

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

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**EXCEPTIONAL CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART TO  
BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER**



A rare and finely painted underglaze copper-red and blue 'mallet' vase, *Yaoling zun*, Kangxi six-character mark in underglaze blue and of the period (1662-1722)  
Estimate: \$600,000-800,000

**Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art  
including Property from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections  
September 14-15, 2009**

**New York-** Commencing Christie's Asian Art Week, the sale of *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Property from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections* on September 14 and 15 will bring together over 400 works of art, including superb ceramics, jades, bronzes, furniture and sculptures. The first day begins with *Property from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections* highlighted by archaic jades, bronzes, and Buddhist sculptures. The second day of sales continues with *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art*, which will offer rare and important works of art.

### Property from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections

Following the enormous success of *Fine Chinese Art from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections* in March 2009, Christie's is privileged to offer an additional 115 selections from this fine collection on September 14 at 4pm. Highlights from the sale include a rare dated limestone four-sided Buddhist votive stele, Northern Qi Dynasty (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$70,000-90,000), inscribed with a date corresponding to 574; a rare bronze ritual globular tripod food vessel and cover, *Dui*, Eastern Zhou Dynasty, Late 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (estimate: \$10,000-15,000); a rare opaque blackish jade ceremonial blade, *Zhang*, Late Neolithic Period, Northwest China, circa 2000 B.C. (estimate: \$15,000-25,000); and a large mottled semi-opaque olive and buff jade, *Bi*, Late Neolithic Period, Northwest China, circa 2000 B.C. (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).



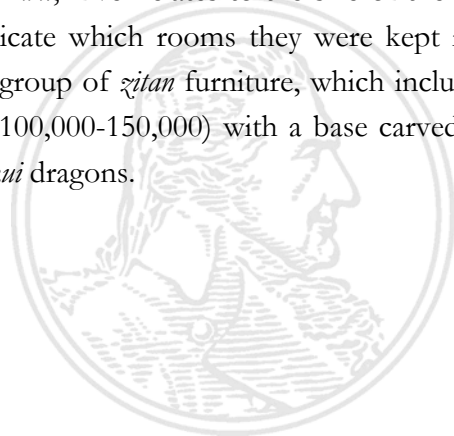
### Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

The sale of *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* on September 15 will have two sessions and features over 350 stunning pieces across a number of collecting categories. Leading the sale is a rare and finely painted underglaze copper-red and blue 'mallet' vase, *Yaoling zun*, Kangxi six-character mark in underglaze blue and of the period (1662-1722) (*illustrated on page 1*- estimate: \$600,000-800,000). This superb vase, produced in the Imperial kilns, represents an unusual combination of archaic influences. The form, *Yaoling zun*, meaning vase in the shape of a hand bell is derived from the classic paper-beater vases of the Song period, while the decoration of intricate medallions and upright leaf tips were inspired by the decoration of ancient bronze vessels and mirrors.



The sale also features a fine and rare numbered Junyao tripod 'Narcissus' bowl, Yuan/Early Ming Dynasty, 14-15<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) from a North-American Chinese Family Collection. The bowl has the most desirable arrangement of a remarkable blue interior glaze and purple exterior glaze. The base inscribed with the character *wu*, 'five' relates to the size of the vessel and may also indicate which rooms they were kept in the Imperial

Palace. From the same collection is a selective group of *zitan* furniture, which includes a rare large *zitan* floor mirror, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) with a base carved on both sides with horizontal panels of confronted archaistic *kui* dragons.



Elsewhere in the sale are several outstanding examples of the Qianlong Emperor's tremendous passion for the arts. During his reign from 1736 to 1795, the emperor amassed a huge collection of antiquities, reputed to number over a million objects. The objects were displayed in Imperial halls and palaces while smaller objects were stored in elaborate chests and boxes such as the rare carved red and painted lacquer "treasure box" and stand (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$40,000-60,000). Other examples of the Qianlong period include a very rare pair of cloisonné enamel archaistic tripod ewers and covers, *He* (estimate: \$200,000-300,000); a well-carved white jade peach-form pouring vessel (estimate: \$150,000-180,000); a rare pair of inlaid gilt-bronze double phoenix-form candlesticks (estimate: \$60,000-80,000); and an important and rare imperial Guangzhou tribute embellished ivory and tortoiseshell fan, Qianlong Period (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).



The auction will also feature a collection of peachbloom-glazed vessels consigned by the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, sold to benefit the Acquisitions Fund (*illustrated left*). The most notable of them all is a peachbloom-glazed chrysanthemum vase, *Juban ping*, Kangxi six-character mark in underglaze blue and of the period (1662-1722) (estimate: \$50,000-80,000), which are some of the most sophisticated and distinguished of all imperial porcelains.

Vases of this type are in major institutions and collections worldwide. Other vessels with the Kangxi character mark include a peachbloom-glazed water pot, *Taibai zun* (estimate: \$20,000-40,000); a peachbloom-glazed amphora, *Linye zun* (estimate: \$10,000-15,000); and a peachbloom-glazed brush washer, *Tangluo xi* (estimate: \$8,000-12,000).

Other highlights from various owners include a rare and important imperially inscribed Guan-type faceted vase, *Fanghu*, Late Ming/Early Qing Dynasty, 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$200,000-300,000). The compact pear form vase with a lustrous bluish-grey glaze presents a rare example of this type that flourished in the Ming Dynasty, and was emulated by the Qing emperor. Also of note is a very rare and unusually large famille verte charger, Kangxi six-character mark in underglaze blue within a double circle and of the period (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).



**Auction: Property from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections**

**Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art**

**Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries**

**September 14, 4pm**

**September 15, 10am & 2pm**

**September 11-14**

**Note to Editors:**

Arthur M. Sackler, M.D. was one of America's foremost art collectors, the range of whose interests was extraordinary. These included Chinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and Pre-Columbian art as well as European ceramics, sculpture, paintings and drawings from the mediaeval to the modern periods. His name lives on in many art-related projects: the Sackler Wing that houses the Temple of Dendur at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at Princeton University, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum at Harvard University. At the Smithsonian Institute, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery is a museum for Asian and Near Eastern Art. In China, the Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology teaches museology to students in Beijing.

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available on request*

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