

Corrupt Sen. Dianne Feinstein's opulent antiques are put up for auction after she left \$102m property portfolio

By [MARTHA WILLIAMS, US NEWS REPORTER](#)

The vast and lavish antiques collection of **California's** late Senator Dianne Feinstein has hit auction.

Feinstein, who died in 2023 at the age of 90, left behind a \$102 million property portfolio and a \$62 million private jet.

Now, two years later, her impressive collection of precious and rare antiques have been valued, and the total comes close to a staggering six figures.

Claris Auctions, an East Bay-based auction house, was chosen by managers of Feinstein's estate to hold the sale. The auction is set for August 15 at 9:30 am in Oakland, but online bidding has already begun.

Deric Torres, senior vice president of Claris, determined that the items - in total - are valued at close to six figures.

Items of note in the collection include a photograph of Feinstein posing with **Queen Elizabeth II**, which is signed with a dedication to the senator's late husband Richard Blum.

There is a Mottahedeh covered tureen and stand - a decorative and functional piece of porcelain tableware - in the Lowestoft Rose pattern made by Vista Alegre, a luxury Portuguese porcelain manufacturer. This rare item is estimated to be worth \$200 to \$400.

A three piece sterling silver hollowware service is estimated to be worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000.



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The vast and lavish antiques collection of California's late Senator Dianne Feinstein (pictured in 2023) has hit auction



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Bouquets of flowers were left outside her \$21 million San Francisco mansion following the trailblazing senator's death in 2023



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Valued at \$400 to \$600 is a Christian Dior porcelain dinner service in the Tabriz pattern. The service features 64 pieces, including 14 dinner plates, 12 salad plates, 12 soup bowls, 12 coffee cups, 12 saucers, one serving bowl and one oval platter.

There is also a rare Chelsea Clock Company Boston Regulator No. 3 hanging clock in a quarter sawn oak case. According to the collection's description, 'This rare 8-day clock was produced by Chelsea to compete with their rival, Seth Thomas, and its popular Regulator No. 2.'

A 14K gold pocket watch with golden roman hours in Feinstein's collection has been valued at between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Bidding for an American large floor model rolling portrait series camera by the Ansco Corp starts at \$250.

Torres told **SFGATE** that they're pleased that the collection stayed local: 'It's great that it stayed here and the family chose a local gallery - it shows (Feinstein's) dedication to the Bay Area.'

Feinstein was born in San Francisco and became California's first female US Senator in 1992.

Much of her wealth has stemmed from her billionaire second husband, Richard Blum, the financier and founder of investment firm Blum Capital Partners, who passed away in February 2022. Feinstein has one daughter, Katherine, as well as three stepdaughters with her late spouse.

A high-profile legal battle between the senator's only child and Blum's family and former business partners broke out in 2023.



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The ugly court battle over the couple's estate erupted after Feinstein's daughter and power of attorney Katherine sued the marital trust that the senator and Blum held much of their properties and bank accounts in.

Shortly before Feinstein's death, a California Superior Court judge ordered the parties to solve their differences in a private mediation.

Feinstein left behind an Italianite mansion with stunning views of San Francisco Bay worth \$21 million. Democrat Feinstein died in a Washington DC mansion she owned that's worth \$7.4 million.

She also owned a \$5 million [Hawaii](#) duplex, \$7.5 million beach house in Marin County, California and a \$62 million Gulfstream G650 jet she used to shuttle between her property empire.

Feinstein's wealth was further swelled by the sale of two other enviable homes in recent years - an Aspen ranch sold in 2023 for \$25 million, and a Lake Tahoe compound sold for \$36 million.

She is also believed to have had around \$70 million cash in the bank.



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Much of Feinstein's considerable wealth was fueled by her political clout and marriage to financier Richard Blum (pictured together)



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Following the death of her husband in 2022, Feinstein offloaded her sprawling 36-acre Bear Paw ranch in Aspen, Colorado for \$25 million



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Feinstein's San Francisco home was built in 1917 and looms large over the picturesque Bay area, with estimates placing its value at \$21 million



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The longtime lawmaker jetted between her lavish properties in a Gulfstream G65 private jet (seen in a stock image), which go for over \$61 million pre-owned

While Feinstein earned a reputation as one of the shrewdest political operators in the Capitol, much of Feinstein's financial clout was fueled by Blum.

He poured considerable funds into her early political career, including helping her finance a campaign to defeat a recall election in 1983 when she was San Francisco's first female mayor.

Blum reportedly helped her scrape together \$400,000 for the effort, and also injected \$3 million into her unsuccessful run for governor of California in 1990.

Feinstein was succeeded after her death by Laphonza Butler, a longtime political strategist with close ties to Governor Gavin Newsom. However, Butler resigned in 2024 and Adam Schiff was appointed to the US Senate to replace her.