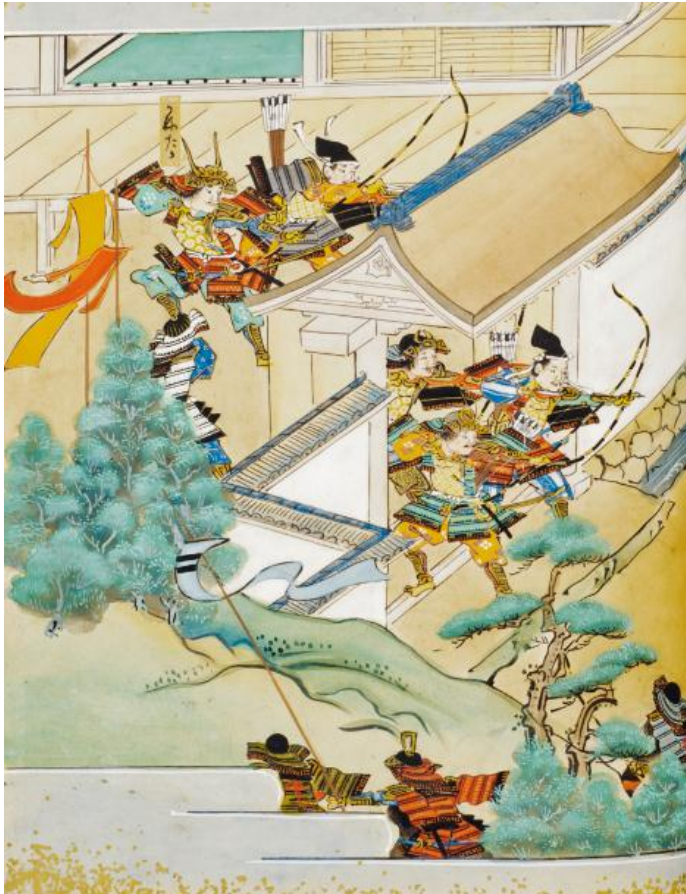


# CHRISTIE'S

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## FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

### CHRISTIE'S FALL SALE OF JAPANESE & KOREAN ART IN SEPTEMBER



*Soga Monogatari (The Tale of the Soga Brothers)*  
Edo period, early 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



A Blue and White Porcelain Dragon Jar  
Joseon dynasty, 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Estimate on Request

**New York** – Christie's is pleased to announce the Fall sale of *Japanese and Korean Art*, taking place September 11. Featuring over 200 lots with works of art spanning medium and category, the sale offers a fantastic selection for collectors of all interests, from medieval books to paintings by modern masters. A spectacular *fusuma* (set of interior sliding doors) by Hasegawa Tonin will highlight the Japanese portion of the sale, while the Korean session boasts an exquisite and monumental porcelain dragon jar.



## JAPANESE ART

Hasegawa Tonin's *Egrets and Ducks in a Winter Landscape* is a *fusuma* (set of interior sliding doors) mounted as three two-panel screens, which were once part of a continuous panorama of birds surrounding a large auditorium (*pictured above*; estimate: \$250,000-300,000). The doors were originally installed in Akashi Castle, in southern Hyogo Prefecture, which was built circa 1618 by Ogasawara Tadazane, founder of the Kokura clan, and was later demolished in 1874, leaving only ruins around the two remaining turrets. The screens were rescued in 1628 when the castle was on fire and are incredibly significant, as they demonstrate the evolution of the Hasegawa School, founded by Hasegawa Tohaku in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. *Egrets and Ducks in a Winter Landscape* was painted in a gorgeous color and gold, a style embraced by the Hasegawa School. The remaining sets from Akashi Castle are currently at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington DC.

Also among the sale highlights is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century edition of *Soga Monogatari* (*The Tale of the Soga Brothers*), a medieval prose narrative in ten books (*detailed pictured on page 1*; estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Based on true events in 1193, *Soga Monogatari* chronicles the journey of two brothers avenging their father's wrongful death. The event remained a favorite subject in samurai circles for generations and was eventually immortalized in writing, enduring as one of the most popular Japanese tales of revenge. The story was later adapted in the Edo period to Noh, *yoruri* and kabuki, and pictorialized on folding screens and in illustrated books and warrior and actor prints. The beautifully detailed version offered in the sale includes illustrations in ink, color, and gold within blue-painted cloud borders embellished with cut-gold leaf.

An impressive pair of bronze and mixed-metal vases, which represent the seasons of Spring and Autumn, were executed by two metal artists in the Meiji period (*pictured right*; estimate: \$70,000-90,000). The Spring vase depicts a pair of pheasants perched upon a cherry tree, surrounded by roses, while the Autumn vase has them resting on a maple tree, with chrysanthemums nearby. The Autumn vase was completed by renowned artist Kagawa Katsuhiko in 1885, the same year that he contributed work to the international exposition in Nuremberg.



## KOREAN ART

From a private collection, Park Sookeun's *Tree and Three Figures, 1962* is among the modern highlights of the Korean section (*pictured right*; estimate: \$600,000-800,000). In the artist's original frame, the painting depicts two women in a young girl in traditional Korean clothing walking to the market. While the subject matter is characteristic of the artist, as he often produced genre scenes, the scale of the work is remarkably large compared to the majority of his pieces, which are modestly sized. While his body of work is rather small, consisting of no more than four hundred pieces, Park Sookeun has become the most sought-after modern Korean artist, since Christie's began selling his artwork eighteen years ago.



An important monumental blue and white porcelain dragon jar of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Joseon dynasty was painted in a cobalt blue underglaze and was almost certainly

commissioned by the royal courts (*detailed pictured on page 1*; estimate on request). This magnificent vessel depicts two striding dragons chasing a flaming pearl; developed in China, but adapted by Koreans, the juxtaposition of these two figures has come to represent the pursuit of knowledge. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the dragon, particularly the five-clawed dragon (as is portrayed here), had come to represent the emperor in China and the king in Korea. The central purpose of the jar was not for the display of cut flowers or branches, but rather for the elegant storage of wine and other liquids. The bold form, vibrant brushwork, and silvery hued cobalt blue in light and dark tones make this an exceptional 18<sup>th</sup> century dragon jar. Standing nearly two feet tall, its immense size pushes it to a virtual one-of-a-kind category.



A 19<sup>th</sup> century blue and white porcelain jar with the Ten Signs of Long Life (*Shipjangsaeng*) will also be featured in the sale (*pictured left*; estimate: \$65,000-70,000). This 16 inch tall jar employs auspicious symbolism from the Daoist immortality cult that developed in China during the Han dynasty and later became extremely popular in Korea under the Joseon dynasty.

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The complete eCatalogue will be available on [christies.com](http://christies.com).

#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 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 £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% 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.*

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*Images available on request*

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