

ASIAN ART

Summer Quarter 2018

THE NEWSPAPER FOR COLLECTORS, DEALERS, MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES • £5.00/US\$10

ROCKEFELLER NAME WORKS ITS MAGIC IN NEW YORK

IT WAS a mammoth undertaking by Christie's that reaped monumental awards. After a six-month campaign, there were 10 days of online sales and three days of auctions at Christie's aptly named Rockefeller Center. Over the course of the 10-day viewing in New York, Christie's welcomed 30,000 visitors to the exhibition, designed as an immersive walk-through experience inspired by the Rockefeller family homes in upstate New York, Maine and Manhattan. Combined with the global tour of collection highlights to Hong Kong, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Beijing and Shanghai, where 80,000 visited the exhibitions. Including the online, sale registrants came from 53 countries. The buyers were led by the Americas 73%, followed by EMERI 18%, and Asia 10%. New buyers accounted for 61% of the buyers in the online sale with 28% of clients buying more than one lot online.

Over 1,500 objects that comprised the Collection of Peggy and David

Rockefeller were offered and the sales' final total was \$832,573,469, exceeding estimates – not surprising with the provenance and cachet attached to the name – establishing it as the highest auction total ever for a private collection at auction. The Rockefellers were known for their connoisseurship. All proceeds are going to charities supported by the Peggy and David Rockefeller foundations to benefit scientific research, higher education, support for arts, sustainable economic development, and land conservation amongst others.

In Asian art, world records in the Travel and Americana sale included an imperial gilt-bronze figure of Amitayus which sold for \$2,532,500, setting a record for a Kangxi gilt-bronze; a large Chinese export 'tobacco leaf' assembled dinner service, Qianlong period, circa 1775, that fetched \$1,152,500 (est \$200/300,000), setting a record for a dinner service; and for Portrait of the Artist Reza 'Abbasi by Mu'in Musavvir, Isfahan, signed and dated



Imperial gilt-bronze figure of Amitayus, China, Kangxi period (1662-1722), height 419 cm, sold for \$2,532,500 (est \$400/600,000), 10 June

Ayyubid silver-inlaid brass domed cylindrical incense burner, Syria, second half of 13th century, height 191 cm, sold for \$432,500 (est \$150/200,000), 10 June

5 Safar AH1087/ April AD 1676 set a world auction record for the artist. The top lot was a blue and white 'dragon' bowl, which also soared over estimate fetching \$2,772,500 (est \$400/600,000), and a rare Ayyubid silver and inlaid brass domed cylindrical incense burner from Syria, second half 13th century, which used to sit on David Rockefeller's desk, sold for \$432,500 (est \$150/200,000).

David Rockefeller, Jr, said, 'This week of auctions has exceeded our expectations in so many ways. Christie's and our family had a shared financial goal of raising more than \$500 million in estate proceeds for the 12 philanthropies our parents cared about so deeply, and it has been both humbling and deeply gratifying to see a sale total that reaches so far beyond that. This was an experience that beautifully and thoroughly conveyed Peggy and David Rockefeller's great passion for art, design, craftsmanship and beauty'. The family name had worked its magic again.

Oceans Formed: Glass Works by Midori Tsukada

May 24 – June 21, 2018



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NEWS IN BRIEF

JAPAN HOUSE TO OPEN LONDON

The official opening of Japan House London to the public is on 22 June, a new home for Japanese creativity. The brand new cultural destination to the UK will provide visitors with authentic and surprising encounters with the very best in Japanese art, design, gastronomy, innovation and technology. The global project, which is funded by the Japanese Government, has already seen Houses open in Sao Paulo and Los Angeles. Japan House London is revitalising an Art Deco building on Kensington High Street, west London, and will feature a rolling roster of exhibitions from esteemed Japanese artists. Starting with *Sou Fujimoto: Futures of the Future* in collaboration with Tokyo's Toto Gallery. Upcoming exhibitions in the library will include *Nature of Japan* (June to August) featuring photographs by Japanese photographer, Suzuki Risaku and an exhibition on *Mingei* (Sept to Nov). The building will also house a contemporary Japanese restaurant – Akira, as well as a retail outlet. More information on japanhouselondon.uk

SYMPOSIUM AMSTERDAM

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Asian Art Society of the Netherlands, the society has organised the symposium *Collecting Asian Art in the Western World: Past, Present, & Future* on 23 June. The Vereniging van Vrienden der Aziatische Kunst (VVAK) was founded in 1918 as an entirely private initiative. The collection of the VVAK distinguishes itself from the

collections of the various Dutch ethnographical museums by focusing on high-quality art works only. The VVAK does not collect any form of export art made for the West. The growing collection was initially shown at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, before it was moved to the Rijksmuseum in 1952, where it has been on loan ever since. The vast majority of the art objects displayed in the Asian Pavilion of the Rijksmuseum is the property of the VVAK. The symposium will take place at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. All information is available of the society's website: vvak.nl, info@vvak.nl.

QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY

The British Library, the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and the Qatar National Library are extending their partnership to digitise a vast range of important historical collections relating to the Gulf region.

The partnership began in 2012 and the extension, which takes the project into a third phase, will now last until December 2021 and will significantly expand a bilingual website of Gulf history and Arabic scientific manuscripts.

About 900,000 more images of historical material related to the Gulf will be digitised in addition to the 1.5 million images already made available online by the partnership. The Gulf-related material includes music, maps, ships' logs, reports, letters, private papers (including the Curzon Papers), and historical publications. It also draws upon the British Library's exceptionally rich collections of Arabic scientific manuscripts.

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PRINTEMPS ASIATIQUE

June sees the first edition of this new initiative to promote Asian art in Europe – especially in Paris. The new event, building on the success of Asia Week New York and Asian Art in London, aims to attract established and new collectors, galleries and auction houses to come together to promote Asian art in all its forms. Twenty galleries and five auctions houses are committed to the first event, along with smaller auction houses and associates that offer their sales through Hôtel Drouot. The two major Asian museums in Paris have also joined the initiative, Musée Cernuschi and Musée Guimet. A brochure, including a map, can be found in the participating galleries. Many galleries are having an Open House on 7 June evening – please check with individual galleries for openings and specific times.



Kobako box (incense container), black and gold lacquer. Japan 19th century, 5.5 x 7 cm, Ateliers Brugier

CHINESE CERAMICS

7 to 30 June

This gallery specialises in European and Asian ceramics, as well as European furniture. For Printemps Asiatique the gallery is presenting a selection of Chinese ceramics, including export wares.

• *Galerie JM Béalu & Fils, 3 rue du Bac, Paris, bealu.net*

LACQUERS FROM CHINA AND JAPAN

7 to 17 June

This gallery has been specialising in lacquer objects since the 1920s and is now includes the third generation of the family. Restoration is one of the core activities of the company which restores all types of lacquer and varnishes from traditional Asian lacquers from China and Japan to the types found in the West. The company also undertakes lacquerware commissions, as well as selling antique lacquer objects in the gallery.

• *Ateliers Brugier, 74 rue de Sévres, Paris, ateliersbrugier.com.*

Hours: Mon-Fri only, 10am to 5pm.

TREASURES FROM ANCIENT CHINA

7 to 17 June

For this first edition of the event, the gallery, which specialises in ancient bronzes and gold works of art, is presenting a selection of masterpieces from China, including bronze ritual vessels, mainly from the Shang dynasty (circa 17th/16th to 12th/11th centuries BC), as well as gold and silver-gilt metal works of art from the Tang (618-907) and Liao (10th century) dynasties. Other works on offer include terracotta sculptures from the Han and Tang dynasties.

• *Galerie Christian Deydier, 30, rue de Seine, Paris, deydier.com*

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL CHINESE ART

7 to 17 June

To celebrate the first anniversary of the gallery, Anne Duchange is exhibiting some of the finest pieces from her family's collection. The collection was started by her father in the late 1950s and has been flourishing ever since. A highlight is a pair of 18th-century embellished gilt-bronze bottle vases originally given to



Earthenware earth spirits, China, Tang dynasty (618-907) heights: 63.2 cm and 59.8 cm, Galerie Christian Deydier



Pair of gilt-bronze bottle vases decorated with enamels and longevty jade peaches, Qianlong mark. 18th/19th century, China, height 58 cm, Galerie Ann Duchange

the opera singer Maria Callas by Aristote Onassis. Other works of art include Chinese porcelains with other pieces on offer dating from the Ming (1368-1644) to the Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

• *Galerie Anne Duchange, 21 Quai Voltaire, Paris*



Copper and black Nagasaki lacquer box inspired by a European engraving, mid Edo period, Japan, 14 x 8.7 cm, Espace 4

JAPANESE SAMURAI ART AND CHINESE SNUFFBOTTLES

7-17 June

Espace 4 are offering works of art showing the influences Europe and Japan had on each other's artworks from the 16th to the end of the 19th century, including an unusual Nagasaki lacquer box. Also on show is a selection of Chinese snuffbottles from an old French collection, a highlight here is an imperial, 18th-century, red cinnabar lacquer example.

• *Galerie Espace 4, 9 rue Mazarine, espace4.com*

FROM AESTHETIC TO DIVINE

7 to 17 June

Jean Gauchet is offering a selection of Buddhist figures and scholars' objects. Highlights include a pair of Tang-dynasty gilt-bronze Bodhisattva and a gilt-bronze Lokapala's head from the Densatil Monastery in Tibet. Also on offer are category of objects made from materials such as stone, bronze, and wood that show an aesthetic and a technical mastery that made these objects highly sought after by scholars, courtiers and emperor. A highlight of the exhibition is a carved white jade teapot, dating to the Qing dynasty.



White jade, carved Mughal-style teapot and cover decorated with female immortals overlapping mythical animals, China, Qing period, 18/19th century, height 16 cm, Gauchet Asian Art

• *Gauchet Asian Art, exhibiting at 40 rue Mazarine, Paris, gauchet-expert.com*

INDIAN, HIMALAYAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

7 to 17 June

Galerie Christophe Hioco specialises in Indian and Himalayan art, as well as Southeast Asian bronzes. There are more than 40 pieces in this exhibition, including a selection of Gandharan works of art (a highlight is a seated bodhisattva). Also on show are Tibetan



Buddhist mask of a wrathful deity, 30cm, Northern Nepal, Galerie Indian Heritage



Bodhisattva meditating, schist, Ancient province of Ganbara (Northern Pakistan), 2nd/3rd century, height: 58 cm, Galerie Christophe Hioco



Pair of horses, Tang dynasty (618-907), traces of red and gold polychrome, Galerie Jacques Barrère

Galleries

MINGQI: Spirits of Light

7 to 30 June

Jacques Barrère is presenting a collection of Chinese funerary object from the Han to the Tang dynasty. These pottery and terracotta objects reflect items and needs that the deceased need in the after-life and were mainly found in the tombs of the elite and including musicians and dancers, court ladies, guardians, servants, polo players and horses and grooms. A highlight of the exhibition is a pair of Tang-dynasty horses (618-907), rendered with great naturalism and sensitivity that still retain traces of red and gold polychrome.

• *Galerie Jacques Barrère, 36 rue Mazarine, Paris, artasie.com*



Pair of figures depicting the Taoist female divinity Magu, China, famille rose with polychrome and gilt decoration and enamel, Qianlong period (1736-1795), circa 1780, height 42 cm, Galerie JM Béalu & Fils



Famille-verte dish with the French royal coat-of-arms, circa 1710–1715, earlier than the royal order of Louis XVth (1725), Galerie Bertrand de Lavergne

bronzes and *thangkas*, including a Hayagriva gilded bronze figure from Northern China, as well as a selection of Buddhist pieces from Thailand and Sri Lanka. Christophe Hioco is exhibiting at Compagnie de la Chine et des Indes's gallery for this event – their second collaboration, having already celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Compagnie (who are also participating in Printemps Asiatique in the gallery).

• **Christophe Hioco** exhibiting at *Compagnie de la Chine et des Indes*, 39 avenue de Friedland, Paris, compagnie-chine-indes.fr
• **Galerie Christophe Hioco** 7 rue de Phalsbourg, Paris, galeriehioco.com.

HIMALAYAN MASKS

Established in 2006 by Frederic Rond, Indian Heritage specialises in Indian and Himalayan art, especially South Asian masks. This exhibition focuses on animism to Buddhism and Hinduism in ritual Himalayan masks.

• **Galerie Indian Heritage**, 21 rue Guénégaud, Paris, indianheritage.biz



Sukhasana Shiva, bronze, height 35.5 cm, 14/15th century, Southern India, Renaud Montméat



Cloisonné enamel 'dragon and phoenix' charger, China, Ming dynasty, late 16th century diam. 42.5 cm, Antiquités Valerie Levesque



Kodansu-suzuribako, Edo period, 18th century, 37.5 x 39.5 x 24 cm, hiramakie, takamakie and nashiji lacquer techniques, Galerie Mingei

CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAINS

7 to 17 June

Chinese export porcelain is one of the specialties of this gallery and this exhibition announces their latest acquisitions. A highlight is a *famille-verte* dish displaying the French royal coat-of-arms, circa 1710–1715, which shows arms earlier than the royal order of Louis XV (1725).

• **Galerie Bertrand de Lavergne**, 17 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris, bertranddelavergne.com

CHINESE WORKS OF ART

7 to 17 June

Valerie Levesque, established the gallery in 1994 and is presenting a wide array of Ming- and Qing-dynasty works of art, including porcelains, lacquers, textiles, jades and

cloisonné objects. Also on show, to celebrate Printemps Asiatique, is a selection of lacquered furniture, sculptures and scholars' objects, including Beijing red lacquers and colourful Coromandel lacquer works.

• **Antiquités Valerie Levesque**, 3 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris, chine-japon.com

LATEST ACQUISITIONS

7 to 17 June

For the edition of the Printemps Asiatique, Galerie Mingei is offering a selection of Japanese lacquers and among them is an unusual lacquer *Kodansu-suzuribako*, a small chest of drawers with seasonal flowers and auspicious motif from the Edo period, 18th century. Also on show are several figures of Buddhism art, from the Nara to Muromachi periods, and a selection of bamboo baskets for *ikebana* – classical and contemporary.

• **Galerie Mingei**, 5 rue Visconti, Paris, mingei-arts-gallery.com

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

7 to 17 June

Renaud Montméat has been involved in Asian art since 1999 and specialises in Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian art. On offer will be a selection of recent acquisitions from the gallery, including a 14th/15th-century bronze Shiva from southern India.

• **Renaud Montméat**, 36 rue Etienne Marcel, Paris, montmeat-asianart.com

HIMALAYAN ARTS

7 to 17 June

This gallery's connection with Asian art goes back more than 50 years and specialises in East Asian, Himalayan, Indian and Southeast Asian art. This show, especially created for this first edition of this event, includes works of art from the Himalayas – from the 14th to 18th centuries. A highlight is a religious copper-gilt 18th-century Buddhist crown from Nepal.

• **Juliette Moreau-Gobard**, exhibiting at 8 rue de Pré aux Clercs, Paris, moreau-gobard.com

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

7 to 17 June

For Printemps Asiatique, the gallery is offering a selection of East Asian art, including a selection of recently acquired Chinese export paintings and a selection of Japanese *inro*. From the Japanese selection, a highlight is a four-case *inro* by Shunposai Setsuzan from the late Edo period, circa 1800. The *inro* is decorated with a scene from the Japanese tale *kitsune no yomeiri*, showing the wedding procession of foxes holding



Buddhist crown, copper gilt, decorated with the principal five Buddhas of the supreme pentacle, Nepal, 18th century, height 24 cm, Juliette Moreau-Gobard



Four-case inro signed Shunposai Setsuzan, ex Gonsse Collection, late Edo period, circa 1800, 8.7 inches long, Cristina Ortega & Michel Dermigny



Caparisoned horse, Northern Wei dynasty (386–534), China, Galerie Eric Pouillet

red lacquer lanterns in a woodland. In various parts of Japan, the foxes wedding folklore is recounted in literature and re-enacted, or performed, at rituals and festivals. Foxes are popular creatures in Japan, being seen as intelligent shape-shifters and tricksters, who possess magical powers and are regarded as spiritual entities (they are associated with Inari the Shinto deity for rice).

• **Galerie Cristina Ortega and Michel Dermigny**, 23 rue de Beaune, Paris, cristinaortega.com

THE HORSE IN CHINA

11 to 18 June

Horses have always played an important role in Chinese daily, ceremonial and ritual life. This exhibition looks at horses throughout Chinese history, including a caparisoned horse from the Northern Wei dynasty (386–534).

• **Galerie Eric Pouillot**, 8 rue de Beaune, Paris, eric-pouillot.fr

EXOTIC MIRROR: In the Eye of the Other

7 to 15 June

The theme of this exhibition, subtitled *In the Eye of the Other and Other Stories*, aims to show how the world is conceived as being 'exotic' and how

being 'other' can seem fascinating and different. In the show, there are examples of Europeans depicted in Asia or in Asian attire, and classical Indian paintings showing the world of the gods. Works of art on show include Classical Indian paintings, sculptures from India, as well as a selection of arms and armour.

• **Galerie Alexis Renard**, Indian & Islamic Art, Paris, 5 rue des Deux Ponts, Paris, alexisrenard.com

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

7 to 17 June

This gallery, founded in 1980, mainly specialises in ceramics from Europe, as well as porcelains from China particularly from the Ming dynasty through the 19th century. Other works from China and Japan are also on offer for Printemps Asiatique, including a Japanese Nabeshima saucer dish, Edo period, from the late 17th/early 18th century.

• **Galerie Théorème**, 15 rue de Lille, Paris, galerie-theoreme.com



Two European women, pigments and gold on paper, India, Rajasthan, Bundi, second half of the 18th century, 22 x 17 cm, Alexis Renard
© Photo: Antonin Amy-Menichetti



Nabeshima saucer dish, Edo period, late 17th/early 18th century, Galerie Théorème



A selection of Chinese turquoise wares, 18th century, estimates vary, Aguttes

Auctions

June has steadily become the favourite month for the French auction houses to hold their Asian art sales. This year six independent auction houses are having sales, including Artcurial, Aguttes*, Christie's, Cornette de Saint Cyr, Sotheby's and Tajan. Below are a selection of lots on offer from the auction houses over this period. At Hôtel Drouot, eleven associates will also be holding Asian-related sales during this period.

11 June, Paris Artcurial

11 June, Paris Cornette de Saint Cyr

11 June, Paris Tajan

12 June, Paris Sotheby's

13 June, Paris Christie's

13 June, Neuilly sur Seine Aguttes*

*Not a member of Printemps Asiatique



Figure of a bodhisattva, Gandhara, grey schist, 2nd/3rd century, est Euro 15/20,000, Artcurial



Wucai 'hundred deer' vase, Wanli period, mark and period, China, est Euro 20/30,000, Cornette de Saint Cyr



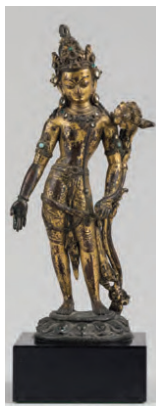
Iron vajra with gold inlay, Tibet, 12th century, est Euro 4/6,000, Cornette de Saint Cyr



Dragon robe (longbao), 19th century, China, est Euro 12/15,000, Aguttes



Casket, wood, leather and lacquer, Korea, Joseon dynasty, 19th century, est Euro 5/7000, Artcurial



Gilt-bronze figure of Padmapani, bronze, early Malla period, 13th/14th century, Nepal, est Euro 300/500,000, Christie's

Painted-wood figure of a mythical lion, China, Song dynasty (860-1279), est Euro 200/300,000, Christie's



Statue of Hayagriva, copper gilt and polychrome, Mongolia, 18th century, height 45 cm, est Euro 3/5000, Tajan

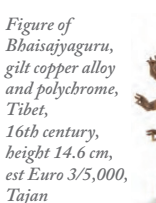


Figure of Bhaiyaguru, gilt copper alloy and polychrome, Tibet, 16th century, height 14.6 cm, est Euro 3/5,000, Tajan



Incense burner in form of duck, Bronze, Western Han (206 BC AD 9), Musée Cernuschi

Museums

PERFUMES OF CHINA

This exhibition, *Fragrance from China: Incense Culture in Imperial China*, presents a novel approach of Chinese civilisation through the exploration of the art of incense and perfume in China from the 3rd century BC to the 19th century. A selection of ceramics, drawings, bronzes, and paintings from the collections of the Shanghai Museum is presented for the first time in Europe alongside some 20 pieces from the Musée Cernuschi collections. A feature on this exhibition, *Fragrance from China*, can be seen on asianartnewspaper.com, or read in the March 2018 print edition.

• Until 26 August, at Musée Cernuschi, 7 Avenue Velasquez, Paris, cernuschi.paris.fr

SUBODH GUPTA ADDA / RENDEZ-VOUS

Subodh Gupta's residency at the Monnaie de Paris resulted in the creation of two new mints, as well as in an exhibition inaugurating the renovated facility of the museum including the space at Quai Conti. With 30 works on view, this marks the artist's first museum retrospective in France. Subodh Gupta (b 1964 in India) conceived the exhibition around *adda*, the Indian concept in Hindi for exchanges, discussions and debates. Originally trained as a painter, the artist has drifted towards installations, video and sculptures with his use of stainless steel items, bicycles or buckets commonly used in India having become his hallmark. Gupta has made it a point to address various topics of importance to him like migration, the making and sharing of food or the cosmos. The exhibition covers a broad timespan of the artist's oeuvre providing an



Very Hungry God (2006), Pinault Collection View of the exhibition of Subodh Gupta, Adda / Rendez-vous, Monnaie de Paris, 2018 © Monnaie de Paris / Martin Argyroglo

excellent overview of his practice over the past 15 years.

• Until 26 August, at Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai de Conti, Paris, monnaiedeparis.fr

ZAO WOU-KI SPACE IS SILENCE

With the increasing interest in contemporary art from China worldwide, artists from the diaspora have also benefited from additional attention. Such is the case for Zao Wou-Ki (1920-2013), who had lived in Paris since 1948. His work is now greatly appreciated and collected internationally – as well as by a Chinese audience. This current exhibition follows a previous retrospective that took place in France 15 years ago and focuses on the artist's abstract, large-scale paintings from 1956 onwards. The development of his work echoes his travels within Europe and the United States, as well as his encounters with other artists, writers and poets, without neglecting the influence of traditional Chinese painting. He is unquestionably a major figure of abstract painting of our time, whether in the Western or Asian hemisphere.

• From 1 June to 6 January 2019, at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 avenue du Président Wilson, Paris, mam.paris.fr



Hommage à Claude Monet, février-juin 91 – Triptyque (1991) by Zao Wou-Ki, oil on canvas, 194 x 483 cm, private collection © ADAGP, 2018



Installation view of Ghosts and Hells at Musée du Quai Branly, Paris

GHOSTS AND HELLS The Underworld In Asian Art

From Buddhism to J-Horror and from Hokusai prints to Pac-Man, and on to the Thai spirit culture and horror *manga*, the figure of the ghost has haunted the Asian imagination for centuries. In China, Thailand and Japan – the lands that the exhibition focuses on – the popular infatuation with terror is very real, and one that permeates a wide variety of cultural productions. From spirits that wander the forest, vengeful cat-women and hungry spirits that return from the dead to jumping vampires and *yokai*, supernatural monsters, demons and spirits in Japanese folklore, all can appear in multiple guises and are depicted in different artistic periods and media.

This exhibition explores their omnipresence not only in objects and documents but also in the performing arts, cinema and comics in an attempt to better understand how they work. After all, whilst Buddhism has played its part in the formation of this imagination – implying that souls are in waiting between two reincarnations – it is indeed on the fringes of religion, in popular and secular art, that the representation of ghosts has truly come into its own.

• Until 15 July, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, quaibranly.fr