

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 28 April 2017

SPRING SERIES OF CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART SALES

ADORNING THE KINGS- A PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ARCHAIC JADE ORNAMENTS

THE PERFECT COUNTENANCE- FINE BUDDHIST WORKS OF ART

THE YONGZHENG EMPEROR'S DOUBLE-DRAGON AMPHORA

THE IMPERIAL SALE

IMPORTANT CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART



A Selection of Highlights to be auctioned on 31 May

From left to right: A SET OF THREE JADE 'CHILONG' SWORD FITTINGS AND A JADE SWORD GUARD, WESTERN HAN

A FINE AND RARE *FAMILLE ROSE* 'BOYS' JAR, QIANLONG MARK AND PERIOD

AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE TANG-STYLE 'DOUBLE-DRAGON' CELADON-GLAZED AMPHORA, YONGZHENG MARK AND PERIOD

A HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND VERY RARE MALLA-STYLE GILT-BRONZE AND SILVER-INLAID SEATED FIGURE OF BUDDHA

SHAKYAMUNI, TIBET 13TH-14TH CENTURY

A VERY RARE JADE 'DRAGON' PENDANT, WESTERN HAN

Hong Kong – Celebrating the passion of global collectors, this season Christie's will present four themed sales to be held on Wednesday, 31 May 2017 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. On offer are over 300 rare and important ceramics and works of art including Ming and Qing Imperial pieces, archaic jades, Tang and Song ceramics, Buddhist works of art and a variety of scholar's objects, providing connoisseurs with the opportunity to acquire exceptional pieces across a wide range of categories.

Chi Fan Tsang, Senior Vice President, Specialist Head of Department, commented, "We anticipate strong global demand as collectors respond positively to works of art that exemplify the peaks of refinement throughout Chinese history, and that are sourced from renowned private collections and with exceptional provenance. The season will be further enhanced by the much anticipated **The Yongzheng Emperor's Double-Dragon Amphora** standalone sale, to be offered on May 31.

Adorning the Kings – A Private Collection of Archaic Jade Ornaments

Jade: Power, Status and Art

Throughout China's long history, jade has held an elevated position of importance in Chinese culture, and was once traditionally regarded as more valuable than gold. Jade is a dense stone which can be ground to produce smooth, soft surfaces, and glows in varied subtle shades of cream-white, green, grey and brown. From as early as the Neolithic period, it was thought that this precious hardstone was imbued with magical powers which protected the human body. As such, jade was regarded as indispensable by the ruling elite for use in rituals and ceremonies. Jade was so highly regarded that the great philosopher, Confucius (551-479BC) compared its qualities to the prerequisite human virtues of benevolence, wisdom, integrity and purity.



AN IMPORTANT SET OF THREE
JADE 'CHILONG' SWORD
FITTINGS AND A JADE SWORD
GUARD
WESTERN HAN DYNASTY (206
BC-AD 8)
The largest: 3 1/2 in. (8.8 cm.)
wide
HK\$1,800,000-3,000,000
US\$231,000-386,000

Another exemplary jade carving from the Han period is this pendant featuring two finely detailed and decorated dragons in pale greyish-white tones. With its lustrous polish, and well-defined features, this piece is a superb example of this type of jade pendants which were popular during the Warring States and Western Han period.

This exceptional set of sword fittings exemplifies the best jade carving of early Western Han period, showing a degree of sophistication rarely surpassed even on carvings of the high Qing period. Motifs of this period were popular with royalty, with the carving employing shallow, medium and high-relief, and vividly depict dragons emerging and disappearing into the background of scrolling clouds.



A JADE 'DRAGON' PENDANT
WESTERN HAN DYNASTY (206 BC-8 AD)
3 1/2 in. (9 cm.) long
HK\$300,000-500,000
US\$39,000-64,000



A HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND VERY RARE
MALLA-STYLE GILT-BRONZE AND SILVER-INLAID
SEATED FIGURE OF BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI
TIBET, 13TH-14TH CENTURY
15¾ in. (40 cm.) high
Estimate on Request

Created in the Xuande period, this very rare Imperial gilt-bronze work depicts the four-armed Caturbhuja Manjusri, the bodhisattva of wisdom. Although examples bearing a Yongle presentation mark of this four-armed emanation of the Manjusri are known, the present figure inscribed with a Xuande presentation mark appears to be unique, making it exceedingly rare.

This superb image of Buddha Shakyamuni, rare for its combination of both the fire gilding and silver inlay techniques, is a paragon of Himalayan casting technique and sculptural style. The Buddha is seated in *vajraparyankasana*, the classical diamond posture, recalling the most important event in his life when he attained enlightenment on the diamond throne at the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya.

While almost the entirety of the figure is fire gilt, the beaded hems of the robes on the front of the figure are picked out in silver inlay, which is incredibly rare for this early period of Tibetan art. Such a technique required masterful expertise, and this example embodies the virtuosity of the Tibetan bronze casters of the 13th/14th century.



A VERY RARE EARLY MING LARGE GILT-BRONZE
FIGURE OF CATURBUHA
MANJUSRI
XUANDE INCISED SIX-CHARACTER PRESENTATION
MARK AND OF THE PERIOD (1426-1435)
(25.5 cm.) high
HK\$5,500,000-8,000,000
US\$720,000-1,000,000

The Yongzheng Emperor's Double-Dragon Amphora



AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE TANG-STYLE
'DOUBLE-DRAGON' CELADON-GLAZED AMPHORA
YONGZHENG SIX-CHARACTER SEAL MARK AND OF THE
PERIOD (1723-1735)
20 3/8 in. (51.8 cm.) high
Estimate On Request

This spring, Christie's Hong Kong will once again be presenting some of the world's most coveted and sought after Imperial works of art with the unveiling of the highly important Yongzheng-period celadon-glazed amphora. With a powerful presence and remarkable design, the large amphora will be offered as a single lot stand-alone sale.

The Yongzheng Emperor's reverence for the past is exemplified by the amphora's unusual form of two powerful dragon handles flanking a bamboo-form neck above a baluster body, which is inspired by Tang dynasty pottery prototypes, while the resplendent bluish-green glaze harks back to the Longquan celadon wares made in the Song dynasty. Yongzheng amphorae of this size and intricacy are extremely difficult to fire, with very few examples surviving to the present day and most of which are in important museum collections around the world.

The current lot set a world record price for a Qing monochrome porcelain when it was offered at Christie's in 2004 and sold for HK\$17,423,750. It is expected to generate enthusiastic bidding once again this season. On 31 May, collectors will be presented with the opportunity to acquire among the finest and rarest works of art from this period.



A MASSIVE AND VERY RARE LONGQUAN CELADON
BARBED-RIM CHARGER
HONGWU PERIOD (1368-1398)
24 ½ in. (62.2 cm.) diam.
HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000
US\$390,000-650,000

Christie's is proud to present The Roger Belanich Collection of Longquan Celadon Ceramics, featuring nine exceptional pieces representing works of the finest quality fired at the Longquan kilns during the Yuan and Ming dynasties.

Showcasing an even translucent glaze and barbed-rimmed form, this impressive Longquan charger exceeds 60 cm. in diameter and is exceptional in size and design. There are only 5 known examples of comparable size, 4 of which are in museums, marking a rare opportunity for such a piece to appear at auction.

Adding to its appeal is its rich provenance, having been in the collection of the prominent Kuroda family since the 16th century, before being passed to the renowned dealers Mayuyama & Co. Ltd., Tokyo, and Eskenazi Ltd.

This finely potted jar features a playful theme of sixteen boys in a variety of lively pursuits including hobby-horse riding, playing musical instruments and piggybacking. The theme has been favoured by the Chinese for centuries as auspicious motifs of fertility and of bearing numerous sons, with the style continuing all through the Ming and Qing dynasties.

No other identical example of the present jar appears to be in the collection of any institution, though a very similar *famille* rose jar decorated with a design of children at play is in the collection of the Palace Museum.



A FINE RARE AND SUPERB *FAMILLE ROSE* 'BOYS' JAR
QIANLONG SIX-CHARACTER SEAL MARK IN UNDERGLAZE
BLUE AND OF THE PERIOD (1736-1795)
6 in. (15.3 cm.) high
HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000
US\$771,000-1,028,000

Notes to Editors:

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DATE: 31 MAY 2017

LOCATION: James Christie Room, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre,
No.1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2016 that totalled £4 billion / \$5.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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