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ASIAN ART WEEK AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN MAY 2012

London – Christie's Asian Art sales in New York this March realised \$69 million, demonstrating Christie's continuing preeminence in this field across all Asian Art categories. This summer, Christie's London Asian Art Week will run from 15 - 18 May 2012, featuring a stellar array of works which further exemplify excellent provenance, rarity and beauty, with many highlights offered from important private collections. The sales include: *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* on 15 May at King Street; and at South Kensington: *Interiors* – dedicated to Chinese Art – on 16 May; *Japanese Art & Design* on 16 May; *Masterful Exuberance, Artistic Craftsmanship of Imperial Japan, A Private Collection* on 18 May and *Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles* on 18 May.

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art: 15 May at 10.30am & 2.00pm, Christie's King Street - Bid via Christie's LIVE™

Christie's London Asian Art week in summer 2012 opens with a superb offering of *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art*, on Tuesday 15 May 2012. Continuing Christie's longstanding and unrivalled strength of presenting Asian Art with excellent provenance, the auction features lots with exceptional provenance and three important private collections: *Property from a Private English Collection*; *Property from a European Royal Family*; *The Property of the late 7th Earl of Harewood, Sold by Order of the Executors*; *The Leonard Gow Collection of Chinese Jade Carvings and Works of Art*; *The Fryers Collection of Chinese Art* and *An Important Private European Collection of Chinese Works of Art*. Spanning the Shang dynasty (12th century B.C.) to the early 20th century, the sale features over 400 lots with an emphasis on rarity, beauty, imperial manufacture and fine condition, with a particularly strong array of important jades, as well as stellar ceramics, bronzes and hard stones. With estimates ranging from £1,000 to £1.2 million the sale is expected to realise in excess of £12 million.



Leading the auction is a magnificent pair of recently rediscovered large Imperial *famille rose* vases, Jiaqing Iron-red seal marks and of the period (1796-1820), which are offered from the property of a *Private English Collection* (estimate: £800,000-£1.2 million, *illustrated left*). Having been in the same family since the early 20th century, their importance and value was not known until a recent Christie's valuation. *The Property of the Late 7th Earl of Harewood, Sold by Order of the Executors* features another **ceramic** highlight, a large and very rare coral-ground *famille rose* jardinière, Qianlong mark and of the period (1736-1795) (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated below*). The

acanthus leaves reflect the strong influence of European Rococo styles which were popular from the early Qing period; this specific motif was a particular favourite with the Emperor Qianlong. From the same period is a pair of finely enamelled *famille rose* 'hundred boys' jars and covers, incised iron-red six-character seal marks and of the period (1736-1795) (estimate: £150,000-200,000).



It is rare for such jars to be offered as a pair complete with their covers. Traditionally this motif represents the wish for abundant offspring, in particular sons, and wealth. The festive nature of the design brings great vivacity to the composition.



The bountiful array of important **Jades** meets the ongoing strength of demand for excellent examples in this medium, crossing the spectrum of colours. From the *Property of a European Royal Family*, there is a spectacular massive Imperial spinach green Jade disc, *Bi* (£400,000-600,000). Measuring an impressive 16 in. (40.7 cm.) diameter, the disc is beautifully and thickly carved from a substantial jade boulder, and is finished with an attractive soft polish, *illustrated left*. It is supported on a finely cast stand consisting of two powerful writhing dragons amidst clouds. It appears to have been appreciated by royal households in both China and Europe and it is likely that both the jade *bi* and its bronze stand were made for the Qianlong Emperor (1736-95), prior to being purchased 300 years later by an important European private collector and gifted to a European royal family in the 1950s.

The Qianlong Emperor (r.1736-95) was renowned for his patronage and appreciation of the arts and one of his great passions was jade. It is very rare to find a pair of jade boxes of this large size exhibited by *a pair of superb white jade mughal-style 'chrysanthemum' boxes and covers*, Qianlong period (1736-1795), offered from the *Property from an Important Private European Collection* (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Previously in The Buchanan-Jardine Collection, these boxes and covers would have to have been carved from a large boulder of stone of even colour throughout. This collection was formed in the early 1970's, purchased from Spink & Sons; it is expected to realise in excess of £500,000. Also offered in the sale is a remarkable set of three 18th century celadon jade 'dragon' seals are offered at a similar price level. Each is carved with lines extracted from famous poems composed by Qu Yuan (340-278 BC) of the Chu Kingdom, in the Warring States period (475-221 BC) and is expected to realise £400,000-500,000, *illustrated right*.



Property from The Leonard Gow Collection of Chinese Jade Carvings and Works of Art (Lots 192 - 204) is expected to realise in excess of £200,000. It includes a very distinctively shaped pale celadon jade archaistic vessel and cover, *Tulu*, Qianlong period (1736-1795) (estimate: £80,000-120,000), which was carved in imitation of an archaic bronze form, that would have been used to hold artist's materials. Gow was a successful Scottish shipping magnate whose discerning eye for Chinese porcelain – having built one of the finest collections of Qing ceramics in the early years of the twentieth century - also extended to jade carvings and other Chinese works of art.

The Fryers Collection of Chinese Art comprises 23 works including extremely fine jade carvings as well as pieces of cloisonné enamel and glass works of art, with further works being sold at South Kensington later in the week. This portion of the collection is expected to realise in excess of £600,000. With a keen eye for top quality pieces, Dr Gordon Fryers (1922-2008) and Dr Rosemary Fryers (1922-1994), who were both medical doctors, amassed this collection in the mid-20th century, with many pieces from leading auction houses and dealers in London. Their fascination in Chinese culture began in the late 1940s when they moved to Singapore. The top lots in this collection include a finely carved pale

celadon jade circular table screen, Qianlong period (1736-1795) (estimate: £80,000 - 120,000); a pale celadon jade naturalistic carving of a bitter melon on a carved ivory stand (estimate: £60,000-80,000) and a rare white ground *famille rose* Qianlong mark and period tripod censer (1736-1795) (estimate: £60,000-80,000).



Elsewhere in the sale is an important and very rare pair of large imperial **bronze** altar vases, Qianlong cast six-character marks within a rectangular panel and of the period (1736-1795) (estimate: £300,000-500,000, *illustrated left*). Each powerfully and heavily cast vase is decorated to either side with a pair of confronted five-clawed writhing dragons in pursuit of the flaming pearl and all amidst vaporous clouds. This pair of magnificent vases exemplifies the artistic and technical quality of bronze vessels cast for the Imperial court. They would have been made as part of a five-piece temple or altar garniture comprising a censer, a pair of vases and a pair of pricket candlesticks, all of equally impressive size and weight. Having been acquired in Belgium in the 1980s, they are being offered from the *Property of a Lady*. Other highlights include a magnificent pair of painted **enamel** jardinières with inset **hardstones** the jardinières 18th century, the stem inserts 18th/19th century, which are offered from the *Property of a Gentleman* (estimate: £150,000-200,000, *illustrated right*). Beautifully painted with soft tones of pink, red, yellow and blue, on a pale lilac ground, they are part of a well-documented group of wares richly embellished with hardstones and semi-precious stones.



Interiors: 16 May at 10.30am & 2pm, Christie's South Kensington
Bid via Christie's LIVE™



Christie's South Kensington *Interiors* sale, dedicated to Chinese Art, has become a firmly established and highly successful feature of Christie's Asian Art Week in London. The auction on Wednesday 16 May will span the 15th to early 20th century, and includes porcelain, jade, bronzes, cloisonné, enamels, bamboo carvings, snuff bottles, ivory carvings, paintings and textiles. Presenting a wide array of works with important provenance, five private collections are featured - *A Private UK Collection Of Bamboo Carvings*, the *Fryers Collection of Chinese Art*, *The Leonard Gow Collection*, *An Important European Collection of Snuff bottles* and *A Far East Asian Collection of Snuff bottles*. Comprising 370 lots, with estimates starting at just £500, the sale is expected to realise in excess of £600,000.

Highlights on offer, *illustrated above left to right*, include a large jadeite shallow dish, from the *Leonard Gow Collection* (estimate: £2,000-3,000); a striking 19th century Glass Snuff Bottle (one of four in the lot) from the *Far East Asian Collection of Snuff bottles* (estimate: £2,000-3,000); and an 18th century bamboo cup, delicately carved into floral form from the *Private UK Collection of Bamboo Carvings* (estimate: £1,200-1,500).

Japanese Art & Design: 16 May at 10.30am & 2.30pm, Christie's South Kensington
Bid via Christie's LIVE™

The sale of *Japanese Art and Design*, on 16 May, features over 350 lots spanning archeological Haniwa from the Kofun Period (6th century) through to 20th century Contemporary prints. Illustrating the dynamics of Japanese design, a wide array of media is presented including a fine European collection of printed books, by artists including Utamaro and Hokusai, with excellent provenance, as well as important ceramics, netsuke, sword fittings, swords, armours, tea ceremony wares, prints, paintings and screens. With estimates ranging from £1,000 to £100,000, the auction is expected to realise in the region of £1.2 million.



This sale is led by a particularly strong group of Edo Period domestic and export **ceramics** from the mid-17th/early 18th century, including Nabeshima made for the Daimyo and Kakiemon wares that dressed the courtly houses of Europe. This is led by a pair of extremely rare late 17th century Kakiemon Tigers which were formerly in



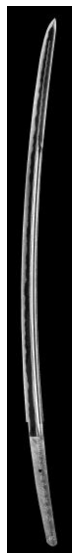
the collection of the Braun de Ter Meeren family from Belgium (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated as a pair above left and a detail above right*). This is the first time in over 20 years that a pair of tigers has come to the market, providing a very exciting and rare opportunity for international collectors. It is recorded that a pair was sold in 1888 from Burghley House, the collection of the Earls of Exeter, the whereabouts of these are unknown. Further ceramic highlights include an amusing late 17th century Kakiemon model of a seated boy on a go table (estimate: £70,000-90,000, *illustrated left*) and a strikingly designed late 17th century/ early 18th century Nabeshima Dish with hydrangea (estimate: £50,000-60,000).



The impressive and academic group of woodblock printed **books** with excellent provenance features “The Shell Book” *Shiobi no tsuto* [Gifts of the Ebb Tide] by Kitagawa Utamaro (1753-1806) (estimate: £50,000-80,000). This is a magnificent impression of the first printing of the book, which reaches the pinnacle of the printer’s art and comprises a total of

thirty-six *kyōka* poems by thirty-six poets in the upper half of each illustration on the subject of the thirty-six different shells which appear below, *example illustrated above*. It was originally part of the renowned Adolphe Stoclet Collection.

A highlight among the **swords** and sword fittings is a Gassan *Katana*, signed *Gassan Sadakatsu Kinsaku* (estimate: £6,000-8,000, *illustrated right*). The ancient Gassan school, probably dating back to the Kamakura period, was closely connected to the Shugendo, the school of ascetic practices of the *yamabushi*, adherents of the mountain religion.



The art of **lacquer** is exemplified by a two-panel wood and lacquer screen, Meiji Period (late 19th century) (estimate: £15,000-£20,000). The screen is inset with wooden panels decorated in gold, silver, red and black *hiramaki-e*, *takamaki-e* and *nashiji* with cockerels and hens among chrysanthemums against a natural woodgrain ground. A further highlight is a fine lacquer box decorated with open fans and presented by Prince Chichibu to the Portland Collection, Welbeck Abbey (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated left*).

Masterful Exuberance, Artistic Craftsmanship of Imperial Japan, A Private Collection:
18 May at 10.30am & 2.30pm, Christie's South Kensington, Bid via Christie's LIVE™

Christie's is proud to present the South Kensington sale of *Masterful Exuberance, Artistic Craftsmanship of Imperial Japan*, a single owner private collection dedicated to Meiji Period art from Japan (1868-1912). This is one of the most comprehensive groups of Meiji art work to become available on the International market for many years. The collection comprises around 260 artworks, amassed over 35 years - each carefully selected for their outstanding quality. Their owner, a passionate collector who kept out of the public eye, had a great appreciation for Japanese culture and art and his collection reflects this. His interest in works of art ranged from renaissance bronzes, Islamic art, to art nouveau and art deco, and it is the motifs in his Japanese collection that he found often related to these other areas of his collection.



The top lots range from a very large and imposing **bronze** sculpture a tiger, signed *Isshousai Katsutoshi*, Meiji Period, which is dynamically cast to capture the tiger's powerful, muscular body (estimate: £150,000-250,000), to an important **cloisonné** model of a temple bell, attributed to the Namikawa Yasuyuki Studio and intricately worked in silver wire and various coloured cloisonné enamels (estimate: £180,000-250,000, *illustrated left*). With estimates ranging from £800 to £250,000, the collection is expected to realise in excess of £1.6 million.

The particular strength of this collection is **Meiji Period metalwork**, particularly bronzes from important Meiji workshops. These include: the **Chokichi Workshop** - Suzuki Chokichi is one of the most highly regarded of Japanese Meiji era bronze artists whose work ranges from elegant small decorative pieces such as a Pair of Bronze Vases (estimate: £3,000-5,000) to large civic monuments in Japan; the **Komai workshop**, as demonstrated by a pair of Iron vases (estimate: £5,000 8,000); the **Miyao Workshop** -



The Miyao Company of Yokohama, under its founder Miyao Eisuke was renowned for producing good quality, ornate and highly detailed pieces by utilising casting and gilding techniques as exemplified by a magnificent bronze sculpture dramatically cast as three acrobats (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated right*). A magnificent bronze and iron vase is signed on an inset tablet: *Uchimono* [hammer worker] *Kurokawa Eisho*, *choko* [sculptor] *Kamijo Kazutoshi*, *zogan* [inlay] *Kashima Ippu* and sealed *Sawada sei* (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated left*)



The sale also includes a section of **Satsuma** - Satsuma ceramics are earthenware vessels ancestral to the Satsuma domain on Kyushu, led by a fine vase which is decorated in various coloured enamels and gilt with hanging scrolls that depict landscapes and deities, signed *Dai Nihon Kinkozan zo* and *Sozan*, impressed seal to the base *Kinkozan zo* (estimate: £8,000-12,000).

Other media featured ranges from **lacquer** to **ivories** including *okimono* [sculptural ornaments], a group of Shibayama wares and a selection of **Cloisonné enamels** by famous makers such as Namikawa Yasuyuki and Namikawa Sosuke. Notable highlights in these media include: a fine and impressive carved ivory cabinet carved with various scenes such as monkeys among peaches and children playing games (estimate: £25,000-35,000, *illustrated right*); an impressive lacquer *Shodana* decorated overall in gold, silver, red and black *hiramaki-e*, *takamaki-e*, *togidashi-e* and *hirame* and inlaid in Shibayama style in ivory and mother-of-pearl (estimate: £30,000-40,000) and the magnificent temple bell previously detailed.



**Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles: 18 May at 10am & 2pm,
Christie's South Kensington - Bid via Christie's LIVE™**

Christie's South Kensington sale of *Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles* on 18 May 2012 features 350 lots spanning the 14th century through to the 20th century, with estimates ranging from £500 to £50,000. A notable strength is the array of jade and cloisonné enamel, including an 18th century pale celadon and russet jade deer with a *lingzhi* spray in its mouth, measuring 4in (10.2cm) long, with an inlaid wooden stand (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated right*). The auspicious subject matter of the deer with the *lingzhi* spray in its mouth conveys to the viewer the message of longevity. The sale also comprises porcelain, canton enamel, bronzes, furniture, textiles, paintings and scholars' objects, ranging from seals and brush pots to brush washers. It is expected to realise in the region of £2 million.



The auction features works from two distinguished **private collections**.

The Collection of Sir William Seeds KCMG (1882-1973) is led by an unusual 17th/18th century cloisonné enamel censor modeled as a mythical beast (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated left*). Sir William Seeds was a distinguished British diplomat whose illustrious appointments and postings included time at the British Legation in 'Peking' (1908-9). He arrived at a fascinating time in Chinese history, in the months preceding the death of

Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908). In addition to the enamel vessels, porcelain, bronze figures, ivory carvings and furniture offered from the collection, there is an album of highly evocative black and white photographs taken in China in 1908/9 (estimate: £2,000-3,000).

The Fryers Collection of Chinese Art presents an excellent group of jade carvings, including a charming small brown and grey jade vase dating to the Yuan/Ming dynasty (1260-1644) (estimate: £10,000-20,000), as well as bronze censers and cloisonné enamel, with highlights such as a pink and turquoise ground teapot decorated with peonies, chrysanthemums and butterflies in flight, with a six-character Qianlong seal mark to the base dating to the second half of the 18th century (estimate: £4,000-6,000). Dr Gordon Fryers (1922-2008) and Dr Rosemary Fryers (1922-1994) were both medical doctors, whose fascination in Chinese culture began in the late 1940s when they moved to Singapore. The majority of the collection was purchased in the 1960s and 1970s from leading auction houses and dealers in London.



Porcelain highlights include a beautiful blue and white 'lotus' brushwasher decorated in vibrant blue tones with a stylised lotus flower surrounded by bats, an auspicious symbol of longevity and happiness, Qianlong period (1736-1795) (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated left*).

The **textile** section is led by an Emperor's yellow silk court robe, complete with all twelve symbols of Imperial Authority (estimate: £30,000-50,000). The robe is one of 30 textile lots offered from a European private collection. Following the Imperial theme, further highlights include a yellow silk Imperial cushion cover for the back of a throne from a private collection (estimate: £30,000-50,000), a yellow silk embroidered consort's robe (£10,000-15,000) and court waistcoats as well as embroidered and *kesi* screens for the keen collector.



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**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.*