

Susanin's Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and Retro One-Owner Sale Brings Affordable Jewelry to the Block

by Mary Ann Brown
Photos courtesy Susanin's

There is well-made antique and vintage jewelry to be had at reasonable prices, and Susanin's in Chicago held a sale featuring many examples on February 10. Prices realized for the 382 lots from a single-owner collection ranged from \$62.50 to \$625. The top lot was a German Art Deco jasper, carnelian, marcasite, and silver

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bracelet that sold together with a German coral, green onyx, and silver bracelet for \$625 (includes buyer's premium); the estimate was \$150/250.

According to Susanin's, the offerings included European, Mexican, and American Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and retro jewelry by Scholz & Lammel, Knoll & Pregizer, Kollmar & Jourdan, Kay Bojesen, David-Andersen, Elis Kauppi, Niels Erik From, Meyle & Mayer, Anton Michelsen, Theodor Fahrner, Los Castillo, Abraham Paz, Reveriano and Maria Castillo, Jose Anton, and Jose Federico. There was also a collection of Bakelite jewelry and costume jewelry.

Daniella Rosa is involved in marketing and client services at Susanin's and was responsible for cataloging most of the pieces in the auction. She said, "It was obviously a specialized sale, from one consignor—a local dealer—and he had been collecting over the past thirty to forty years. So everything was very specific, and there was kind of a theme, as you can see. He had a certain taste, German silver and Danish silver, things like that. Overall it went very well; we were very pleased with the results."

Rosa said the action "was mostly online. We had some local people come in and bid in house, but for the most part it was online or on the phone. We had figured that the walk-through traffic would be lower than at, say, a fine jewelry auction."

Asked if she noticed any new trends in the market in relation to this sale, Rosa said that something she'd seen in Susanin's December 2015 auction also rang true in this one: silver and paste bracelets were selling above presale estimates. "That was the biggest thing that really jumped out at me." She referred to two Knoll & Pregizer bracelets as examples: a 7" long Knoll & Pregizer sterling silver and paste bracelet containing three square green paste stones surrounded by both round and baguette white paste stones sold for \$608 (est. \$200/300); and a 7¼" long Knoll & Pregizer silver and paste bracelet with an Art Deco decoration realized \$500 (est. \$150/250).

This collection of jewelry comprised lower-valued and less rare materials, which made the pieces more affordable accessories. Many were signed, and Rosa said the consignor "had kept everything in pristine condition over the years."

We discussed how much we have learned about jewelry over time. For me, talking with specialists and writing about how different styles are faring in the market has been edifying. For Rosa, working with jewelry, gemstones, and jewelry professionals to catalog items, estimate results, and then to market sales for consignors and to buyers has taught her a lot. We both get interested in and attracted to the elements in these wearable sculptures, which gives meaning to our work.

"When I was going through the collection with the gemologist that we work with, I learned about the different jaspers," said Rosa. She especially liked an Art Nouveau Egyptian Revival jasper necklace that sold in a lot with a ring and brooch for \$218.75 (est. \$150/250). A French silver and paste bracelet that sold along with a French Art Deco paste, faux pearl, and silvertone necklace for \$593.75 (est. \$100/200) was one of my favorites and one of the top lots in the sale.

Susanin's holds fine jewelry auctions at least four times a year. The next will be on April 30. The catalog will be available online in the weeks before the auction. For more information, see (www.susanins.com).



The top lot of Susanin's sale was this German Art Deco 7¼" long jasper, carnelian, marcasite, and silver bracelet (top) containing seven jasper stones and 16 carnelian stones, together with a German coral, green onyx, and silver bracelet containing five coral stones and five square-cut green onyx stones, which brought \$625 (est. \$150/250).



This 7" long French silver and paste bracelet sold along with this French Art Deco paste, faux pearl, and silvertone necklace for \$593.75 (est. \$100/200) to the same bidder who bought the top lot as well as several other pieces featured here.



This Art Nouveau silver, enamel, and cultured pearl necklace with a 23" chain and 1¾" pendant (middle) sold together with these two Art Deco marcasite, silver, and paste brooches for \$343.75 (est. \$150/250).



The Theodor Fahrner 1" x 1¾" carnelian, marcasite, and sterling silver brooch (far right) is stamped with maker's mark, "sterling," and "Germany" on reverse. It sold together with two carnelian, marcasite, and sterling silver link bracelets to an online bidder for \$352.

This Austrian 7½" long sterling silver and moonstone bracelet containing nine round cabochon moonstones sold together with a moonstone flower basket brooch containing 11 round moonstones for \$218.75 (est. \$75/125) to the buyer of the lot with the Egyptian Revival jasper necklace, the German jasper, marcasite, and sterling ring, and the jasper, marcasite, and silver brooch.



An online bidder won this Knoll & Pregizer sterling silver and paste bracelet containing three square green paste stones, each surrounded by both round and baguette white paste stones. The 7" long bracelet, stamped with maker's mark, "sterling," and "Germany" on the clasp, sold for \$608 (est. \$200/300).



This German Art Nouveau 1 1/4" long plique à jour enamel, hematite, and silver pin, containing one cabochon hematite flanked on either side by green plique à jour decoration, is stamped "Geschützt 900" and has an illegible maker's mark on the reverse. It sold for \$384 to an online bidder (est. \$100/150).



This Karlsruhe German majolica stag pendant from the 1930s bears a repoussé enamel stag and the mark "Karlsruhe" on the back. According to the Susanin's catalog, the majolica workshop in Karlsruhe in southern Germany has been in business since 1901. The 2 1/4" diameter pendant sold for \$125 (est. \$50/100).

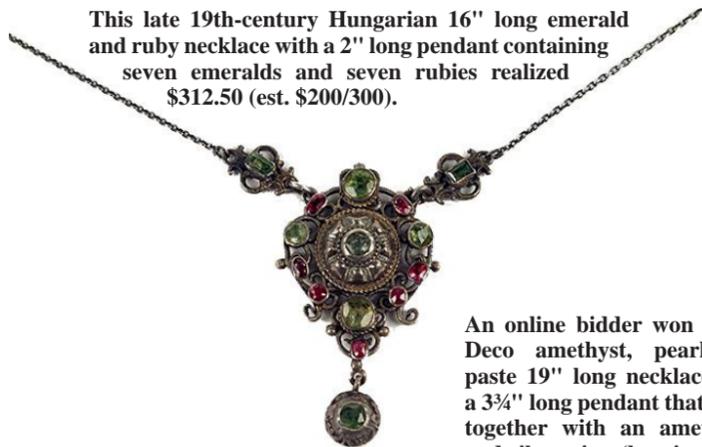


The same bidder who won the top lot also got this Knoll & Pregizer silver and paste 7 1/4" long bracelet with Art Deco decoration. It is stamped with the maker's mark and "835" on the clasp, and it brought \$500 (est. \$150/250).



This Theodor Fahrner 2" long hematite, marcasite, and silver bar pin sold together with a hematite and marcasite ring and an Art Nouveau marcasite and silver pendant together with necklace chain for \$312.50 (est. \$150/250). On the reverse of the bar pin is Fahrner's maker's mark and the stamp "935."

This group, consisting of a German onyx and sterling 13 1/2" silver leaf-form necklace, two onyx, marcasite, and sterling silver necklaces, and an additional onyx necklace, realized \$500 (est. \$150/250).



This late 19th-century Hungarian 16" long emerald and ruby necklace with a 2" long pendant containing seven emeralds and seven rubies realized \$312.50 (est. \$200/300).

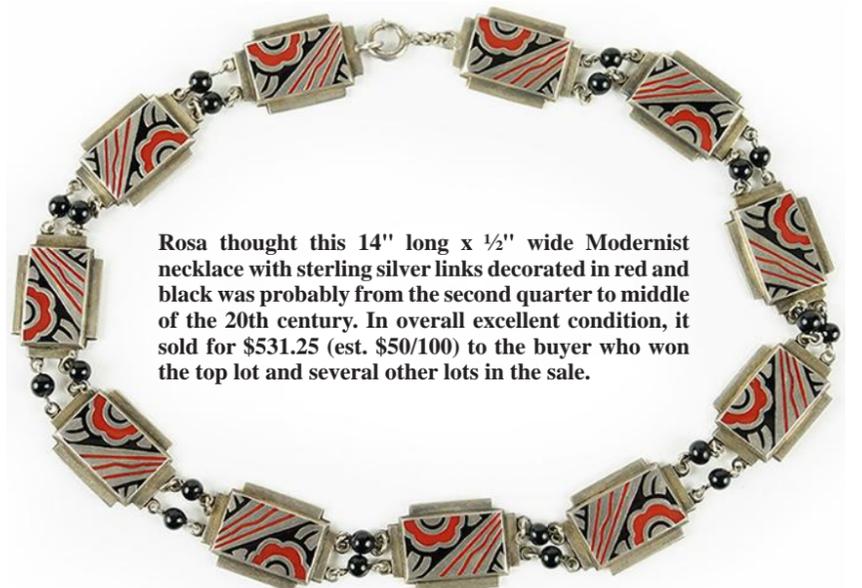
An online bidder won this Art Deco amethyst, pearl, and paste 19" long necklace with a 3 1/4" long pendant that sold together with an amethyst and silver ring (bearing illegible marks on its shank) for \$416 (est. \$200/300).



Rosa's favorite piece in the sale was this Egyptian Revival 17" long jasper necklace. "It was this beautiful Art Nouveau, kind of like a chunky necklace, and had a large pendant." It sold together with this German jasper, marcasite, and sterling silver ring and jasper, marcasite, and silver brooch for \$218.75 (est. \$150/250).



Asked why she thought these four 2" long unsigned goldtone and black enamel dress clips in the form of pen nibs (shown front and back) brought so much more than the estimates at \$468.75 (est. \$50/100), Rosa replied, "I believe these sold well because the design in general is incredibly unique and gender neutral. I also believe it was rare to have two sets of this type of item. For a reseller, it would be easy to restyle the dress clips into an interesting piece of jewelry, a belt buckle, a handbag adornment, et cetera."



Rosa thought this 14" long x 1/2" wide Modernist necklace with sterling silver links decorated in red and black was probably from the second quarter to middle of the 20th century. In overall excellent condition, it sold for \$531.25 (est. \$50/100) to the buyer who won the top lot and several other lots in the sale.

Morphy Auctions Welcomes Allia Dhody to Head Fine Jewelry and Watch Division



This Theodor Fahrner 1 5/8" silver and matte enamel butterfly brooch, stamped with maker's mark and "935" on reverse, brought \$250 (est. \$50/100).



The buyer of the Drendel brooch (seen below right) also bought this lot, which included three Art Nouveau carved horn flying insect brooches; one Art Nouveau carved horn insect pendant; four French carved horn brooches; one carved horn fish brooch; and two carved wood insect brooches for \$531.25 (est. \$150/250).



Three Art Nouveau ribbon buckles—a silver 2" x 4 1/2" bow ribbon buckle hallmarked with a crescent, crown, "800," and a spoked wheel; a pewter with amethyst cabochon buckle; and a free-form leaf buckle containing green cabochons—realized \$250 (est. \$100/150).

This Art Nouveau nephrite jade 17" long necklace sold together with a nephrite and silver ring for \$187.50 (est. \$100/150).



This 4 3/8" x 2 7/8" painted porcelain and sterling silver brooch/pendant by Theodore Drendel (1944-1993) sold for \$218.75 (est. \$100/150). According to his obituary in the June 7, 1993, edition of the *Chicago Tribune*, Drendel was a well-recognized jewelry designer and Vietnam combat artist who taught art at the Evanston Art Center, the North Shore Art League, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He was a member of the Chicago Society of North American Goldsmiths, the Chicago Artists Coalition, and Artists in Metal of Chicago.



This Art Deco sterling silver and green paste choker necklace sold together with two Art Deco marcasite, silver, and carved green paste brooches and one additional sterling silver and green and red paste brooch for \$281.25 (est. \$150/250).



Allia Dhody, GG, joined Morphy Auctions as department head of fine jewelry and watches in January. Morphy Auctions photo.

Morphy Auctions in Denver, Pennsylvania, announced in January that Allia Dhody, G.G. had joined the company as the full-time department head of the company's fine jewelry and watch division. Morphy created this position "to strengthen the company's emerging leadership position in this important auction category." Morphy's holds several fine jewelry sales each year as well as offering jewelry throughout the year at premier events. Dhody "will be responsible for overseeing these auctions, identifying and valuing fine jewelry, cataloging, developing consignment networks, and representing Morphy's at events nationwide."

A graduate gemologist, Dhody has been working in the field since 2008. She was previously an associate specialist of jewelry and watches at Freeman's in Philadelphia and was responsible for evaluations, appraisals, and cataloging for five annual sales.

When contacted via e-mail about her new position at Morphy's, Dhody replied that she's "really enjoying working directly with Dan Morphy! His passion for the division is contagious, and he is so supportive of what it will take to build this department."

Morphy's next fine jewelry sale will be held May 3. Dhody also has her sights on the fall. "We're working very hard to prepare for our November sale and are having a lot of fun in the process." She's getting good support from other colleagues too. "The entire team at Morphy's has been very welcoming and open to the new ideas I've presented. We're working very hard to prepare for our November sale and are having a lot of fun in the process."

Dhody said that Morphy's will be "offering open evaluation days the first Wednesday of every month," and that Morphy's location is "so easily accessible from Philadelphia and New York." She's very excited about the prospect. "I am looking

forward to meeting with customers and helping answer questions about their fine jewelry and watches." She can be contacted at <Allia.Dhody@MorphyAuctions.com> or (717) 335-4613 to discuss buying or selling an item or collection.

Dan Morphy, president of Morphy Auctions, said in the press release that announced her hiring: "We are delighted to welcome Allia to Morphy's and to our team of world-class experts. Her passion for jewelry, together with her knowledge of the auction world and industry trends, makes her a great fit for Morphy's now and for our vision for the future."



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