

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S
佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

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**SECOND PART OF IMPORTANT CHINESE JADES FROM THE PERSONAL
COLLECTION OF ALAN AND SIMONE HARTMAN TO BE OFFERED AT
CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG**



A magnificent white jade cylindrical brushpot, Qianlong period (1736-1795) (Lot 1518)

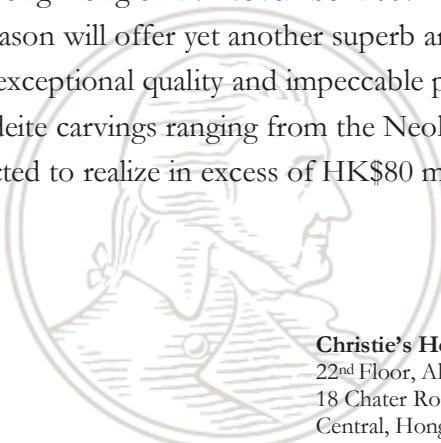
18 cm. high

Estimate: HK\$10,000,000-15,000,000 / US\$1,300,000-1,900,000

Important Chinese Jades from the Personal Collection of Alan and Simone Hartman (Part II)

27 November 2007

Hong Kong – Christie's is proud to present the second and concluding part of *Important Chinese Jades from the Personal Collection of Alan and Simone Hartman* in Hong Kong on 27 November 2007. Following the successful sale of the first part held last year, this season will offer yet another superb array of pieces which will astound international collectors with its exceptional quality and impeccable provenance. Encompassing over a hundred Chinese jade and jadeite carvings ranging from the Neolithic period to the 19th century, this important jade collection is expected to realize in excess of HK\$80 million/ US\$10 million.



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Amassed over the last fifty years, the Hartman collection stands for the very best quality of Chinese jade carvings on the market, and is the finest private collection of jades to have come up in auction. From personal adornments, objects for the scholar's desk, and for decoration, many of the carvings on offer were made for the Imperial household that are highly sought after by connoisseurs around the world.

Alan Hartman is an influential and respected dealer and collector. His father opened his first gallery in 1927 specializing in Oriental Art in New York and it was only natural for Alan Hartman to follow in his father's footsteps. At the age of 12, Alan Hartman acquired his first jade object, and his passion for the beautiful qualities of jade ever since has become evident. Together with his wife, Simone, whose artistic taste complements his vast experience in the field, the couple has formed what is undoubtedly one of the finest collections of Imperial jades in private hands.

A focal piece, a magnificent white jade cylindrical brushpot from the Qianlong period (1736-1795) is estimated at HK\$10,000,000-15,000,000/ US\$1,300,000-1,900,000 (Lot 1518). Of an impressive size, this massive brushpot is probably one of the largest examples in private hands to be offered at auction to date, and is expected to arouse tremendous interest from collectors and connoisseurs. Its exterior is superbly carved to depict a continuous miniature landscape. The scene is viewed like a Chinese handscroll painting where the artist takes the viewer on a panoramic journey along the countryside with deer gamboling along a foot path surrounded by tall mountains, and a crane standing under aged pine trees. As the scene is turned, a scholar is seen entering a cave, walking in front of his attendant and another young boy offering a basket of flowers to his master. This form of landscape design rendered on jades was perfected in the Qianlong period, exemplified by the present piece.

Another highly sought after example is an extremely rare and finely carved pale celadon jade brushpot with accessories from the Qing dynasty, 17th-18th century (Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$520,000-770,000, Lot 1524). The vessel is exquisitely carved in the form of a knotted section of a pine trunk. Gnarled branches and clusters of pine needles carved on the sides are cleverly taken from the brownish inclusion of the stone. The brushpot comes together with a jade brush carved with dragons and scrolls as well as three scepters.



Equally noteworthy is a magnificent pair of white jade circular screens from the Qianlong period, each exquisitely carved in shallow relief to depict a mountain landscape (Estimate: HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000/ US\$770,000-1,000,000, Lot 1511). As with the large brushpot in this collection, this pair of screens is one of the best quality white jades of the Qianlong period that would have been placed to decorate the tables in the Imperial halls. The

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panels are detailed with scholars under *wutong* trees, young attendants, tall mountains and cranes. With the translucency of the material, the landscape scenes come alive when intense light is passed through. The artist has also masterfully captured an ethereal vignette where minute figures are seen to be in deep conversations against a backdrop of a vast an idyllic landscape.

Also on offer is a superb white jade marriage bowl from the Qianlong period (Estimate: HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000/ US\$770,000-1,000,000, Lot 1539). This type of vessel decorated with carefully-chosen auspicious pattern, known as the 'marriage' bowl, were very popular in Qing dynasty. On the present bowl, the 'double happiness' emblem, implying 'good things come in pairs' and hence symbolizing the weddings, is seen straddled horizontally across the mouth rim. The workmanship of this vessel is remarkable given its complex pattern, and the obstruction caused by the 'double happiness' panel on the upper surface that would have taken months just to hollow out the interior.



An important Imperial celadon and russet jade 'dragon' brushwasher from the Qianlong period (Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$520,000-770,000, Lot 1504). The artist's ability in working the natural irregular form of the boulder to create a water vessel of such impressive dimension is remarkable. The interior is well hollowed to form the receptacle. The thick sides were carved to create multiple layers of dense clouds where three

dragons half emerge and converge, whose inquisitive heads are detailed with bulging eyes and the slightly opened mouths are eagerly searching the flaming pearl. The underside base of the brushwasher is formed by a whirlpool pattern.

A magnificent white jade circular box and cover, Qianlong six-character mark and of the period (Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$520,000-770,000, Lot 1519). Of circular section, it is carved on the top in low relief with a *shou* medallion enclosed by five stylized bats. The base is inscribed with a six character mark, *Da Qing Qianlong Nian Zhi* (made in the Qianlong period). The material, pure white and nearly flawless, is yet another example of the type of jade carving that is currently 'in demand'.



An important yellow jade vase and cover, Song-Ming dynasty, 13th-17th Century (Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000/ US\$390,000-640,000, Lot 1543). Its elongated and gently tapered form is perfectly balanced by a domed cover and the carvings of the *chi* dragons, the auspicious mythical creatures empowered to exorcise evil and avert disasters. These dragons were carved in high relief to detail their powerful

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muscular limbs with their slender bodies nimbly turned, creating a sense of imminent movement as if they were about to clamber around the vase. As well, a strong element of archaism is seen in this vase's overall decorative design particularly in the use of stylised cicada bands.

Other highlights include:

Lot 1542

- A very rare and large spinach-green jade conjoined vase and cover, Qianlong four-character mark and of the period

Estimate: HK\$2,500,000-3,000,000/ US\$320,000-380,000



Lot 1557

- A fine caramel and celadon brown and white jade 'monkeys' group, Qing dynasty, 18th century

Estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000/ US\$45,000-58,000



Lot 1566

- An exquisite celadon jade mandarin ducks group, Ming dynasty, 16th/17th century

Estimate: HK\$250,000-300,000/US\$32,000-38,000



Pre-sale exhibitions:

New York	Christie's New York	14 – 18 September
Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai	3 – 4 November
Beijing	Sofitel Wanda Beijing	7 – 9 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	17 – 18 November
Hong Kong	Grand Hall, Convention & Exhibition Centre	22 - 26 November

Auction:

Important Chinese Jades from the Personal Collection of Alan and Simone Hartman Part II

27 November 2007 at 11:00 am

Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / US\$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / US\$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by US\$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from US\$200 to over US\$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVETM, its unique, real-time online bidding service.