

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHINESE ART SALE AT CHRISTIE'S HEADED BY SUPERB GROUP OF JADES AND ACUOYE GUANYIN BRONZE****Fine Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Works of Art  
September 19, 2007**

**New York** – On September 19, Chinese art will form the next chapter in the Asia Week story. The sale of *Fine Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Works of Art* brings together a fine selection of ceramics, jades, rhinoceros horn carvings, sculpture, scholar's objects and a separate single owner sale of snuff bottles, The Meriem Collection of Important Chinese Snuff Bottles (separate release available).

**A Selection of Jades from Various Private Collections**

Following the very successful sale *Important Jades from the Personal Collection of Alan and Simone Hartman, Part I*, in Hong Kong last November, Christie's New York offers a select group of jades from various private collections. The cover lot of the catalogue and a highlight of this group is a superb 18<sup>th</sup> century white jade marriage bowl (estimate: \$180,000-220,000). The interior is carved in relief with a leafy vine bearing two melons below a pair of butterfly-shaped handles with pierced spread wings from which hang large white jade rings. The decoration, symbolizing blessings and happiness and implying wishes for endless generations of sons and grandsons, would have made this bowl an especially auspicious wedding gift. From the same collection is a fantastically and cleverly carved grayish-green and brown jade figure of a recumbent water buffalo, Ming dynasty (1368-1644) (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Carved to retain the irregular shape of the large pebble stone, this exceptional jade is a testament to the skilled hand of the craftsman. Also part of this superb collection is a pale greenish-white jade group of two cranes dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, formerly in the renowned collection of T.B. Walker, Minneapolis, Minnesota (estimate: \$60,000-80,000).

Another outstanding highlight within this group is a Qianlong period imperial jade book depicting sixteen Luohan (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), comprising eight rectangular plaques, incised and gilded on either side. Each image is accompanied by an inscription and is framed by Imperial-yellow silk mounts. In the Buddhist tradition, Luohan are enlightened disciples of the Buddha Shakyamuni.

### Sculpture

The highlight of the sale is a rare and finely cast 12<sup>th</sup> century gilt-bronze figure of Acuoye Guanyin, Dali Kingdom, Yunnan Province (estimate: \$400,000-600,000); a tall, slender figure elaborately dressed and bejeweled, and among the finest of the type. The sale also features two other figures of bodhisattvas: the first, a finely carved stone sculpture from the Tang dynasty (618-907) (estimate: \$150,000-180,000) from a Private Asian Collection and the second a dark grey stone figure, also Tang dynasty (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), depicting the bodhisattva in a slightly contrapposto position with the right arm raised and the left arm pendent at the side.



### Monochrome Porcelains from the Estate of John B. Trevor



Among the highlights from this estate is a peachbloom-glazed beehive-form waterpot (*taibai zun*), Kangxi mark and of the period (1662-1722) (estimate: \$20,000-30,000) incised with three dragon roundels and covered in a slightly mottled glaze of soft crushed strawberry color. From the same period and executed in the same subtle color is a peachbloom-glazed brushwasher (*tangle xi*) (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). A rare pair of small pink-enameled bowls, Yongzheng mark and of the period (1723-1735) (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) stands out because of the delicate form and fine and rare pink color. The majority of these porcelains were collected in the 1910s and 1920s by John B. Trevor's aunt, Emily Trevor, and her mother, Emily Norwood Trevor, who both shared a fondness for the elegant and refined imperial monochrome porcelains of the 17th and 18th centuries. Many of these were acquired from Duveen Brothers, the celebrated fine art dealership that sold works to major museums in the United States and Europe and to prominent private collectors.

### Ceramics

In the ceramics section, the sale features a large creamy-white glazed dingyao dish, Northern Song/Jin dynasty (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) with a central design of two large carp swimming in a lotus pond. Decoration of lotus blossoms and leafing branches of fruiting mulberry complement the scene. A remarkable provenance note to this dish is that it was authenticated by Fujio Koyama, one of the most well-known scholars of Ding ware, who assisted with the excavation of these particular kilns in the 1930s. The inner box in which the dish rests

bears an inscription with this authentication. A superb and beautiful highlight of this section, indeed of the entire sale, is a red and blue decorated ‘apple-form’ water pot, Kangxi mark and of the period (1662-1722) (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). This superbly potted vessel is painted in fine lines of underglaze red in a crushed-strawberry tone with lotus, peony, chrysanthemum and rose flowers, and was purchased from the legendary dealer Edward T. Chow in the 1940’s. A pale greenish-blue glazed celadon double-gourd-form vase bearing a Qianlong mark and of the period (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) presents a rare example of this type with a squared lower body and a pear-shaped upper bulb.



### Scholar’s Objects, Including Rhinoceros Horn Carvings and Soapstone Figures



The sale also features a superb group of articles made for the scholar’s desk, many from private collections which have not been on the market for decades. One of the most stunning pieces is the rhinoceros horn libation cup by Rui Zhi, which is dated to the Jia Shen year, corresponding to either 1644 or 1704 (estimate: \$250,000-300,000). Another rhinoceros horn libation cup dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) and shows two scholars in its very finely and sensitively carved details. One figure stands by a river with

hands clasped behind his back as he peers up at lush pine trees, while the second can be seen looking out of a pavilion nestled amidst trees. Among the finest of the soapstone carvings to be offered is a figure of Guanyin seated on a *xiezhai* (a mythical leonine beast), late 17<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Also featured is a very rare and superbly carved bamboo brushpot by the artist Zhang Xihuang, Kangxi period (1662-1722) (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). A very rare bamboo veneered gu-form vase, 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) will also be offered, complementing the strong section of bamboo, wood, lacquer, and works of art in the literati taste.

**Auction:** Fine Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Works of Art      September 19 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Viewing:** Christie’s Galleries at Rockefeller Center      September 14 - 18

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