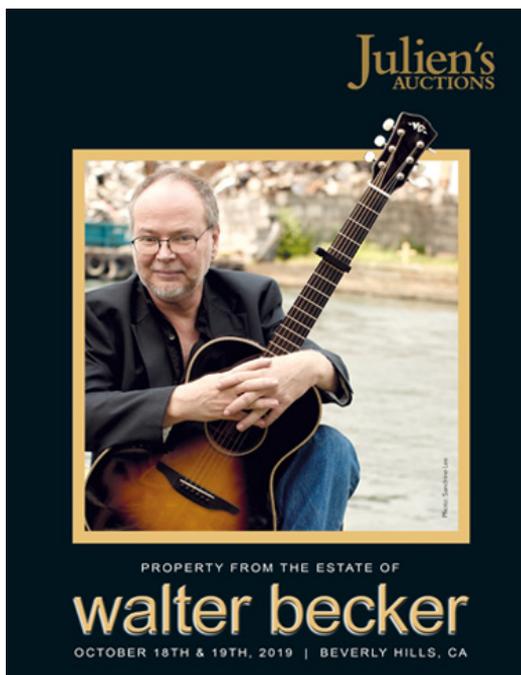


# Julien's AUCTIONS

*For Immediate Release:*

## JULIEN'S AUCTIONS ANNOUNCES PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF WALTER BECKER



*Multi-grammy winning Steely Dan co-founder, guitarist and co-songwriter's 1957 Fender Duosonic "Aja" guitar, stage-played signature model #1 Sadowsky guitar, rare Bacon & Day Senorita S.6 Model guitar, 1936 D'angelico Excel guitar, amplifiers, speaker cabinets, recording gear and more to rock two-day auction event*

## OCTOBER 18-19, 2019

**Los Angeles, California - (July 15, 2019)** - Julien's Auctions, the world-record breaking auction house, has announced **PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF WALTER BECKER**, a two-day celebration of the musical artistry of famed Steely Dan co-founder, co-songwriter, bassist, producer and guitarist to take place on **Friday, October 18-Saturday, October 19** live at The Standard Oil Building in Beverly Hills and live online at [juliensauctions.com](http://juliensauctions.com). Rocking the auction stage will be an exceptional and massive collection of the jazz rock legend's stage-played and recorded guitars made by D'Angelico, Sadowsky, Gibson, Fender, Martin and others as well as amplifiers, speakers, recording gear and ephemera.



Known for his sublime and immediate identifiable guitar tone, his intimate knowledge of the tools of studio and stage, and his unique, impeccable ear, Becker is heralded as one of the most potent forces in popular music of the last 50 years. (photo left and below: Becker's D'Angelico guitar and Bogner amplifier)

"Julien's Auctions is thrilled to offer this exceptional collection of musical instruments and gear owned and cherished by Walter Becker, the co-founder and creative genius of one of the most acclaimed and visionary bands of all time, Steely Dan; Becker was also a solo artist of uncommon uniqueness and creativity," said Darren Julien, CEO/President of Julien's Auctions. "Walter Becker was legendary for his unique sound, curiosity, knowledge, and high audiophile standards... he took pleasure in experimenting musically to develop perfect sonic landscape that would best support his creative and musical intentions. This extensive and wide-ranging collection reflects all of these characteristics – and more – that helped make Walter Becker one of the most talented and respected all-around musicians and sonic connoisseurs of his generation."

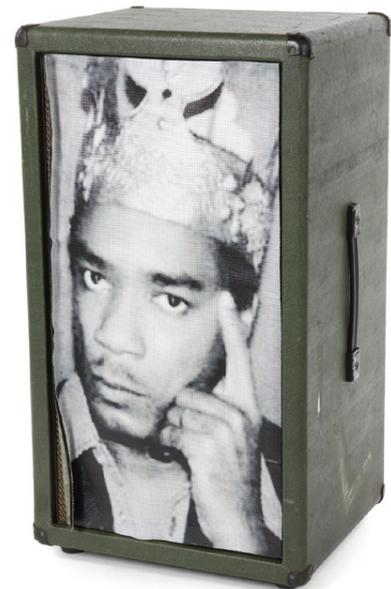


Born February 20, 1950 in Queens, New York, Walter Carl Becker began his legendary collaboration with songwriting partner and fellow jazz aficionado Donald Fagen while they were students at Bard College and bandmates under a variety of names including the Don Fagen Jazz Trio, the Bad Rock Group (or the Bad Rock Band), and The Leather Canary. During this time, the revolving musicians collaborating with them included future comedy star Chevy Chase. After graduation, they toured with the group Jay and the Americans and had their music featured on the soundtrack of Richard Pryor's film, *You've Got to Walk It Like You Talk It or You'll Lose That Beat*. In 1971, Becker and Fagen moved to Los Angeles where they formed the band Steely Dan with guitarists Denny Dias and Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, drummer Jim Hodder and singer David Palmer. They created a distinctive sound unlike any other of its time: a unique blend of rock, jazz, pop and R&B musical styles, with sophisticated, ironic lyrics containing obscure literary and cultural references. They immediately gained critical and commercial success with their debut album, *Can't Buy a Thrill* (ABC Records, 1972), establishing a reputation and cult following for their masterful recording and studio production achievements that became revered by critics, musicians, fans and audiophiles as one of the most sonically and creatively sophisticated pop acts of the 20th and 21st centuries. The album's hit singles "Do It Again" and "Reelin' In the Years" topped the Billboard singles charts at No. 6 and No. 11 respectively and along with "Dirty Work" (sung by Palmer) became instant classic rock staples. After Palmer's departure, Donald Fagen became the lead singer of the band's subsequent albums, *Countdown to Ecstasy* (ABC Records, 1973) – containing the classic rock hits "My Old School," "Show Biz Kids," and "Bodhisattva," – and *Pretzel Logic* (ABC Records, 1973), which produced the band's most successful single, "Rikki Don't Lose That Number" (charted No. 4 on Billboard). It was also the first Steely Dan album to feature Walter Becker on guitar (who had previously played bass), an instrument which he continued to record on for several releases through 2003. Steely Dan's refined studio recordings featured some of the finest studio musicians of the day including vocalist-percussionist Royce Jones, The Doobie Brothers' vocalist-keyboardist Michael McDonald, session drummer Jeff Porcaro of Toto and R&B and jazz stalwarts David Sanborn, Tom Scott, Michael Brecker, Chuck Rainey, Paul Griffin, Larry Carlton, Bernard Purdie, Phil Woods and Wayne Shorter among others. Their next album *Katy Lied* (ABC Records, 1975), – containing their hits "Black Friday," "Bad Sneakers," "Doctor Wu" and "Chain Lightning" – went gold, and *The Royal Scam* (ABC Records, 1976) produced their first Top 20 hit in the UK with their single "Haitian Divorce."

Becker's 1957 Fender Duo-Sonic



But it was the release of the band's sixth album, *Aja* (ABC Records, 1977), that would solidify Becker's and Fagen's reputation as songwriting and studio recording masters. The U.S. Top Five charting album, featuring top jazz luminaries including Larry Carlton, Victor Feldman, Wayne Shorter, Tom Scott and Lee Ritenour, won the Grammy for "Engineer - Best Engineered Recording - Non-Classical" and produced the hits "Peg," "Josie" and "Deacon Blues." *Aja* also became one of the first American LPs to be certified platinum for sales of over 1 million albums. In 1978, their song "FM (No Static at All)" – the title track from the *FM* (Universal Pictures, 1978) film soundtrack – hit the top 40 and for the next two years the band began recording their album, *Gaucho* (MCA Records, 1980), which produced their No. 10 hit single "Hey Nineteen" on the pop charts and a third engineering Grammy Award for Steely Dan's renowned sound engineer, Roger Nichols. After the band's dissolution in 1981, Becker worked mainly as a record producer for an eclectic collection of artists such as Rickie Lee Jones, Lost Tribe, Michael Franks, and China Crisis, plus a stable of diverse jazz artists including Pete Christlieb and Warne Marsh, LeeAnn Ledgerwood, Bob Sheppard, John Beasley, Andy LaVerne, and Jeremy Steig.



Becker's Boogie "King Tubby" speaker cabinet

In 1993, Becker and Fagen reformed Steely Dan, toured frequently, and recorded together, with Becker producing Fagen's second solo album, *Kamakiriad* (Reprise, 1993), and Fagen co-producing Becker's debut solo album, *11 Tracks of Whack* (Giant, 1993). They also released their whole catalog to date as the CD boxed set, *Citizen Steely Dan* (MCA, 1994), and a live CD, *Alive in America* (Giant, 1994).



The release of their first studio album in twenty years – *Two Against Nature* (Giant, 2000) – garnered four Grammy Awards including Best Engineered Album - Non-Classical, Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Pop Performance by Duo or Group with Vocal and Album of the Year. In March 2001, Steely Dan was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2003, Steely Dan released *Everything Must Go* (Reprise) their ninth and final studio album, with Becker singing lead vocals on a Steely Dan studio album for the first time. In 2008, Becker released his second solo album, *Circus Money (5 Over 12)*, in collaboration with musical luminary, Larry Klein. From 2003-2017, Becker would play sold out tours and concerts around the world with Steely Dan until his death at the age of 67 on September 3, 2017.

(photo left: Becker's 1957 Fender Duo-Sonic)

Hundreds of guitars, amplifiers, effects pedals and a collection of rare and iconic recording equipment will be on offer including:

- an original signature model #1 Sadowsky guitar, which went into production while Becker played this prototype extensively on stage (estimate: \$10,000-\$15,000);
- a fine early example of an Excel model archtop guitar, hand built by luthier John D'Angelico, with a spruce top and maple body with a sunburst finish, fitted with a Grover DeLuxe tailpiece, ebony bridge and fretboard (estimate: \$10,000-\$15,000);
- a fine and rare Senorita S.6 model guitar manufactured briefly in the mid-1930s by Bacon Banjo (estimate: \$10,000-\$15,000);
- a double cutaway strat-style Hahn guitar that was one of Walter Becker's favorite stage instruments, with a distinctive green sparkle and fitted with a solid maple neck above three single coil pickups (estimate: \$8,000-\$10,000);
- a 1961 Fender Stratocaster electric guitar with double cutaway alder body (estimate: \$10,000-\$12,000);
- a 1952 or 1953 Gibson JS-200 Custom jumbo sized flat top acoustic guitar with sunburst finish (estimate: \$8,000-\$10,000);
- a 1928 Martin 00 size flat top guitar with mahogany body and neck, a herringbone-banded spruce top inlaid with an unusual but likely original pickguard, ebony bridge and fret board with split diamond inlay (estimate: \$8,000-\$12,000);
- a 1955 Gibson ES-5 archtop electric guitar with natural finish maple body and spruce top (estimate: \$8,000-\$10,000);
- a 1958 and 1959 Fender Precision Bass (*photo right*) (each estimated: \$8,000-\$10,000);
- a 1965 Fender Jazz Bass in its original, now yellowed Olympic White finish (estimate: \$8,000-\$10,000);
- a 1957 Fender Duo-Sonic electric guitar which is being played by Walter Becker in a photograph used in the liner notes to the 1977 Steely Dan album *Aja* (estimate: \$4,000-\$6,000);
- a James Tyler Classic model solid body electric made for, and played often by Becker (estimate: \$3,000-\$5,000);
- an extensively stage played Ian Anderson Standard electric guitar (estimate: \$3,000-\$5,000);
- an early Bogner Ecstasy 100B amplifier head which was a favorite of Becker's, along with its various successors (estimate: \$2,000-\$3,000);
- a Satellite amplifier head made for and used extensively by Becker (estimate: \$1,000-\$2,000);
- and a custom MESA/Boogie open back 2X12 speaker cabinet which featured prominently as part of Becker's on-stage rig (estimate: \$500-\$700) and more.



**JULIEN'S AUCTIONS**

Julien's Auctions  
The Standard Oil Building Beverly Hills  
257 N. Canon Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

**Monday, October 14th - Friday, October 18th**  
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time  
Free to the Public

**LIVE AND ONLINE AUCTION**

**Property From The Estate of Walter Becker**  
**Friday, October 18th, 2019**

Session I: 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time  
Session II: 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

**Property From The Estate of Walter Becker**  
**Saturday, October 19th, 2019**

Session III: 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time  
Session IV: 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

**REGISTERING TO BID**

Registration is required to bid in this online auction and can be done in person at the exhibition, or online before the sale at the [JuliensAuctions.com](http://JuliensAuctions.com) Registration page to bid by phone, proxy or in person, or online at [JuliensLive.com](http://JuliensLive.com) to bid live online, or by calling (310) 836-1818. For inquiries, please email [info@juliensauctions.com](mailto:info@juliensauctions.com) or call 310-836-1818.

**PLACING BIDS**

There are four ways to bid in this sale:

1. Bid through Julien's Auctions Online Live in Real Time at [JuliensLive.com](http://JuliensLive.com).
2. Bid over the telephone through an auction house representative.
3. Submit a bid in person at the Julien's Los Angeles Gallery
4. Enter Absentee bids. Absentee bid forms are included in the back of each catalogue, and are also available by calling Julien's Auctions or online at [www.juliensauctions.com](http://www.juliensauctions.com).

**ABOUT JULIEN'S AUCTIONS**

Julien's Auctions is the world-record breaking auction house. Collaborating with the famous and the exclusive, Julien's Auctions produces high profile auctions in the film, music, sports and art markets. Julien's Auctions has received international recognition for its unique and innovative auction events, which attract thousands of collectors, investors, fans and enthusiasts from around the world. Julien's Auctions specializes in sales of iconic artifacts and notable collections including Marilyn Monroe, John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Lady Gaga, Banksy, Cher, Michael Jackson, U2, Barbra Streisand, Les Paul, Neil Young, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix, Hugh Hefner and many more.

In 2016, Julien's Auctions received its second placement in the Guinness Book of World Records for the sale of the world's most expensive dress ever sold at auction, The Marilyn Monroe "Happy Birthday Mr. President" dress which sold for \$4.8 million. Julien's Auctions achieved placement in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2009 for the sale of Michael Jackson's white glove, which sold for \$480,000 making it the most expensive glove ever sold at auction. Based in Los Angeles, Julien's Auctions has a global presence bringing their auctions and exhibitions to targeted destinations worldwide including London, New York, Las Vegas, Japan and China. Live auctions are presented for bidders on-site and online via live streaming video and mobile technology. For more information on Julien's Auctions, go to [www.juliensauctions.com](http://www.juliensauctions.com). Connect with Julien's Auctions at [www.facebook.com/JuliensAuctions](http://www.facebook.com/JuliensAuctions) or [www.twitter.com/JuliensAuctions](http://www.twitter.com/JuliensAuctions) or [www.instagram.com/juliens\\_auctions](http://www.instagram.com/juliens_auctions).

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