

06 July

Preview

Sotheby's Hong Kong, 11 July

Monochrome

Lots: 41. Low Estimate: HK\$82.65m.

The Harry Garner Reticulated Vase

Low Estimate: HK\$70m.

Marchant - Fifty Qing Imperial Porcelains

Lots: 50. Low Estimate: HK\$27.7m.

Important Chinese Art

Lots: 89. Low Estimate: HK\$128.09m

Total Lots: 181. Total Low estimate: HK\$308.44m (US\$40m).

Photographs © Sotheby's.



Lot 3624. A fine and extremely rare Tibetan-inscribed blue and white ritual purification bowl, Xuande mark and period, 19cm diameter. HK\$12-18m.

Sotheby's steal the show with two great rarities of Imperial porcelain.

For the first time since October 2004, Sotheby's and Christie's will be holding their auctions in the same week in Hong Kong. Sotheby's will be selling at the Convention Centre and Christie's in their James Christie Room at Alexandra House, while viewing their two Chinese works of art sales at Jardine House.

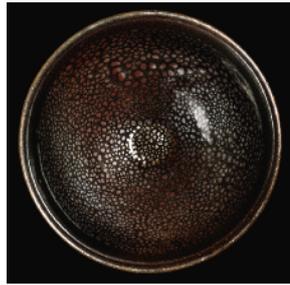
These sales have been postponed from early April and late May respectively. Sotheby's top highlight is lot 1, the Harry Garner reticulated vase - a Yangcai double walled vase, Qianlong seal mark and period, recorded as being made in 1742. It was recently re-discovered by an Amsterdam based consultant in a Dutch country house. It had originally been purchased by the renowned English collector Sir Harry M. Garner (1891-1977) and was sold at Sotheby's London on 25 May 1954. It was later owned by the Dutch collector J.M. Knight and has come through the family for sale.

The production of these vases was quite small and were generally made for special occasions, as the failure rate during firing would have been high. The elaborately pierced wall of the central body reveals an inner vase painted with nine peaches in underglaze blue on a celadon ground.

Another great rarity of the Sotheby's sales is lot 3624, the fine and rare Xuande mark and period Tibetan-inscribed ritual purification bowl. It is preserved in perfect condition and would have been made for the emperor or a high Tibetan lama.



Lot 1. A magnificent and highly important Yangcai reticulated vase, Qianlong seal mark and period (matching record dated to the 12th day of the 8th month in the 7th year of the Qianlong period (corresponding to 1742), 31.4cm high. HK70-90m.



The interior of the bowl is inscribed with the mantra *Om Ah Hung Ha Ho Ri*, which would have been recited during the ritual purification of its contents as an offering. Each character sits above a lotus bloom, which forms a continuous scroll around a central stylized Indian lotus flower. The quality of the painting and the blue colour with its 'heaping and piling' is of the best quality. This lot will be offered in the sale of *Important Chinese art*, which also features another piece of Tibetan inspiration, that is a rare and important early 15th century cloisonné and gilt-bronze 'monks caps' ewer. This is a particularly rare form and stylistically it is very similar to an example in the Tibet Museum, Lhasa.

Monochrome

Lot 110. A superbly carved cinnabar lacquer 'pomegranate' box and cover, Yongle mark and period, 31.5cm diameter. HK\$16-18m.

Lot 124. An important and exquisite white jade 'chicken' cup, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 7.6cm diameter. HK\$10-15m.

Lot 129. An exceptional 'oil spot' bowl, Northern Song-Jin dynasty, 10.2cm diameter. HK\$3.5-4.5m.



Sotheby's will also be holding a concept sale entitled *Monochrome*, which was first held at Sotheby's New York in September 2015. Highlights of this sale include lot 110, a superbly carved Yongle mark and period cinnabar lacquer box and cover and lot 124, the exquisite white jade 'chicken' cup originally from the E.T. Chow collection.

Dealer offerings are now quite a regular feature at auction and Sotheby's this season will also hold: *Marchant - Fifty Qing Imperial Porcelains*. Two highlights from the sale are lot 3102, the Qianlong seal mark and period blue and white garlic mouthed vase and lot 3106, the Yongzheng mark and period lavender glazed bowl.

Marchant - Fifty Qing Imperial Porcelains

Lot 3102. A fine blue and white garlic-mouth vase, Qianlong seal mark and period, 28cm high. HK\$3-4m.

Lot 3106. A fine and rare lavender glazed bowl, Yongzheng mark and period, 12cm diameter. HK\$800,000-1,000,000.

Lot 3135. A large wucai 'dragon and phoenix' dish, Kangxi mark and period, 32.1cm diameter. HK\$500,000-700,000.



Important Chinese Art

Lot 3629. An imperial jade 'Bazheng Maonian Zhi Bao' seal, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 6.5cm high. HK\$20-25m.

Lot 3625. A magnificent and extremely rare blue and white 'winged dragon jarlet, Chenghua mark and period, 8.8cm high. HK\$20-30m.

Lot 3626. An extremely rare and important cloisonné enamel and gilt-bronze 'monks cap' ewer and cover, early Ming dynasty, 22.5cm high. HK\$20-30m.

Christie's Hong Kong, 09 July.

Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Lots: 115. Low Estimate: HK\$82.18m.

Buddhist Art Under the Empire

Lots: 25. Low Estimate: HK\$23.84.

Total Low estimate - HK\$106.02 ([US\\$13.68](#)).

Photographs © Christies.

Christie's to offer two important rarities.

The first lot in the up-and-coming Christies' *Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* sale is lot 2801, the fine and very rare Longquan celadon cylindrical vase.

This vase is particularly fascinating in its simplicity and lack of any ostentation. It is the epitome of the Song understated aesthetic that relies totally on its form and the aesthetic effects of its glaze, in terms of colour, translucency and texture. As Rosemary Scott writes in her catalogue essay, this piece is without complexity of shape or distracting decoration. ¹The glaze of these wares has been referred to in Japan as *kinuta*, which actually describes the mallet-shape, but has also come to denote the best turquoise-green colour of Longquan celadons.

Vases like this would have been used in Japan to display flowers in the alcove (*tokonoma*) of a tea room/house during the tea ceremony. This particular vase was purchased from an unnamed temple by Noda Chuemon around 1860-1880 and was passed down through the family.

The second piece is lot 2827, is a very rare Xuande make and period blue and white 'pomegranate' dish. During the Xuande period, dishes of this type were painted in three designs, that is the pomegranate, peony and gardenia. The design tends to follow the same format of a large central spray, surrounded by four smaller ones in the cavetto.

Other adaptations of the design included the use of a yellow enamel ground; the reversal of the decoration, where the flowers were depicted in white on a cobalt blue ground or where other colours like a reddish-brown and yellowish coffee-brown enamel were used.



Lot 2801. A fine and very rare Longquan celadon cylindrical vase, Southern Song dynasty, 17.8cm high. HK\$4-6m.



Lot 2827. A very rare blue and white 'pomegranate' dish, Xuande six-character mark in a line and of the period, 29.8cm diameter. Estimate on request.

1. Scott, Rosemary, *Revered Elegance - A very rare Song dynasty vase*, Christie's Hong Kong, 09 July.



Dishes with the peony and pomegranate designs tended to have unglazed bases and the reign mark added to the exterior just below the rim in a line, whereas dishes with the gardenia designs had glazed bases with the reign mark inscribed there in two vertical lines within double circles.

These designs are more commonly seen in the Hongzhi and Zhengde reigns, especially with yellow enamel grounds. In the Xuande period, they are particularly rare and the relationship between the painted design and the large areas of white ground and its negative spacing is particularly effective.

The sale also features a rare and unusual 17th century blue and white sleeve vase painted with two erotic scenes, one where they figures are fully clothed and the other where they not. The vase was purchased by Marchant at Sotheby's London in November 1973 and was sold to Robert Chang. It was later sold at Nagel in Stuttgart in November 2003 and again with them in October 2009.

The Christie's auction season also includes the sale *Buddhist Art Under Empire*. This 25 lot sale features a number of Buddhist gilt-bronze figures, the highlight of which is lot 2703, the rare Xuande mark and period figure of Buddha Shakyamuni. The figure sits on a double lotus base in contemplation in the earth touching *bhumisparsa* mudra, which symbolises the Buddha's enlightenment under the bodhi tree. The reign mark is incised in a line from left to right on the upper part of the base just in front of the figure. The sale also features some Buddhist ritual ceramics, objects and stone sculpture.

Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

Lot 2834. A very rare blue and white 'erotic' vase, late Ming-early Qing dynasty, mid 17th century, 39.7cm high. HK\$4.5-5.5m.

Lot 2810. The fine and rare carved Ding 'lotus' incense box and cover, Northern Song dynasty, 13cm diameter. HK\$1.5-2.5m.

Lot 2833. A magnificent polychrome enameled model of a celestial official, Ming dynasty, 114.4cm high. HK\$700,000-900,000.



Buddhist Art Under Empire

Lot 2704. A very rare and superb gilt-bronze figure of Buddha Shakyamuni, incised Xuande six-character mark and of the period, 27cm high. HK\$4-6m.

Lot 2706. A very rare doucai Tibetan-style ewer, Qianlong six-character seal mark and of the period, 19.6cm high. HK\$2.5-3.5m.

Lot 2702. A very rare and finely cast gilt-bronze figure of Maitreya, incised Yongle six-character mark and of the period, 20.1cm high. HK\$2.5-3.5m.

Bonhams New York, 21 July. Fine Chinese Paintings and Works of Art

Photographs © Bonhams.

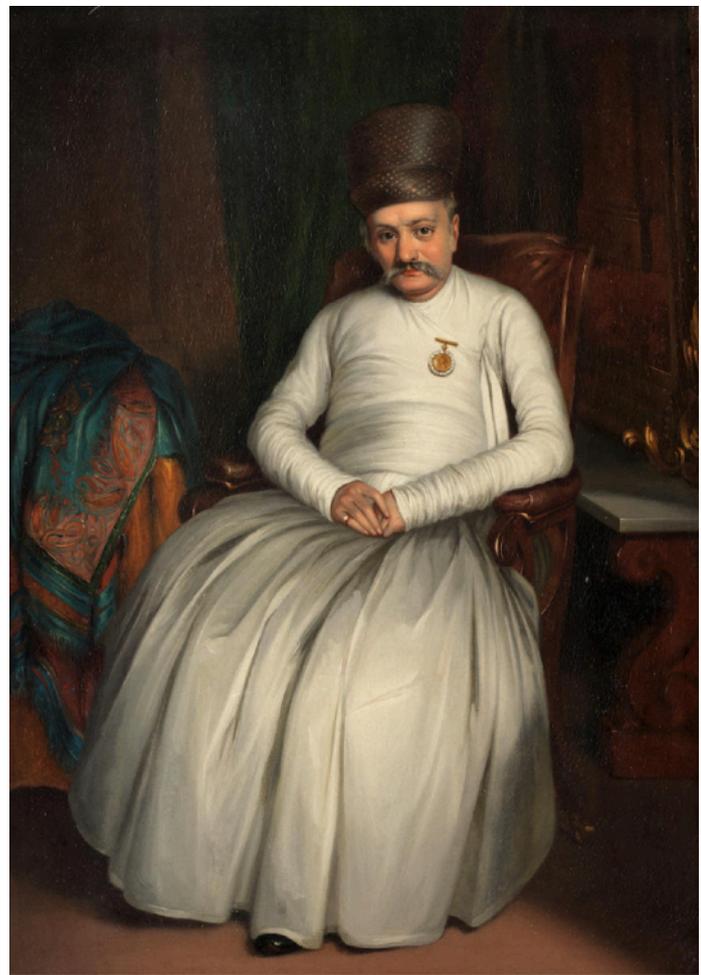
Bonhams New York will be offering this engaging portrait in their forthcoming sale of *Fine Chinese Paintings and Works of Art* on 21 July. The oil on canvas portrait depicts Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, who was known as the Merchant-Prince of Bombay. He was one of the best known of the Parsi merchants trading with China in the 19th century. This and 45 other works will be offered from the collection of the late Richard Kelton, a passionate yachtsman, who died at the age of 90 in 2019.

It was painted by Lamqua around the mid 1840s, who was one of the best artists of the time based in Canton with a studio of assistants. The work is painted in a Western style and depicts the subject sitting in a relaxed manner with his hands resting in his lap. The artist has successfully depicted the textures and variations in tone of his robes, which is particularly striking being of just one colour. The sitter's head is slightly lowered and leans marginally to the right as the eyes stare thoughtfully at the viewer. William Sargent in his catalogue essay describes this as one of the most sympathetically executed and rarest portraits of an Asian merchant.

The sale also features 15 lots of furniture and jades from the collection of Florence and Herbert Irving, who were major New York benefactors to the Metropolitan Museum. Of particular note is lot 53, the cloisonné enamel-inset huanghuali side table. The panel is dated 16th/17th century and depicts a paradise flycatcher perched on a branch of flowering peony. The table itself is 18th century and the centre of the frieze is carved with entwined vines. The table was purchased by the Irvings from Roger Keverne Ltd, London.



Top of lot 53.



Lot 8. Attributed to Lamqua (Active 1820-1860), portrait of Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy 1st Bt. (1783-1859), circa 1844, oil on canvas, 48.3 x 66cm. \$70,000-90,000.



Lot 53. A cloisonné enamel-inset huanghuali side table, the panel 16th/17th century, the table, 18th century, 78.2cm 94.6 x 47.5cm. \$8,000-12,000.



A white jade 'dragon' carving, 17th/18th century, 5.5cm long. \$3,000-5,000.

The sale also features some Qing imperial mark and period ceramics, such as lot 152, the Kangxi mark and period blue and white lotus bowl and lot 156, two Qianlong seal mark and period celadon-glazed jars and lot 157, as Qianlong seal mark and period small 'Guan'-type faceted hu-form vase.

The final section of the sale features 31 lots of paintings and the last lot, lot 194 is the most significant: the ink and colour on paper hanging scroll of lotus by Zhang Daqian (1899-1983). Painted in 1978 when the artist was 79, it depicts the large scale lotus leaves in ink washes from greens and turquoise blues through to dark greys. These contrast with the pink flowers which are outlined in greater detail. The work is dedicated to Huang Beishou, the cousin of the artist Huang Junbi (1989-1991).



Lot 152. A blue and white 'lotus' bowl, Kangxi mark and period, 19.4cm diameter. \$15,000-20,000.



Lot 156. Two celadon-glazed jars, Qianlong seal mark and period, 19cm high. \$40,000-60,000.



Lot 194. Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), Lotus, hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper, 176 x 94.6cm. \$120,000-150,000.



Lot 157. A small 'Guan'-type faceted hu-form vase, Qianlong seal mark and of the period, 14.6cm high.