

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

March 1, 2012

Contact: Sung-Hee Park      spark@christies.com      tel +1 212 636 2680

**CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS THE DORIS WIENER  
COLLECTION ON MARCH 20**



**New York** – On March 20, Christie's is proud to present *The Doris Wiener Collection*, a sale of nearly 400 lots of sculpture and paintings from Gandhara, the Himalayas, India and Southeast Asia, assembled by the renowned gallerist and collector. As a leading figure in the field, she placed important works in top collections and institutions throughout the world. This outstanding group of exceptionally rare and beautiful works is a testament to Ms. Wiener's discerning eye. The sale will present connoisseurs with the opportunity to acquire masterpieces handpicked by one of the most distinguished tastemakers in this collecting category.

Over the five decades since her first show in 1961, Doris Wiener became a well-known and passionate collector and dealer of Indian and Southeast Asian art in New York. She visited the region early on and fell in love with its arts, developing her eye and expertise well before others became aware of their existence. From her gallery across from the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Fifth Avenue, she introduced both students and connoisseurs to the vast wealth of paintings, sculpture and textiles from this part of the world.

Leading the sale is an important **bronze group of Somaskanda from South India of the Chola period**, circa 11<sup>th</sup> century (*pictured on page 1*, estimate: \$800,000–1,200,000). Somaskanda means “Shiva with Uma and Skanda,” Skanda being their son who in the present example, stands between them; often he is lost from surviving sculptures. As part of the religious practice of Brahmanical South India, these bronzes would be carried out of the temple along processional routes so that worshippers who were not allowed access to the inner sanctum might view and be viewed by the deities. The present example is particularly well executed with elegantly modeled features and in an excellent state of preservation. It was included in Vidhya Dehejia’s important exhibition, *The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India*, which traveled from the Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution to the Dallas Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Art from 2002-03.

Another highlight is a **13<sup>th</sup> century Nepalese gilt-bronze figure of Padmapani**, the “holder of the lotus,” one of the many guises of Avalokiteshvara, the bodhisattva of compassion, and one of the principle deities in Mahayana Buddhism. Although he has attained enlightenment like the Buddha, the bodhisattva forgoes his escape from the suffering of rebirth to act as a guide to all living beings until they themselves have achieved nirvana. The present example (*pictured at right*; estimate: \$250,000–350,000) is of extraordinarily fine execution.

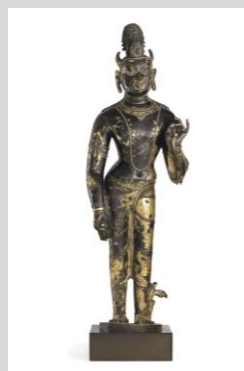


The Collection includes a remarkable example of a **Tibetan thangka of four mandalas of Hevajra**, painted in mineral pigments and gold on textile in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which has been preserved in excellent condition (*pictured at left*; estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Comprised of concentric circles and squares occupied by the main deity at center, mandalas offer a rich visual iconography that rewards multiple viewings. In the present painting, seated at center next to the red female deity Jnana Dakini, is Abhayakaragupta, author of the Vajravali text upon which this painting is based. They are surrounded by the four principal mandalas of the Hevajra Tantra.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



A Limestone Torso of Buddha  
India, Amaravati, 2<sup>nd</sup> Century  
37 ½ in. high  
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



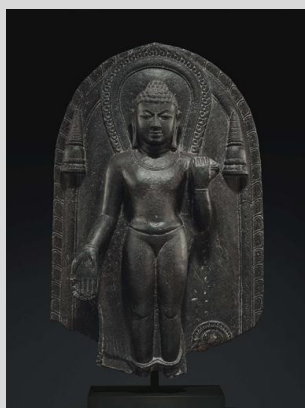
A Rare And Important Silver-Inlaid Gilt Bronze  
Figure of Avalokiteshvara  
Northeastern India or Western Tibet,  
Pala Period, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Century  
23 in. (58.4 cm.) high  
\$250,000-350,000



The Visitation  
India, Mughal Period, 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
4 ⅛ x 3 ⅛ in.  
Estimate: \$40,000-60,000



A Gilt Bronze Figure of Manjushri  
Nepal, 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
10 in. (25.4 cm.) high  
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



A Black Stone Figure of Buddha  
Northeastern India, Pala period, 10<sup>th</sup> century  
26½ in. high  
Estimate: \$70,000 – 90,000



Fools: Europeans Seated on a Carpet  
India, Rajasthan, Mewar, circa 1760  
10¼ x 14¼ in.  
Estimate: \$15,000 – 20,000

**Auction: *The Doris Wiener Collection***  
**Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries**

**March 20 at 10 am and 2pm**  
**March 16 - 19**

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

# # #

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Website at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

*Complete catalogue available online at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or via the Christie's iPhone app*