

Paris Art D'Asia Sales

Christie's, 10 December.
205 Lots. Low Estimate: €2.96m

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Lot 129. A rare painted enamel bowl, cover and saucer, Qing dynasty, Yongzheng-Qianlong period, the saucer, 13.5cm diameter. €100,000-150,000.



Lot 132. A pair of cloisonné enamel wall panels, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 75.5cm by 31.5cm. €15,000-20,000.



Lot 188. A white jade archaic quadripod censer and cover, *tulu*, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 12.5cm high. €40,000-60,000

Christie's *Art D'Asia* auction on 10 December kicks off the last sale season of what has been a truly tumultuous year.

The sale is particularly strong in works of art and one of the most significant lots is lot 129, the rare imperial Yongzheng-Qianlong period painted enamel bowl, cover and saucer. It was painted in the Beijing Palace workshops and employed Western painting techniques of tonal shading. The subject, taken from European engravings, depicts Cybele sitting in a chariot pulled by two lions and being offered a laurel wreath by a peasant woman. There are other Western design elements, such as the quatrefoil panel, C-scrolls and thin bands of acanthus. The overall effect with the dense fruit and floral green ground and the gilt-copper fruit finial is one of ornate opulence.

The early part of the sale features a fifty lot group from a French private collection with a number of lots of Ming cloisonné. However, in terms of Qing cloisonné, my pick of the lots is lot 132, the pair of large Qianlong period rectangular wall panels. One depicts a kingfisher flying amongst large lotus leaves and petals and the other with butterflies above peony. The play of colour between the design elements in shades of greens, pinks and orange is particularly effective against the strong turquoise grounds.

The most significant jade lot in the sale is lot 188, the Qianlong period white jade archaic censer and cover. It is fashioned in the form of a bronze archaic



Lot 197. A rare beige jade seal, Yuan dynasty, 7.2cm high. €30,000-40,000.



Lot 162. A rare and important cinnabar lacquer box and cover, Ming dynasty, Yongle mark, which is possibly of the period, 31.5cm diameter. €80,000-120,000.

vessel, *tulu*, which was used to hold artists' materials. The complex design of this vessel would have been a challenge to carve and consists of four vertical tubes to each corner that terminate in rounded feet. The sides are ornately carved with bands of intertwined archaic dragons above *shou* symbols and are flanked with phoenix head ring handles. The cover is surmounted with a dragon and the stone is of an even white tone, which is currently favoured by Chinese collectors.

Another significant jade is lot 197, the rare Yuan dynasty beige jade 'dragon' seal. Yuan dynasty seals are rare and this *Huaya* type, which are characterised by ciphered or stylised characters, originated in the Song dynasty. The dragon is quite different to those seen on Qing seals, which are usually more formally carved with two heads. This dragon crouches on its haunches almost in a playful manner.

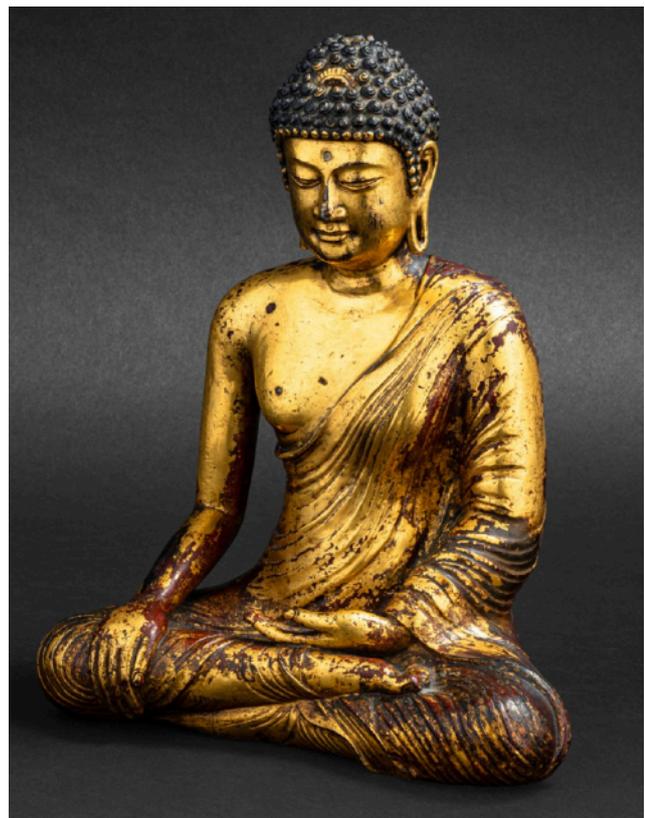
The most important piece of lacquer in the sale is lot 162 the rare and important Ming dynasty, Yongle period lacquer box and cover. The upper surface of the cover is carved with three large hibiscus flowers surrounded by well articulated foliage and the sides are carved with numerous different flowers including peony, lotus and chrysanthemum. This box has a royal provenance in that it belonged to His Royal Highness The Prince Henry Duke of Gloucester and was originally acquired at Johns Sparks Ltd.

Sotheby's, 11 December. Lots 272. Low Estimate: €2.02m.

Photographs © Sotheby's

Sotheby's sale will be held the following day and the strength of the sale is also in works of art.

Of the Buddhist sculpture, the most significant is lot 28, the exceptional Dali Kingdom, 12th century gilt-copper figure of Buddha Maravijaya. The figure is seated in *padmasana*, his right hand in the earth touching *bhumisparsa* mudra. These rare figures were produced in Yunnan province in southwestern China from the 10th to the 13th centuries and display artistic influences from surrounding South East Asian countries such as Vietnam.



Lot 28. An exceptional gilt-copper alloy figure of Buddha Maravijaya, Dali Kingdom, Yunnan province, 12th century, 30.7cm high. €200,000-300,000.

The most significant lot of furniture in the sale is lot 81, the exceptional pair of Qianlong period *qianjin* lacquer 'one hundred boys' compound cabinets, *sjiangui*. Each cabinet is decorated in a dark red ground, with the main doors depicting numerous boys in pavilions and beside lotus ponds, in numerous shades of green and red. The doors to the upper hat boxes are similarly decorated and the sides are decorated with floral panels.

They were originally owned by Enid, Countess of Kenmare (1892-1972) at the Villa La Fiorentina in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat in the south of France and they were last sold from the collection of Ann and Gordon Getty at Sotheby New York in September 2013, where they sold for \$112,500.

Another important lot in the sale is lot 90, the large imperial lacquered wood and jade inlaid panel. The scene depicts a boat in a mountainous river landscape with a number of retreats nestled amongst trees. It is framed in zitan which is delicately carved with interlinked *ruyi*.

Of the cloisonné enamel pieces in the sale, lot 87, the Qianlong gilt-bronze and cloisonné enamel water pot is notable. It is of a rare form, with the central section decorated with two five-claw confronting dragons writhing amongst breaking waves. The base bears a six character mark surrounded by two dragons.



Lot 81. An exceptional pair of *qianjin* lacquer 'one hundred boys' compound cabinets, *sjiangui*, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 250.5cm by 118.8cm by 48.3cm. €150,000-200,000.



Lot 90. An important zitan framed lacquered wood jade inlaid imperial 'landscape' panel, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 70.8cm by 102.6cm. €150,000-200,000.



Lot 87. A gilt-bronze and cloisonné enamel water pot, Qianlong mark and period, 10.5cm high. €30,000-40,000.



Lot 179. A paste embellished gilt-bronze and jadeite box, Qing dynasty, 18th-19th century, 7.5cm by 9.8cm by 8.2cm. €30,000-50,000.



Lot 199. A large famille rose 'Eight Immortals' vase, Qing dynasty, 18th/19th century, 81.8cm high. €40,000-60,000