

For Immediate Release

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## ASIAN ART WEEK AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN MAY 2008

**London** – Following the most successful Asia Week sales ever held at Christie's New York in March 2008, Christie's is pleased to announce the London Asian Art Week from 13-15 May 2008. Estimated to realize in excess of £7.5 million, the sales include: **Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Including Export Art** on 13 May at King Street; **Japanese Art & Design** on 14 May at King Street and **Chinese & Japanese Art** at South Kensington on 15 May.

**Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Including Export Art: 13 May at 10.30am, Christie's King Street**

**Bid via Christie's LIVE™**



Ushering in Christie's London Asian art sales in May, the sale of **Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Including Export Art** on 13 May will offer over 300 lots including superb sculptures, bronzes, ceramics, furniture and paintings. Highlights from the sale include a group of fine imperial enamel and jade objects, *illustrated left*, from the **collection Général Omer Blot** (1824-94) who served in 1860 with the French troops in Beijing as Major and Company Commander of the 87th Infantry Regiment. It was during this time that he acquired the objects from small shops in Beijing and his collection includes some exceptionally fine 18th-century white jades, including a pair of white jade circular 'elephant' boxes and covers, Qianlong Period (1736-95) (estimate: £150,000-200,000); a very rare Imperial white jade archaistic vessel and cover, *guang* Qianlong Period (1736-95) (estimate: £60,000-80,000), and a white jade marriage bowl, Qianlong Period (1736-95) (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

Two enamelled items from the collection include a very rare gilt and silver-decorated celadon-ground vase (1736-95), six-character Qianlong sealmark and of the period (1736-95) (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and an exquisite little Qianlong water pot, which, with its delicate design of flowers and insects is made of enamelled copper, and would have been made in the palace workshops originally set up by the Kangxi emperor (1662-1722) (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

Further sale highlights include two magnificent 'deer' vases, formerly in the possession of the Earls Cowper which were among the works of art displayed at the family home of Panshanger Park in

Hertfordshire. These spectacular and large *famille rose* 'deer' vases (estimate: £250,000-350,000 and £200,000-300,000 respectively), *illustrated right*, reflect the taste of one of China's great imperial collectors and patrons, the Qianlong Emperor (1736-95), and would have been made for his court at the Imperial kilns at Jingdezhen.



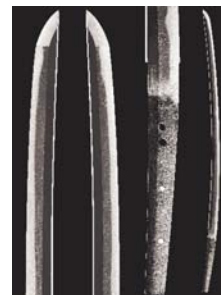
Highlights from two other important collections include a wonderful group of Chinese and Tibetan bronze sculptures from a **Roman collection**, which is led by a magnificent, very rare 15<sup>th</sup> century Tibetan gilt-bronze figure of Nagaraja Densatil (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The influence of Nepalese style can be seen in the expressive modelling, rich mercury gilding and the multicoloured gem insets of this figure which represents a serpent king, with multi-headed cobras emerging from his headdress. His regal character is emphasized by the abundance of ornaments and richly inlaid jewellery. The collection of the late Harold A. Hartog primarily comprises exquisite enamelled metalwork and jade. Highlights include a champlevé and gilt-bronze enamelled double vase, Qianlong (1736-95) (estimate £80,000-120,000), and a superbly carved imperial spinach-green jade brushpot, Qianlong (1736-95), which is estimated at between £100,000 and £150,000.

**Japanese Art & Design: 14 May at 10.30am & 2pm, Christie's King Street**  
**Bid via Christie's LIVE™**



**Japanese Art and Design**, on 14 May, spans the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and showcases over 300 lots of lacquer, netsuke, swords, prints, modern paintings and ceramics from Academic and well known collections, such as that of the late Doctor Oliver Impey. These ceramics collectively form one of the largest group of 17<sup>th</sup> century ceramics offered at auction in London for nearly a decade. The property of a European Noble Family, a pair of *Arita eagles*, Edo Period (late 17<sup>th</sup> century - early 18<sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: £300,000-400,000) form the sale centerpiece, *pictured left*, and are part of an important group of 17<sup>th</sup> century **ceramics** which also features a magnificent Kakiemon vase, Edo Period (late 17<sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: £150,000-200,000). Similar examples to this vase can be found in the Royal Collection at Hampton Court, the Collections of the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Tokyo National Museum.

Amongst the **swords** to be offered from English study collections and members of the Token Kai, including the late David Tudor-Williams, and American collections, is a *Go-Yoshiro*, Kamakura-Nanbokuchō period (early 14<sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: £100,000-150,000), *illustrated right*. Amongst prints from European collections, the sale includes two powerful **prints** by Toshusai Sharaku (active 1794-1795), formerly in the Stoclet collection. Sharaku is widely considered to be one of the great masters of woodblock printing in Japan. He designed portraits of the Kabuki actors and the two examples are *Arashi Ryūzō as the money lender Isibie Kinkichi* (estimate: £50,000-70,000) and *Bando Mitsugoro II as Isibie Genzō* (estimate: £30,000-40,000).



Further print highlights include an early impression of Katsushika Hokusai's celebrated *Red Fuji*, (estimate: £50,000-80,000). *Shunga*, the erotic world of Japan, is represented by over 20 alluring amorous scenes, including a fine print from the series *Negai no Hoguchi* by Kitagawa Utamaro



(1753-1806) (estimate: £1,500-1,800). **Post-War and Contemporary Japanese** works feature a collection of Gutai school abstract paintings from the 1950s such as *No. 1* by Yasuo Sumi (b.1925) (estimate: £5,000-7,000), as well as a group of captivating prints from print artist Yozo Hamaguchi (1909-2000) including *Twenty-Two Cherries I*, 1988-91 (estimate: £1,500-2,000), *illustrated left*. Further works from the 20<sup>th</sup> century include **glass** by the renowned Japanese artist Kyohei Fujita (1921-2004) such as an extraordinary *kazaribako* (ornamental casket), 1989 (estimate: £25,000-30,000).

### **Chinese & Japanese Art: 15 May at 10.30am & 12 noon, Christie's South Kensington** **Bid via Christie's LIVE™**

Completing the week of Asia Art sales is the auction of **Chinese & Japanese Art** at Christie's South Kensington on 15 May. Over 390 lots will be offered including highly desirable porcelain, pottery, works of art and paintings. Highlighting the **Japanese** section is a finely carved and detailed Japanese ivory okimono of a farmer, Meiji Period (1868-1912) (estimate: £2,000-3,000) and a Japanese bronze model of a Sarumawashi (monkey trainer), Meiji Period (1868-1912) (estimate: £3,500-4,500). The **Chinese** section is led by a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century Chinese rhinoceros horn libation cup (estimate: £40,000-60,000), *illustrated above right* and amongst the beautiful selection of Imperial porcelain includes a Chinese large celadon bowl carved with peonies, Qianlong mark and of the period (1736-95) (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and a delicate Chinese small bottle vase, Yongzheng mark and of the period (1723-35) (estimate: £6,000-8,000). The sale also comprises approximately 80 lots of fine jade carvings, including an exquisite white and russet jade carved mountain, 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate £5,000-8,000).



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*Images available on request*

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### **Notes to Editors: Public Viewing:**

**Christie's King Street:** *Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art Including Export Art* on 13 May and *Japanese Art & Design* on 14 May: Friday, 9 May 12.00 noon - 4.30 pm Saturday 10 May 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm, Sunday 11 May 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm, Monday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm, Japanese only on Tuesday 9.00am – 8pm

**Christie's South Kensington:** *Chinese & Japanese Art* on 15 May: Saturday, 10th May 10am - 4pm, Sunday, 11th May 10am - 4pm, Monday, 12th May 9am - 7.30pm, Tuesday, 13th May 9am - 5pm, Wednesday, 14th May 9am - 5pm, Thursday, 15th May (Chinese Art) 9am - 12noon

### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.