due to the period of the homes that were salvaged. An Arts & Crafts stained glass window with stylized floral motif in its original pine sash measuring 32 inches tall by 31 inches wide featured green stems, red flowers, and a yellow border all displayed on a frosted glass background. This attractive piece finished with a high bid of \$600. An eye-catching, 72-inch-tall antique Colonial Revival style window with a diamond lattice amber glass field and a central symmetrical design in a rustic wood frame proved popular, drawing a final bid of \$550. For something completely different, there was a transom window from the Clifford Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Illinois. Dated to the late Victorian period, the richly colored arched window, predominately orange with other highlights, displayed in the original pine frame measured a massive 76 inches long by 38 inches tall. This unique treasure was claimed with a final bid of \$400.

Furniture found at this auction was consistently unusual and in very good condition. Dating to circa 1820, there was a quality mahogany Sheraton style drop leaf table sporting carved rope twist legs and scalloped edges around the attractive inlay top. Ready for a new assignment, it drew a final bid of \$650. A handsome 1885 walnut bookcase with four wood shelves and two glass doors featured a carved crown and two drawers in the base complete with original hardware and key. Able to command attention in any setting, this wonderful item drew a final bid of \$525. A delightful Arts and Crafts style circa 1910 oak full mantel that was salvaged from the All Saints Catholic Church rectory in Detroit stood 103 inches tall and was



Above: A stately trio of circa 1915 antique Arts & Crafts single lantern hanging fixtures found a new home with a high bid of \$700.

taken with a final bid of \$425. There were many other useful items, including cabinets, washstands, shelves, tables, and doors.

The solitary grouping of wall art did well. It consisted of a set of three Delft blue tiles featuring religious figures, a pastoral scene in Holland with sheep in the foreground and a windmill in the distance, and an interesting vintage oil painting signed by "Madox" featuring a woman in a long white dress leading a white horse through turbulent water. This group was taken with a final bid of \$525.

The only toy was the antique pressed steel metal firetruck "Little Jimmy" made by Kingsbury Toys, with wind up key and adjustable ladders. It retained all its original parts, including tires and stickers, but was in worn and rusted condition. It still managed to pull a final bid of \$220.

At the two opposite ends of the spectrum, two items stood out as label "waste" This early beautiful in their own 1900s American fixture



Above: Lending a nautical flair to the sale, a cast bronze pair of 1910 ship lights from a Chicago mansion were taken with a high bid of \$600

round fluted base included the original brass and porcelain hardware. The handles were labeled "hot" and "cold" and the faucet bore the leaf rose flower details from Italy stood 30 inches tall. This graceful artwork closed with a high bid of \$260.

Braun and Helmer Auction Service has a very busy schedule in the coming months. It can be viewed at https:// braunandhelmer.com/ upcoming-auctions/



Above: A 5-piece collection of wall art included this interesting vintage oil painting signed by "Madox". The group was taken with a final bid of \$525.

celain two-piece white A delicate hand carved oval pedestal sink that antique marble decorawas supported on a tive urn with acanthus

way. A sturdy, solid por- drew a final bid of \$270.



Above: For something completely different, a 76-inch-long Victorian period transom window from the Clifford Presbyterian Church of Chicago was claimed with a final bid of \$400.

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----- Unless otherwise noted ------

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Each page is six columns wide (10-1/4 inches) by 15-1/2 inches high. Each column is 1-5/8 inches wide. We use a minimum of 10 pt. type (for body copy) for purposes of readability, and specific point sizes for heading (24 pt.), date (18 pt.), city/state (16 pt.) so please keep this in mind as you plan your ad. We typeset your ad to fit our specifications while keeping in mind your requirements and the need to minimize the cost of your ad. **Back Cover Ads**: (Non-auction

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MARCH 21	WED., MAR. 15
MARCH 28	WED., MAR. 22
APRIL 4	WED., MAR. 29
APRIL 11	WED., APR. 5
APRIL 18	WED., APR. 12



## **POSTAL REPORT**

Without fail for 42 years, The Auction Exchange & Collectors News has been delivered to the USPS by 5 pm every Friday.

Currently we are delivering the newspaper to the USPS by midnight Thursday. Despite this early entry into the postal stream and our vociferous lobbying at all levels of the USPS, we are experiencing delivery problems in the following areas:

Okeechobee, FL, Burlington, MI, Climax, MI, Goodrich, MI, Elsie, MI

If you don't receive a paper by Tuesday's mail, you may call us to have a paper sent first class.

If it is after normal business hours, please call 800-876-5133 ext. 135.

Please also call your Post Office to report your late delivery.

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OH, IL, KS, MO and beyond!

Visit our website to view updated list of equipment throughout the states and contact telephone numbers for inspection! Call the office if you need assistance placing your bid. We can place bids for you!

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<b>ZONE 2</b> Sat., Mar. 4 Sat., Mar. 4	10am 9:30am	<b>IIGAN</b> Dales Auction Stantons Auction	Holland, MI Hastings, MI	Miscellaneous Antique	3		
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Thu., Mar. 2 Sat., Mar. 4	10am 9:30am	Stantons Auction Belcher Auction	Vermontville, MI Athens, MI	Coin, Stamp, Gold Coin	2 7		
ZONE C		IIGAN					
Sun., Mar. 5	Noon	Rowley's Auction	Attica, MI	Firearm, Gun, Tool	3		
Sat., Mar. 4	9am	Hahn Auction	Nappanee, IN	Gun, Coin, Misc.	3		
Mon., Mar. 6	6pm	Strawser/Real Est.	Wolcottville, IN	Fiesta, Hall, China	16		

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Sun., Mar. 5	1pm	Dale Hall	Scottsburg, IN	Antique, Primitive	6
<b>ZONE W</b>	/EB				
Tues., March	7•	Repocast	Online	Equipment	3
•	•	Albrecht	Online	Equipment	6
•	•	Braun & Helmer	Online	Estate	7
Mar. 16-17	•	Pook & Pook	Online	Miscellaneous	10
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ZONE C	ALE	NDAR			
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**ATTENTION AUCTIONEERS!** Did you have outstanding results from your last auction? Call 888-339-3795 or e-mail info@eauctionexchange.com



## **COIN AUCTION** SAT., MARCH 4TH @ 9:30 AM

**INSPECTION 8:00 AM** 

LOCATION: Lighthouse Facility, 310 S. Capitol (M-66), Athens, MI. DIRECTIONS: From I-94 take Exit 98 then south 16 mi. to Athens, MI One block south of blinker light on right. From I-69 take Exit 25 then west on M-60 12 mi. to M-66 then north 2 mi. on left. Watch for auction sign.



Excellent sel. of U.S. material consisting of 3- \$21/2 Indian & 1-\$5.00 gold pcs. plus a 1903 McKinley commemorative gold dollar; Classic & Modern Commemorative Halves; Half Cents including 1787 Massachusetts; 1788 Massachusetts cent; over 30 U.S. Lg. Cents including a 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800/79, and 1802, partial col. of 40 1811-1854 Lg. Cents in album; 30 Indian cents plus 2 2x2 boxes of Indian cents in holders; Lincoln cents including a 1909-S VDB PCGS genuine, UNC detail; Buffalo nickels; Seated, Barber, Mercury dimes; 1877cc high grade Seated Quarter, 16

Standing Liberty qrts.; 17 Bust halves; Seated Barber & Walking Liberty halves; BU set of Kennedy halves 1964-2014 complete; 1872 Seated Liberty dollar; 35 Morgan dollars including 1891 & 1893cc; Peace dollars; several Silver Eagles; 67 U.S. Proof sets including 1952, 1954, 1955; 85 U.S. Mint sets.

**TERMS:** Cash, Checks, C.C. **Refreshments served.** 



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# **Shipshewana Auction**

### **ANTIQUE & MISCELLANEOUS AUCTION** Every Wednesday, Year-Round at 9:00 am EST



The items pictured above will sell in our March 1st Antique & Misc. Auction!

Preview consignments at AuctionZip.com! Auctioneer ID #1945

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Online Auction of the Of the Collection of Richard & Dorothy Dorothy Cummings, Dayton, Ohio Thursday, March 16th, 2023 at 9am





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#### **Big Eyes**

#### FROM PAGE 1

Margaret said, "The eyes I draw on my children are an expression of my own deepest feelings. Eyes are windows of the soul."

Keane's ex-husband, Walter Keane, claimed he was the painter of the work. The two married in n1955 with Walter Keane becoming Margaret's manager. Walter immediately began selling her characteristic "big eyes" paintings that grew in popularity because of their wide-eyed innocence, making people simply feel good about owning one. By 1957, Walter was exhibiting the "big eyes" paintings as his own work, and Margaret, reportedly afraid of Walter, remained silent.

By the 1960s, flower children of all ages

paintings, and Walter became a popular and financially successful artist, selling his wife's paintings under his name. Many famous celebrities supported Walter's work and fame, including pop artist Andy Warhol who said of Walter's work, "I think what Keane has done is just terrific. It has to be good. If it were bad, so many people wouldn't like it." The truth was, many people did like the work but they would not have liked Walter as the artist if the truth of his artistic theft had been known.

Keane was commissioned to paint a large painting for the 1964-65 World's Fair with a procession of doe-eyed waifs on a staircase, stretching from the horizon to the foreground. Art critic John Canaday described Keane as a painter celebrated "for grinding loved the big-eyed out formula pictures of wide-eved children of such appalling sentimentality that his product has become synonymous among critics definition of tasteless hack work. Of the World's Fair painting, Canaday said, "It contains about 100 children and hence is about 100 times as bad as the average Keane."

Margaret divorced Walter Keane in 1965, and in 1970 she stunned the art world by announcing on a radio broadcast she was the real creator of the big eye paintings that had been attributed to her ex-husband Walter Keane. Keane denied her claims, and several years of back and forth accusations ensued.

In 1986, Margaret sued Walter and USA Today newspaper in federal court for an article USA Today published claiming Walter was the true artist of the big eye paintings. At the trial, the judge ordered both Margaret



Above: Margaret Keane painted this 100-people Big Eyes painting for exhibition at the 1964 Worlds Fair. Robert Moses, director of the World's Fair, rejected the painting, so it was never hung.

and Walter to create a bigeyed painting in the courtroom to determine who was telling the truth. Walter declined to paint, but Margaret completed a new big eye painting in front of everyone in 53 minutes. After a threeweek trial, Margaret was awarded \$4 million in damages. After the verdict, Margaret Keane said, "I really feel that justice has triumphed. It's been worth it, even if I don't see any of that four million dollars." And she didn't!

Keane continued to work right up to her death, so she was a prolific painter beyond the Big Eyes fame and controversies.

Many collectors only seek prints since a prime, original Margaret Keane painting is valued around \$25,000 or more. Even the artist's prints may be expensive since a print in good shape is worth about \$1,500. A signed print is worth more. However, many original Keane prints are available on the Internet, starting at around \$200.

Margaret Keane's big-eyed children inspired many copycat artists, so let the buyer beware. Artists such as Eden, Gig, Maio, Franca, and Sherle all copied Margaret's large, sad-eyed waif appearance. Harlequins, homeless children, ballerinas, and clowns were popular subjects of these copycat artists.

Of her life's work. Margaret Keane said, "People either hate my paintings or they love them. There does not seem to be much middle ground. I finally got to the point where I decided I don't care if it's good art or bad art - it's what I do. I enjoy doing it, and people like it."



Above: Original Margaret Keane rock painting, "Miss Milly." Painted in 1997, this pink pig rock painting is valued at \$4,750.







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Above: Big Eyes original oil painting, "Hiding Place," painted by Margaret Keane in 1971. This painting was offered on eBay for \$29,000.

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE - www.eauctionexchange.com

February 28, 2023





## Schuco Fex could turn somersaults and still land on its wheels

#### BY ERIC BRYAN

In a shopping plaza about 15 miles south of San Francisco, there used to be a store called Hobbyville. It was the only local hobby shop, and carried mostly plastic kits, model rockets and radio-controlled aircraft. But in a back corner was one of those illuminated glass display cases with shelves inside it. On the top edge of the case were buttons which, when pressed, caused the series of shelves to carousel up or down, allowing you to view all of the wares inside.

The shelves were laden mostly with figures and cannon and accessories made by Britains Ltd. On one shelf was a tinplate Schuco four-door saloon in turquoise, about six inches long, with a plated grille, headlights and front bumper, and red-painted metal wheel rims fitted with gray rubber tires. Its rounded shape, long hood and exaggeratedly short windows and windshield made it seem to be something out of a late 1940s or '50s cartoon or comic strip. The model also had decorative chromed strips on the fenders, chromed trim around the windshield, chromed front door handles, and a chromed hood ornament. I used to go

and look at this Schuco with each visit to the shop over the span of a few years, until I finally obtained it.

My acquisition was the Fex 1111, which Schuco of West Germany produced from 1951 to 1965 (some sources suggest an earlier start year). Fitted with a clockwork motor wound through a hole in the left side by a Schuco number 2 key, the steering could be set via a sliding lever situated in a slot in the front bumper. (In the instruction leaflet, the lever handle is referred to as a "lamp.") A pressure switch protruding from the underside between the rear wheels engaged the action of the wound motor when the car was set down on its wheels. It would travel straight ahead or turn circles depending on how you'd set the steering lever.

A special feature of the Fex 1111 is the lever in the back with a tab labeled "SOS." With the lever slid in/forward, the car runs at a leisurely pace. Sliding the lever out/back has the effect of invoking the power of a supercharger, and the car races off at high speed. Based on this feature, the instruction leaflet which accompanied early releases of the Fex 1111 described the model



as "the unbelievable Hell Driver Car," while the instructions with later issues announced the Fex as "The breath-taking Dare Devil Racer."

The later leaflet explained: "Schuco Fex 1111 performs crazy circles, turns somersaults, lands again on its four wheels and continues on its course. This amazing action is attained by pulling out the lever marked 'SOS' at rear of car and setting front wheels for circular drive." The earlier leaflet told that the "Fex will start a wild race in circles, somersault around its longitudinal axis and fall back on its wheels to continue the ride." That is, the car doesn't tumble end over end, but rolls 360 degrees when reaching its highest speed in a turn. When righted, the Fex 1111 continues into its next turn, tumbles again, rights itself, and so on. The Schuco designers must have perfectly matched the weight, size, body shape, wheelbase and track of the car to its forgiving surface, this tumbling maneuver will of course scratch the model's lovely paintwork. The Fex 1111 though does have a metal band strapped across its roof, bearing "Schuco Fex," which seems to be designed to function as a rollover guard.

For simple non-motorized play, the Schuco instructions advised to set the front wheels for straight ahead travel, pull the SOS lever out (without having wound the motor), and then use the Fex 1111 as a "pushtoy" or "freewheeler."

Besides turquoise, colors of the Fex 1111 include red, green, light green, burgundy, blue, light blue, cream, gray, black, and very deep blue or green. Cream and the dark colors are considered scarce. The black tinplate chassis reads "Made in US-Zone Germany" on earlier models, and "Made in Western Germany" on later issues.

by combining the Fex

Schuco item, the Magico

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sued in 1999 in the Schuco Classic range, ref 01720, in red. Another reissue appeared in 2012, a black and yellow Fex 1111, ref 01721. A further Fex 1111 reissue is ref 01722, released in November 2015. This model is in beige and brown, and was limited to 1,000 pieces. The first two Schuco Fex reissues were marketed in window boxes, with reproduction carded boxes and facsimile instruction leaflets included inside. The 2015 reissue was sold in a special presentation box, and included the repro carded box and instruction leaflet inserted.

Also available from Schuco was a promotional sign, ref 08519, advertising the Fex 1111. Introduced in 2014, this red and yellow tin litho sign features artwork from the Fex 1111 box and instruction leaflet, showing the rollover action of the car. This collector's item was lim-More fun was in store ited to 1,000 units. Schuco further reissued

or without boxes have auctioned for \$50-100. Sales results increase to an excellent red model with box and leaflet going recently for \$310, and another red Fex 1111 graded as excellent with an excellent box falling under the hammer for nearly \$650. The black and yellow version is the scarcer of the reissues, showing auction values of \$90-150. A vintage variant in light blue with red stripes running along the hood line and window sills, said to be rare, recently realized \$180.





Above: The SOS lever which, when pulled back, enables high speed and rollover action. Photo courtesy of donarado

motor power and speed, in order for it to land perfectly on its wheels as it comes out of each rollover.

Unless performed on a



Above: Note the band on the roof which can act as a rollover guard. Photo courtesy of donarado

another the Magico Garage, ref 01081.

If the Schuco Fex 1111 instruction leaflet noted, strikes your fancy, you'll be wondering about val-"Use Schuco Fex for 15 instructive and fun-filled ues of this classic German model. Both vintage and reissue examples in The Fex 1111 was reisexcellent condition with

Above: The beautifully plated grille and bumper. The centrally positioned post steers the front wheels by sliding it to either side. Note the Schuco logo cast into the bumper. Photo courtesy of donarado



Above: The pressure switch between the rear wheels engages the wound motor when the car is set on its wheels on a hard surface. Photo courtesy of donarado

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