



A Q&A with *Market Warriors* Picker Miller Gaffney

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If you could collect only one thing what would it be?

If I could collect only one thing, it would be blue and white porcelain.

Do you have a favorite antique or flea market find that you've incorporated into your own home?

One of my favorite finds in my home is a Mid-Century Modern Lucite Coffee table that I purchased at an estate sale.

When did you know that you wanted to pursue a career in the antiques and art world?

I was born to appraise—I love history and at a young age I was always examining objects in the attic looking for treasures from the past. I would play dress up in my grandmother's vintage clothing and costume jewelry and I managed to purchase and buy objects and build collections at a young age. Some of my collections included dolls, costume jewelry, hats, boxes, seashells, paperweights, and silk fans.

What was your “A-ha!” moment that led to your career in the antiques and art world?

I thought I wanted to work in politics and dabbled with the idea of law school, but after staring out in that field, I decided that I wanted to follow my passion and interest in art and antiques. I have always liked business; making deals and seeing ideas come to life and grow, so I decided to work in the business side of the art world and to learn about all aspects of the art world. I worked on various sides of the industry—an auction house, art gallery, art magazine, and art information providers, and always saw the need and importance of appraisers giving the critical and educated decision to value. I felt particularly strongly about this after my grandmother's diamond ring, which was not properly insured, was stolen in a burglary. This sparked my interest in getting my appraisal certification.

To whom do you credit your interest in art and antiques?

I credit my parents who exposed me to beautiful art and antiques, took me to art museums, and took me traveling. They exposed my sister and me to different cities, cultures and environments in the U.S. and internationally.

(Cont.)

Outside of art and antiques what are your interests?

I enjoy cooking, travelling, entertaining, horseback riding, and collecting. Travel is the most inspirational aspect of life.

If you could give a flea market novice one tip, what would it be?

If I could give a flea market novice one tip, it would be to always open your eyes and search for the beautiful and unusual objects. If something speaks to you, buy it!