

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION OF SONG DYNASTY CERAMICS FROM AN IMPORTANT JAPANESE PRIVATE COLLECTION

CONFIRMING CHRISTIE'S COMMITMENT TO THE ART COMMUNITY & CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTING CATEGORY

HONG KONG – This autumn, Christie's Hong Kong will present *The Classic Age of Chinese Ceramics: An Exhibition of Song Treasures from the Linyushanren Collection*, a non-selling exhibition of Song dynasty (960-1279) ceramics at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center from November 22 to November 27, 2012. Comprising 80 highlights from a comprehensive Japanese private collection of over 200 Song ceramic wares, this exhibition marks the first time the collection has been shown to the public. Each of the works featured in this exhibition are exemplary of their type, spanning the full spectrum of forms, glazes and decorative techniques distinct to each of the ceramic-producing centers in China from which they originated. This exhibition aims to showcase the primary examples of ceramic wares from the major kiln sites active during the Song dynasty, regarded by historians as an apex of Chinese civilization. This exhibition endeavors to introduce the remarkable diversity and complexity of ceramic wares produced in Song period China. After debuting in Hong Kong, the exhibition will tour in 2013 to New York in March and London in May.

The exhibition includes a large concentration of monochrome ceramics, illustrating the subtle tonal variations explored during this period in China. The exhibition assembles a near complete example of the most prominent and complex kiln groups of the period, each with their own distinct forms and aesthetic achievements. 11 different kiln sites are represented, and together they trace the evolution of the complex production of ceramics that took place during Song dynasty China. A variety of types are showcased, from decorative works of art used only for display, to utilitarian items made for everyday use. The breadth and diversity reveal the collector's dedication to collecting the finest examples in every category, resulting in a museum-caliber collection. Very few collections with this level of diversity exist in private hands, and many of the works featured have been published in academic literature and exhibited in prominent museums abroad.

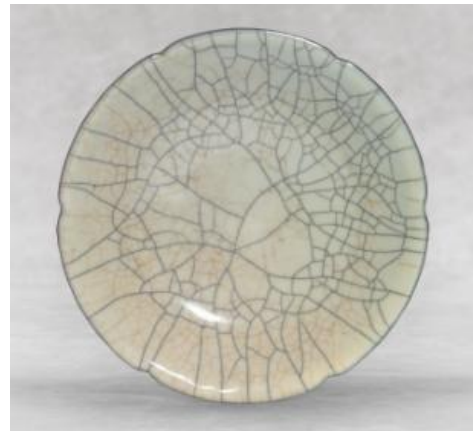
Through this non-selling exhibition, Christie's confirms its commitment to educating the art community about the category, building on its traditions by exploring dynamic opportunities in the expanding world of art. Historically, Song dynasty ceramics were appreciated by Europeans, Americans, and Japanese collectors, and many of the finest examples from the period remain housed in museums in those countries. In recent years, there has been burgeoning interest from collectors in Greater China in this category. This is a rare opportunity to view a comprehensive collection of Song ceramics in classic Japanese taste.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS



Among the most important ceramics in the collection is **a highly important and extremely rare black ding 'partridge feather' conical bowl** (illustrated left) dating to the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127). This bowl was previously in the Manno Art Museum in Osaka. The piece was produced at the *ding* kiln site, one of the principal ceramic producing centers active during the Northern Song dynasty. The dish is delicately potted with widely flaring sides. The interior is covered with a lustrous black glaze streaked in russet with 'partridge feather' effect radiating from the centre to the mouth rim where the glaze has thinned to brown. The exterior features the black glaze collecting in thick welts over the smooth white biscuit ring foot.

Also highlighting the collection is **an important and very rare 'ge' foliate dish** (illustrated right) from the Southern Song dynasty (12th-13th century). This dish was formerly in the private collection of American collector Stephen Junkunc, III. The present piece traces its origin to the *ge* kilns, which produced ceramic wares during the Southern Song dynasty. The dish is well potted with shallow sides flaring up and out to the notched rim, which is divided into six shallow lobes. Both sides are covered with a satiny glaze of pale grey and suffused with a wide network of black ('iron-wire') crackle joined by finer gold ('golden thread') crackle. This glaze continues over the slightly tapering ring foot to cover the base with six spur marks that reveal the dark grey ware.



Standing apart from the selection of *cizhou* wares in the exhibition is **a painted cizhou 'fish' truncated meiping** (illustrated left) dating to the Northern Song-Jin dynasty (960-1234). Wares produced by a *cizhou* kiln, such as the present vessel, often exhibit bird and animal decorative motifs. The *cizhou* kiln centers were highly influential during the period. A number of the ceramic centers in Henan, Hebei, and Shanxi adopted aspects of the aesthetic qualities and techniques unique to the *cizhou* kiln. These distinct characteristics were even incorporated in kiln sites as far away as Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. The vessel is supported on a countersunk base rising to a rounded body and shoulder tapering to a narrow waisted neck below a lipped rim. The body is painted in brownish-black slip depicting fish among weeds on a creamy white slipped ground, and the shoulder with a band of petals. The foot ring is unglazed exposing the greyish body.

A carved cizhou 'peony' meiping (illustrated right) from the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) is also of note. The classic *meiping* ovoid body is well carved with three prominent peony blossoms borne on meandering scrolls issuing broad leaves, between two bands of overlapping petals at the shoulder and around the foot, all in dark brown reserved on a white slip ground. The recessed base is unglazed revealing the buff body with areas applied with black slip.





Leading the selection of ceramics wares made by the *longquan* kilns is **a large *longquan* kinuta vase with phoenix handles** (illustrated left) from the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279). Located in Zhejiang province, works produced by the *longquan* kiln sites are recognizable by their trademark celadon glaze. The finest and earliest examples of *longquan* wares feature a blue-green glaze. The vase is robustly potted with a mallet-shaped body and sides tapering slightly towards the foot from the canted shoulder. The tall neck is flanked by a pair of phoenix handles below the widely flared mouth with upturned rim. It is covered with an even glaze of soft sea-green tone, leaving the foot ring unglazed.

A fine and rare pair of carved ding 'lotus' dishes (illustrated right) dating to the Northern Song dynasty (960-1279) also underscore the selection of *ding* kiln wares featured in the exhibition. The pair of dishes was originally in the private



collection of prominent ceramics connoisseur Edward T. Chow. Each dish has angled sides rising from a broad base supported on a short foot to a flaring rim, which is bound in copper. The interior is skillfully incised and combed to depict a single lotus flower sprig, detailed with carved leaves. Both dishes are covered in a pale ivory glaze with areas of pooling to the base, part of which is unglazed and has been fired to a slightly warmer tone.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Suky Lo | Hong Kong | +852 2978 6736 | sukylo@christies.com

Meng Mi | Beijing | +86 10 6500 6517 | mmi@christies.com

IMAGES of select highlights are available [here](#)

###

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:



ABOUT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. For the first half of 2012, sales totaled £2.2 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*