

CHRISTIE'S

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Christie's Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art

London, 7 November 2017



A BRONZE RITUAL WINE VESSEL AND COVER,
YOU
LATE SHANG DYNASTY (1600-1100 BC)
13 in. (33 cm.) high
Estimate: £80,000 – 120,000



AN EXTREMELY RARE AND IMPORTANT PAIR OF
HUANGHUALI HORSESHOE-BACK ARMCHAIRS, *QUANYI*
MING DYNASTY, 17TH CENTURY
Each 26 ¾ in. (68 cm.) wide, 21 in. (53.3 cm.) deep, 36 in.
(91.5 cm.) high
Estimate: £800,000 – 1,200,000



A FINELY CAST GILT-BRONZE FIGURE OF GUANYIN
MING DYNASTY, 17TH CENTURY
18 1/2 in. (47 cm.) high
Estimates: £80,000-120,000

London – On 7 November 2017 Christie's *Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art* auction will present a carefully-curated sale showcasing works of art spanning three millennia of Chinese art. Highlights include important archaic bronzes from the distinguished German collector Michael Michaels (1907-1986), exquisite imperial ceramics, fine jade carvings, *huanghuali* furniture, paintings from renowned modern Chinese artists, textiles and Buddhist art. The auction will take place during Asian Art Week in London and will be on view and open to the public from 3 to 6 November.

The sale will be led by an extremely rare pair of *huanghuali* horseshoe-back armchairs, *Quanyi*, dating to the Ming dynasty (estimate: £800,000 – 1,200,000, *illustrated above centre*). Displaying the grace and finesse of Ming artistry, this pair are among eight known and published chairs of this design. Of this eight, a set of four, formerly from the Robert H. Ellsworth Collection, were sold at Christie's New York in 2015 for a record-breaking \$9,685,000 / £6,488,950 / €9,103,900. These chairs were constructed by a master craftsman, distinguished by the elegant curve of the crest rail, the sweeping carved hook handles and the beautifully figured *huanghuali* panels. With distinguished provenance, the pair were previously with noted dealer Grace Wu Bruce. The *Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art* auction will present further exceptional examples of Ming dynasty furniture including a rare *huanghuali* recessed-leg painting table (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated right*). Large tables are often labelled painting



A RARE *HUANGHUALI* RECESSED-LEG
PAINTING TABLE, *HUA'AN*
MING DYNASTY, 17TH CENTURY
68 ¾ in. (174.6 cm.) wide, 22 5/8 in. (57.5 cm.)
deep, 33 1/8 in. (84 cm.) high
Estimate: £200,000 – 300,000

tables, but to be considered a true painting table, such as the present table, the surface must be broad enough to accommodate a large painting and tools associated with painting or calligraphy.



QI BAISHI (1863-1957)
PEACHES
Hanging scroll, ink and colour
on paper
53 7/8 x 13 3/8 in.
(137 x 34 cm.)
Estimate: £80,000 – 120,000

The sale will also feature important archaic bronzes from the Michael Michaels collection and is highlighted by a late Shang dynasty (1600-1100 BC) bronze ritual wine vessel and cover (estimate: £80,000-120,000, *illustrated left on page one*). The vessel is cast to each side with a large *taotie* mask and the shoulder and foot are decorated with bands of stylised *kui* dragons. An additional highlight of the collection is a Tang Dynasty (618-907) parcel gilt-copper lobed pouring bowl (estimate: £60,000-80,000, *illustrated right*). This form, known as *Yi*, has its origins in bronze vessels of the Zhou dynasty, believed to have been used for pouring water to wash the hands before performing rituals. Michael Michaels, became a self-taught expert after he encountered archaic Chinese bronzes in the late 1960s. He fell in love with their shapes, patina and historical background and immersed himself in learning about archaic Chinese bronzes, spending hours in the British Museum gaining an understanding of the nature of the pieces, the symbolism, the method of their manufacture and their uses.



A FINE AND RARE PARCEL GILT-COPPER LOBED
POURING BOWL, *YI*
TANG DYNASTY (618-907)
8 7/8 in. (22.6 cm.) wide
£60,000-80,000

Further highlights of the sale include a superb selection of jades, including a white jade archaistic phoenix vase and cover from the Qianlong Period (1736-1795) (estimate: £80,000-120,000, *illustrated right*). The vessel is carved and pierced as a phoenix with its wings closed and long feathers curling outwards. A Ming dynasty gilt-bronze figure of the goddess of compassion, Guanyin (estimate: £80,000-120,000, *illustrated right on page one*), is an exceptional example of Buddhist art.



A WHITE JADE ARCHAISTIC PHOENIX VASE AND COVER
QIANLONG PERIOD (1736-1795)
Estimate: £80,000 – 120,000

Guanyin is cast seated in *padmasana*, decorated with ornate jewellery including a crown depicting a seated figure of Amitabha Buddha. *Peaches* (estimate: £80,000-120,000, *illustrated left*) a beautiful hanging scroll by one of the most well-known modern Chinese painters Qi Baishi (1863-1957) will also be offered. Through his use of bright colours and vigorous strokes his expressive work serves as an emblem of longevity depicting the peaches, which are considered sacred in China as its wood was used as a charm against evil in ancient times.

Public Exhibition:

3 November 2017: 10:00am to 16:30pm

4 November 2017: 12:00pm to 17:00pm

5 November 2017: 12:00pm to 20:00pm

6 November 2017: 09:00am to 16:30pm

Auction:

Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art

7 November 2017

10:30am and 14:00pm

*** Notes to Editors**

Christie's will be holding an Asian Art Slow Art Workshop on Saturday 4 November at 11.00am. To confirm attendance, please contact Emily Cushing | +44 (0)20 3219 6563 | ecushing@christies.com

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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