Comparable Sales/Offerings for Martz Lamp #144
Martz Lamp #144

By Jane + Gordon Martz
Marshall Studios, 1957

Martz Lamp #144 is one of several lamp models designed by Jane and Gordon Martz for Marshall Studios in Veedersburg, Indiana in the mid-to-late 20th century. Marshall Studios is well known for their rustic-modern functional ceramic housewares, particularly their stoneware lamps. Many of their pieces are in the Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collection and their #101 lamp, a simple Scandinavian-modern tear drop form, was featured at the 1953 Good Design Exhibition at MoMA. Today, their lamps are popular with decorators and collectors of midcentury modern and Scandinavian modern décor.
Martz lamps are identifiable by their modern forms, earthy glazes and distinctive rustic decoration. Lamps were hand-decorated using one or more of three techniques: dip-glazing, brush-glazing, or incising. While they have a handmade appeal, the lamps were factory-made: the company produced up to 1000 lamps a month for over three decades and they are now fairly easy to find on the secondary market, from eBay to 1stdibs. Despite their relative abundance, prices range from $100-500 on the low end to over $1000 on the high end. Factors which affect pricing include the relative rarity of the model (#144 is a more commonly found model), type of decoration applied (incised models are pricier), and whether the lamp retains its original wood finial or shade. Pricing can also vary considerably with the sale venue. For example, prices are lower on eBay, where the average purchaser is likely a dealer or bargain-hunting collector and higher at high-end antique or vintage shops in major urban areas, where the average purchaser is likely a designer or a collector with more money than time to spend hunting for a deal.
Lot 354
Estimate: $100 – 200

Price Realized: $80
+21% buyer's premium

“Mid-century "Martz" lamp, cylindrical body, white in color, decorated rim around body, canvas shade in a brown hue. Height 18 in.”

Positive price factors: Shade appears original, incised decoration
Negative price factors: No original finial; sold at local/regional “emerging” auction house
Auction Sale #2

Rago Arts & Auctions
Lambertville, NJ
April 26, 2014

Lot 1159
Estimate: $150 – 250

Price realized: $350 (+25% buyer’s premium)

“Glazed ceramic and wood table lamp, Indiana, 1950s With original paper tag. To finial: 36 1/2" x 7" dia.”

Positive price factors: Rarer model, incised decoration, original finial, sold at a larger auction house known nationally for its expertise in modernism
Negative price factors: No original shade
“Martz lamp all original from the finial down. Very soft grey/white with grey/taupe strips. The finish is a rough mat, there are some pencil/pen marks, not sure what made them, see pictures. Will ship in 2 boxes and double boxed. 32" to top of finial, 7.5" at the widest area.”

Positive price factors: original finial and shade, incised decoration
Negative price factors: condition issues, sold on eBay
“Vintage mid century modern Marshall Studios ceramic table lamp- smooth satin white glaze with a twist motif- excellent condition, original wiring in good working order- original burlap shade and walnut finial- measures 20" to the top of the socket, 30" to the top of the finial- original shade measures 14" x 14"- signed on the lower base back.”

Positive price factors: rare version of model #144, original finial and shade
Negative price factors: sold on Etsy
Brick and Mortar Shop #1

Offered at $1400
by reGeneration
78 Renwick St.
New York NY

“Tall ceramic table lamp with walnut stem by Gordon and Jane Martz, 1950s. Signed at bottom.”

Positive price factors: Sold by high-end NYC dealer with a Soho store and space on ABC Carpet & Home’s modern floor
Negative price factors: No original finial or shade; no incised decoration
Brick and Mortar Shop #2

“Mint condition pair of Tan glazed ceramic lamps with a contrasting glazed band by Gordon Martz. New wiring and sockets.”

Offered at $3200 for the pair

by Quotient Fine Furnishings at NYDC New York, NY

Positive price factors: Incised decoration, original finials, available as a pair, sold by high end NYC dealer with space in the New York Design Center

Negative price factors: No original shades, color may have some affect