

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 9 November 2017

AUTUMN SERIES OF IMPORTANT CHINESE CERAMICS & WORKS OF ART

Including the Raymond Hung Collection of Chinese Classical Furniture



AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AND RARE COPPER-RED AND UNDERGLAZE-BLUE AMPHORA
YONGZHENG SIX-CHARACTER MARK IN UNDERGLAZE BLUE AND OF THE PERIOD (1723-1735)
7 1/8 in. (18 cm.) high
HK\$15,000,000-18,000,000

Hong Kong – Joining a series of specially dedicated themed sales, the *Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* will take place this season on 29 November. Offering a total of 169 lots, the works on offer span several collecting categories across Ming and Qing porcelain, Tang and Song ceramics, furniture, a variety of scholar's objects including lacquer works, jades and bamboo, providing connoisseurs the opportunity to expand their collection with these exceptional pieces.

Chi Fan Tsang, Senior Vice President, Specialist Head of Department, commented, "The sale is assembled from numerous important collections from around the region, each offering their own unique area of focus, and fascinating insights into the finest works across the ages. Highlighting the sale is an unparalleled selection of Chinese Classical Furniture from the Raymond Hung collection, which is expected to attract intense interest from connoisseurs who appreciate the refined aesthetic of this art form".

CHINESE CLASSICAL FURNITURE FROM THE RAYMOND HUNG COLLECTION

The Raymond Hung Collection has been carefully amassed since the mid-1980s, at a time when the scholarship for Chinese furniture reached a new level of maturity. Shaped by the preeminent New York dealer, Robert H. Ellsworth, the collection focuses on pieces of rarity with elegant clean lines, and is widely considered one of the most comprehensive and significant in Asia.



A FINE AND LARGE PAIR OF HUANGHUALI SLOPING STILE CABINETS
QING DYNASTY, 17TH-18TH CENTURY
69 3/4 in. (177.2 cm.) high, 36 1/2 in. (92.7 cm.) wide,
19 1/2 in. (49.5 cm.) deep (each)
HK\$9,000,000-12,000,000



A HUANGHUALI CORNER-LEG PAINTING TABLE
QING DYNASTY, 17TH-18TH CENTURY
33 in. (83.8 cm.) high, 78 in. (198.2 cm.) wide
22 1/2 in. (57.2 cm.) deep
HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000



AN IMPOSING HUANGHUALI PLANK TOP PEDESTAL TABLE
QING DYNASTY, 18TH CENTURY
36 1/2 in. (92.7 cm.) high, 93 1/2 in. (237.5 cm.) wide,
16 3/4 in. (42.5 cm.) deep
HK\$5,000,000-7,000,000



A RARE PAIR OF HUANGHUALI HEXAGONAL ARMCHAIRS
QING DYNASTY, 18TH CENTURY
33 1/2 in. (85 cm.) high, 24 3/4 in. (63 cm.) wide
17 in. (43.5 cm.) deep
HK\$2,400,000-4,000,000

SALE HIGHLIGHTS



**AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AND RARE
COPPER-RED AND UNDERGLAZE-BLUE
AMPHORA**

YONGZHENG SIX-CHARACTER MARK IN
UNDERGLAZE BLUE AND OF THE PERIOD
(1723-1735)

7 1/8 in. (18 cm.) high

HK\$15,000,000-18,000,000

During this period the firing of copper red pigment on porcelain was difficult to control, on most occasions resulting in an undesirable blurred and greyish tone. The present vase is a particularly rare and successful example, displaying rich vibrant colours, elegant proportions and remarkable attention to detail.

The well-defined lines and bright-red tones on this vase highlight its exceptional quality, which create a nice contrast with the blue and white decoration comprising the *taijitu* and the Eight Trigrams.

The Yongzheng Emperor was known to have an interest in Daoism and sought techniques in the quest for longevity. The current vase, richly embedded with Daoist symbols, would undoubtedly have appealed greatly to the Emperor.

Records from palace archives reveal that, the imperial kiln in Jingdezhen repeatedly fired porcelain figures of Amitayus as tributes for the birthdays of the Qianlong Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

Made for the occasion of *Wanshou jie* (Festival of Ten Thousand Longevities), these figures were normally produced in groups of nine since the number is a homophone for “eternity”.

The present lot measures over 50 cm in height and is the largest known of its type. Given its stature, the piece is extremely likely to be made as an Imperial birthday gift, designated as the primary figure among a group of nine, further enhancing its rarity and significance.



**A MAGNIFICENT AND EXTREMELY RARE LARGE IMPERIAL FAMILLE ROSE
SEATED FIGURE OF AMITAYUS**

QIANLONG PERIOD (1736-1795)

20 1/8 in. (51 cm.) high

HK\$15,000,000-20,000,000



A PAIR OF EXCEEDINGLY FINE AND RARE DOUCAI 'LOTUS' SMALL LOBED VASES

YONGZHENG SIX-CHARACTER MARKS IN UNDERGLAZE BLUE WITHIN DOUBLE CIRCLES AND OF THE PERIOD (1723-1735)

4 in. (10.2 cm.) high

HK\$8,000,000-15,000,000

This exquisite pair of vases features the finest materials, extremely accomplished potting, a graceful silhouette and beautifully painted decoration, representing Imperial Yongzheng porcelain of the best quality.

Similar examples in pairs are extremely rare, with only two other known - one from T.Y. Chao and one from the Edward T. Chow collections.

The current vases have an illustrious provenance, having been formerly in the collection of Li Chi Bai, and exhibited in Shanghai, in 1908, by the Royal Asiatic Society exhibition, organised by A.W. Bahr. They were also published in *Old Chinese Porcelain & Works of Art* in 1911, which was the last time they were publically seen until now.

This remarkable seal was carved from a large block of *furong* soapstone with exceptional attention to detail. The seal face is carved with the characters, *Qianlong yubi* (imperialy inscribed), and was specially made for the Qianlong Emperor's personal use.

The Qianlong Emperor owned a large collection of imperial seals to be used on his own writings or paintings. The Qianlong Emperor's *Baosou* (compendium of seal impressions) records a seal impression which matches the current seal in size, material and scripts, authenticating its imperial provenance.

The current lot can be regarded as one of the most important seals made during the early reign of Qianlong Emperor, with many works from the imperial collection bearing its impression.



AN IMPERIAL FURONGDONG SOAPSTONE SEAL
 QIANLONG YUBI MARK, QIANLONG PERIOD (1736-1795)
 2 5/16 in. (5.9 cm.) square, 4 15/16 in. (12.5 cm.) high
HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000



**AN EXCEEDINGLY FINE AND RARE YELLOW-ENAMELLED
INCISED 'NINE DRAGONS' TEA CUP**
YONGZHENG SIX-CHARACTER MARK IN UNDERGLAZE BLUE
WITHIN A DOUBLE CIRCLE AND OF THE PERIOD (1723-1735)
3 1/8 in. (8 cm.) diam.
HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000

Exquisitely incised with nine powerful dragons above crashing waves and flame scroll designs, this extremely rare cup is made of the finest quality and appears to be unique. It is enveloped on both sides with a rich yellow glaze, indicating its imperial patronage, as pure yellow vessels were strictly reserved for the Emperor, Empress Dowager and Empress. Depicted with five-clawed dragons, the symbol of ultimate Imperial power, this cup was most likely made specifically for the Yongzheng Emperor alone.

Palace records reveal that in the tenth year of the Yongzheng reign, a 'yellow tea cup with hidden dragons' was removed from the Imperial Household and an Imperial decree was issued to the Supervisor of the Imperial Kilns at Jingdezhen to fire some 'unmarked white-glazed pieces' in the style of this tea cup. This record reflects the Yongzheng Emperor's admiration for yellow cups decorated with incised dragons like the current example, making it a true treasure to behold.

NOTES TO EDITORS

IMPORTANT CHINESE CERAMICS & WORKS OF ART

DATE: 29 NOV 2017

LOCATION: James Christie Room, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong

PRESS CONTACT: Lee Bingle | +852 2978 9966 | lbingle@christies.com

[IMAGE DOWNLOAD LINK](#)

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.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

