

For Immediate Release

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EXQUISITE AND RARE: HASEGAWA SCHOOL SCREEN LEADS JAPANESE ART SALE

CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN ART SALES



Japanese Art Including Property from the Metropolitan Museum of Art Korean Art Including the Robert Moore Collection March 28, 2006

New York – Launching this season's series of Asian Art sales, Japanese and Korean art will be offered on March 28 at Christie's New York. As a tribute to the Korean art market and one of its most well-known Western collectors, Robert Moore, the sale *Korean Art Including the Robert Moore Collection* will have its own separate catalogue and will be offering nearly 200 lots in this 20th anniversary celebration sale. The sale of *Japanese Art Including Property from the Metropolitan Museum* features an exquisite Hasegawa School screen, one of the most magnificent screens to have ever been offered at auction and expected to realize around \$1,000,000.

Japanese Art Including Property from the Metropolitan Museum of Art

A superb early 17th century pair of six-panel screens, executed in ink, color, gold and gold leaf on paper and treating the theme *Tagasode* (Whose Sleeves?), will be offered as the highlight of the sale (estimate on request). Exhibited during the exhibition “Turning Point: Oribe and the Arts of Sixteenth Century Japan” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York three years ago, this screen comes with an impeccable provenance, having previously been part of the collection of the Koza Kobunka Kaikan Museum in Tokyo. The panels are executed in a fabulous array of colors and draw the viewer very subtly into an intimate and private atmosphere.

One of the magic names of Japanese painting, Kitagawa Utamaro, is present with *Three Beauties*, a hanging scroll painted with ink, color and gold (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). With very few of Utamaro’s paintings still extant, this work will offer an excellent opportunity to see and own one of the masters’s highly sought after works. The facial features and the dark, saturated color palette are characteristic of the last few years of his life, circa 1800 to 1806. Slightly eccentric and immensely popular, the 18th century artist Ito Jakuchu has risen to international fame and works by his hand are coveted by collectors around the world. The sale offers *Suibokuyu* (Pleasure of ink painting) (estimate: \$80,000-100,000), a hand scroll executed in ink and sealed. The painting was exhibited in the Kyoto National Museum as well as the Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art.

The sale features several private and museum collections, including a very attractive group of hanging scrolls, hand scrolls and screen from the American collector Alvin Abrams. Many of the works combine painting with calligraphy which results in a rather abstract, almost Zen-like mood. One of the highlights of this ensemble is a hanging scroll by Hakuin Ekaku (1685-1768), *Namu Nikeo Tosho daishinkun* (estimate: \$70,000-90,000).

A small Private Collection of Kakiemon pieces is highlighted by a pair of porcelain models of Chinese lions, Arita Ware, Kakiemon Style, Edo period (late 17th century) (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). Brightly decorated in blue, iron-red, green, yellow and black enamels, they are represented with wide-open mouths and with one paw resting on a brocade ball.



From the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, is a collection of swords and fittings, offering a superb variety including an Akita Shoami-School pair of Tsuba, Edo period (18th century) (estimate: \$2,000-3,000). Past sales have seen an increased demand for arms and armor and this sale will present approximately 110 lots, of which 60 from Metropolitan Museum.

Korean Art Including the Robert Moore Collection

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in New York, the Korean Art sale will this season present its own separate catalogue, thereby not only paying homage to the field, but also to one of its most loyal adherents, Robert Moore. It was part of his collection that was offered on October 16, 1986, establishing Christie's first ever sale of Korean Art in New York. The present sale features 180 lots, of which 145 from the Moore collection, comprising ceramics, paintings, scrolls, bronzes and textiles.

Robert Moore started collecting Korean art 40 years ago and from his first purchase onwards, he felt passionate about both the art as well as the search for pieces. His collecting journey took him to auction rooms, galleries, antique stores and collectors' homes, an experience he has always enjoyed and describes as: "Collecting requires discipline, scholarship, connoisseurship and resourcefulness. The joy of bringing home a treasure wrapped in old newspaper is indeed an adventure."

An exquisite object from the Moore collection is a reticulated porcelain brush holder, Choson period (19th century) (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). The beautifully executed and intricate trellis work of interlocking circles gives this brush holder a superbly delicate and precious appearance, which is further enhanced by a blue-tinged clear glaze. Equally delightful is a rare copper-red and blue-decorated porcelain bottle, from the late 19th century (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), showing four large roundels of tasseled Taoist symbols.



The diversity of Robert Moore's collection is striking and reveals the many facets of Korean art. Examples are the polychrome wood altar attendant (*Dongja*), Choson period (19th century) (estimate: \$14,000-16,000), carved as an immortal boy, holding an offering of a black cat and *Portrait of Abn Kwangjik* by Lee Hanchul (1812-1900) (estimate: \$8,000-12,000), a hanging scroll executed in ink and color.

Further to the Robert Moore collection, the sale features works from several private collections including a white porcelain jar, Choson period (15th century) (estimate: \$250,000-350,000), a very attractive and well-proportioned object with an overall transparent glaze of high luster; a blue and white porcelain jar, Choson period (18th century) (estimate: \$180,000-220,000), painted in underglaze cobalt with a wide continuous panel of songbirds on blossoming branches and a select group of works by modern and contemporary Korean artists including Kim Tchah-sup and Ko Younghoon.

Auction: Japanese Art Including Property from the Metropolitan Museum of Art
March 28 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Korean Art Including the Robert Moore Collection
March 28 at approx. 3.45 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center March 24 - 27

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie's sales of *Japanese Art Including Property from the Metropolitan Museum* and *Korean Art Including the Robert Moore Collection* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.