

asian art new york

Putting a spring into the

■ A profusion of Chinese, Japanese and Indian art awaits the visitor to New York



Anne Crane
reports

SPRING in New York has long been a prime time to focus on the arts of Asia.

In 1996, years before mainland Chinese started to take a wholesale interest in buying up their artistic heritage from the West, Brian and Anna Haughton established their *International Asian Art Fair*.

It swiftly became a catalyst for a series of specialist Asian auctions in the main New York salerooms.

Things have moved on. The Haughtons' Asian fair is no longer running and the pattern has shifted towards the model established across the Atlantic at *Asian Art in London*.

Specialist Asian dealers mount individual shows in their New York galleries and non-residents hire gallery space to the same end. They put on a programme of exhibitions to run alongside the ever-increasing series of auctions and museum shows as a commercial and cultural celebration of all things Asian.

The majority of these fall under the umbrella of a single collaborative event run by the Asia Week New York Association as *Asia Week New York (AWNY)*.

Now in its 7th year, this takes in 42 specialist US and foreign dealers, five New York auction houses and 22 cultural institutions. The whole event runs for nine days from March 13-21.

As with the longer-established *Asian Art in London* in November, they jointly promote the events, organise an open-house weekend, lectures and symposia, provide a printed and online handbook and mount an invitation-only gala reception, held this year at the Metropolitan Museum on March 16.

With English and Chinese versions of the website, this high-octane Asia fest is aimed at drawing customers to the Big Apple to buy, especially Chinese dealers and collectors.

The focus is not exclusively Chinese, however. Plenty of Japanese art is on offer and wealthy customers from south-east Asia and the Indian sub-continent are increasingly important as the number of shows and auctions



Above: ceramics from the Song Dynasty (960-1279AD) will be Eric Zetterquist's contribution to the *AWNY* collaboration. "I believe the Song Dynasty in China, influenced by Chan Buddhist literati sensibilities, is the high point of all Asian art history," says Mr Zetterquist, who has chosen each of the 26 pieces on show at his 3 East 66th Street gallery for its strong, elegant form and excellent glaze quality. Most of them are the subtle monochromes for which this era is renowned, such as this sinuous small 6¾in (17cm) high ewer with Qingbai glaze priced at \$28,000 and the delicate, foliate-form Longquan celadon glazed bowl, measuring 3¾in (9.5cm) diameter, priced at \$14,000, both of which are from the same Japanese collection.

■ zetterquist.com



Above: this delicate 3¼in (8cm) wide openwork Warring States era jade plaque carved with confronting dragons is around 8000 years old. It is part of **Throckmorton Fine Art's** major spring exhibition at their third floor gallery at 145 East 57th Street, a show which opens this week on March 4 and continues beyond New York's Asia fest to April 5. *The Beauty of Jade during the Warring States and Early Han Periods* spans a centuries-long period corresponding to the 7th -2nd century BC which was seen as the first high age of the artistic development of ancient Chinese jade. The 73 pieces on display show how cross-cultural influences played their part in forms of decoration on this much-prized stone. Seen as symbols of class and wealth, jade accessories were popular in these distant times, whether as ear ornaments or pendants or as handles for weapons. These evocative pieces, often intricately worked as animal forms, also chime with today's collectors. The price range for the exhibition is \$2500-100,000.

■ throckmorton-nyc.com

featuring Himalayan and Indian sculpture and modern and contemporary Indian painting testifies. Furthermore, Asian art has always had worldwide appeal and plenty of Europeans and North Americans remain enthusiastic collectors.

Alongside *AWNY*, other dealers' exhibitions and events take place during Asia Week. For example, while

many Japanese specialists are *AWNY* participants, the five dealer-members of the Japanese Art Dealers Association hold a group show. A five-day fair also runs featuring an international mix of about 30 exhibitors.

Over the next 11 pages we take a tour around what is on offer on the Upper East Side during the second half of March. For



Above: this dramatic prowling tiger was painted by the artist An Ho (b.1927), whose work is the subject of an exhibition by *AWNY* participant China Fine Art 2000 at 177 East 87th Street. Titled *Two Sides of the Same Coin*, it charts An Ho's artistic relationship with her teacher Ru Pu (1896-1963) and the development of her own style. This 4ft x 17in (1.2m x 43cm), mid 1950s, ink on paper work, is the sole example in the show of a collaboration between An Ho, who painted the animal and Ru Pu who painted the background. It is priced at \$85,000.

■ www.china2000fineart.com

the dedicated enthusiast, Asia Week packs a full punch and you will find it hard to see everything. My recommendation would be to put your stilettos and winkpickers in a bag and stick to sensible footwear while you pound the Manhattan pavements (or sidewalks).

■ asiaweekny.com

Right: ancient Indian and Vietnamese sculpture is the speciality of Parisian *AWNY* participant **Christophe Hioco**. This impressive 9½in (25cm) high grey schist Gandharan head of Buddha, dated to c.2nd century AD, is a highlight of his New York exhibition, *Arts of India and Nepal and Dong Son Bronzes*, at Arader Galleries, 1016 Madison Avenue. It has a provenance to a Japanese private collection acquired in the 1990s and is priced at \$190,000.

■ galeriehioco.com



Left: this sinuous jewelled gold serpent ring would be a statement-maker on any finger. It is part of the selection titled *A World of Jewels* which **Susan Ollemans** is showing as an *AWNY* participant at 23 East 73rd Street. The London dealer specialises in exotic Mughal and antique gold jewellery and articles from India, China and South-East Asia. The diamond, ruby and sapphire ring dates from the 19th century, comes from South India and is priced at \$9000.

■ ollemans.com

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Exhibitors at The Asia Art Fair, New York. Bohemian National Hall, March 13 - 17, 2015.

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