

For Immediate Release

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Contact: *Benedetta Roux* 212.636.2680 broux@christies.com

**EXQUISITE JAPANESE PRINTS AND MAGNIFICENT KOREAN MAEBYONG
HEAD CHRISTIE'S SALE OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN ART**

*A Private Collection of Japanese Prints and Paintings
Japanese and Korean Art
September 18, 2002*

New York – The Fall 2002 series of Asian sales at Christie's in New York will begin on a high note with A Private Collection of Japanese Prints and Paintings. This superb collection has been carefully amassed over decades and boasts a selection of prints once owned by the legendary French jeweller Henri Vever (1854–1943). Following this single-owner sale, the day will continue with the general sale of Japanese and Korean Art, offering some splendid highlights in both fields.

A Private Collection of Japanese Prints and Paintings

Comprised of 72 works, this sale offers a unique opportunity for print collectors to acquire some exquisite works created by the great Japanese printmakers of the 17th, 18th and 19th century. By Kaigetsudo Dohan is a fabulously well-preserved Courtesan playing with a cat, circa 1715 (estimate: \$400,000–450,000). Last offered in the Henri Vever sale in 1974, this print has been off the market for almost thirty years, a factor that combined with its splendid condition, rarity and provenance gives the Dohan an aura of irresistibility.

The only known complete surviving triptych of three actors by Toshusai Sharaku (active 1794–95) is another treasure of the collection (estimate: \$400,000–450,000). The three leaves are in very good condition, bearing the Vever collector's seal.

Japanese Art

Immediately following the sale of the private collection, the general sale of Japanese art will commence and again a selection of prints will open the sale. A breathtaking highlight of this section is the complete set of Utagawa Hiroshige's The fifty-three stations of the Tokaido (estimate: \$180,000–200,000). Comprising actually fifty-five prints – including the station of departure and arrival – this set is a beautiful rendering of the trip from Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto. An inspiring hanging scroll by Uragami Gyokudo is also offered (estimate: \$150,000–200,000). Referring to the Chinese phrase 'heaven is eternal and the world full of spirits', the depicted mountain landscape with subtle trees was most likely created during the last five years of the artist's life.

Negoro lacquer ware possesses the delicate balance between usefulness and aesthetics that has been the objective of designers throughout the ages. A fine group of negoro offered in the sale includes a sake bottle, Muromachi period (1333–1568) (estimate: \$100,000–150,000).

A section devoted to Modern Paintings and Ceramics presents 14 paintings from a West Coast Collection, including a work by Kaburagi Kiyokata of a beautiful woman in a boat (estimate: \$20,000–30,000) and a delightful depiction entitled Banana tree in rain by Hirafuku Hyakusui (estimate: \$5,000–7,000). The section of modern ceramics puts forward work by Tokuda Yasokichi III, one of Japan's 'Living National Treasures', a lovely stoneware gourd-shaped vase by Kamada Koji (estimate: \$2,200–2,800), and creations by Suzuki Sansei, Yamada Kazu and others.

Korean Art

The dedicated Korean section, in the afternoon, has historically had an incredibly strong offering in the past seasons and this sale is no exception. Of astounding quality is a copper-red-decorated and inlaid celadon Maebyeong from the Koryo dynasty (13th century) (estimate: \$800,000–1,000,000). The decorations on this exquisitely shaped maebyeong are subtle and refined, the shade of the celadon glaze is an invigorating gray-green and the condition of the vase is impeccable – this is a true Korean masterpiece. A blue and white porcelain jar, Choson period, 18th century (estimate: \$600,000–700,000) is another stunning work of art. The jar is lantern-shaped and is decorated in cobalt-blue with four large flower roundels in which are depicted banana trees, pinks, orchids, bamboo and plum and chrysanthemum.

Following the world auction record Christie's set last season for Park Sookeun, this sale again offers one of his works: Woman pounding grain, dated July 1956 (estimate: \$100,000–150,000). Sookeun has become one of the most sought after Korean modern masters. Also included in the Korean section is a set of five blue and white porcelain dishes, copied from Japanese Arita ware, Choson period (19th century) (estimate: \$60,000–70,000) and a gilt-bronze figure of Buddha, Unified Silla dynasty, 8th century (estimate: \$60,000–70,000).

*Auction: A Private Collection of Japanese
Prints and Paintings*

September 18 at 10 a.m.

Japanese and Korean Art

*September 18 at approximately
11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.*

Viewing: Christie's Galleries, New York

September 12 - 17

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*Images available on request
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