

CHRISTIE'S 佳士得

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THROUGH CONNOISSEURS' EYES – WORKS OF ART FOR THE EMPEROR



CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG PRESENTS A SALE COLLABORATION WITH COOBIE CHUI AND MILTON MAN FOR THE 2014 SPRING AUCTION

Hong Kong – On May 28, Christie's will present **Through Connoisseurs' Eyes – Works of Art for the Emperor**, a sale of 22 imperial works sourced and curated in collaboration with Coobie Chui and Milton Man, two well-known connoisseurs in the field of Chinese art. Highlights include a magnificent Qianlong gilt-bronze vase inlaid with multi-coloured paste glass and a cloisonné enamel rectangular panel inscribed with an imperial poem.

At a very young age, Coobie and Milton were fascinated with the world of Chinese works of art. Through extensive research, traveling, and friendships, they opened their business, Qiankuntang in Hong Kong. They are recognized as the younger generation of collectors and became well-respected among their peers. Almost thirty years later, Coobie and Milton are offering works from their personal collection, as well as a selection of works from collector-friends, resulting in an immersion of knowledge in antiques and art. This sale is comprehensive and comprises an interesting selection of metalworks, wood, bamboo and jade carvings from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

"We are very honored to be collaborating with Christie's and our colleagues in facilitating this sale. Together, our group effort will hopefully contribute a little towards the continuation of our cultural heritage. I hope our precious 'teachers and friends' will find even better homes, so that more collectors can love, appreciate and pass them down. This is our greatest wish," said Coobie Chui.

Leading the collection is a magnificent and rare imperial paste-inset gilt-bronze vase and cover, Qianlong Period (1736-1795) (Illustrated left, Lot 3011, Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-7,000,000 / US\$625,000-875,000). This dazzling gilt-bronze vase is inlaid with multi-coloured paste glass, a decorative technique that was inspired by European automation clocks that so enchanted the

Qianlong Emperor. Although the technique is western, the style of the vase and its decorative theme is undoubtedly Chinese. The use of two bats as handles is very auspicious, as bat, *fú*, is homophone to fortune. Coupled with the character *jí*, auspicious, as a central roundel on the main band, it is not difficult to guess the good intentions hidden in the choice of motifs. The well-meaning wishes conveyed by this vase points to the possibility that it may have been commissioned as a birthday gift for the Qianlong Emperor. This vase is a great example of how western techniques and aesthetics were adapted by Chinese artist for the palace.

The sale also includes an imperial inscribed cloisonné enamel rectangular panel, Qianlong *Guisi* cyclical date, corresponding to 1773 and of the period (*Illustrated right*, Lot 3015, Estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000 / US\$250,000-375,000). This finely enameled panel is decorated with a pair of pheasants standing on blue rocks surrounded by a variety of flowers all below a gilt poem by the Qianlong Emperor alluding to the scene, followed by the cyclical *Guisi* date. The poem on the panel, composed by the emperor, is recorded in *Yuzhi Shiji*, Compilation of Imperial Poems, vol. 4, *juan* 9, dated 1773. The original title of the poem as recorded in *Yuzhi Shiji* suggests that the panel is based on a painting by Yang Dazhang, an esteemed court painter during the Qianlong reign and the poem is after the style of Wen Tingyun, a celebrated poet from the late Tang dynasty who was highly regarded by the Qianlong Emperor.

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Please click [here](#) to download the images.

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG CHINESE CERAMICS & WORKS OF ART SPRING AUCTIONS 2014

Imperial Chinese Treasures from a Distinguishes American Collection

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 10:30am

Through Connoisseurs' Eyes – Works of Art for the Emperor

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 11:00am

An Imperial Favourite – The Yongzheng Emperor's Dragon Zun

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 11:30am

The Imperial Sale

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 11:30am

The Sound of Jade and the Shadow of a Chrysanthemum – Works of Art from the Song Dynasty

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 2:30pm

Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Date: 28 May (Wednesday)

Time: 3pm

Venue: Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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.*

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