

For Immediate Release

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JAPANESE AND KOREAN ART AT CHRISTIE'S HIGHLIGHTS THE ANCIENT AND THE MODERN

Japanese and Korean Art September 18, 2007

New York – Asia will be on everybody's mind starting September 18, when Christie's New York will commence its *Asia Week* with the sale of *Japanese and Korean Art*. The finest and most intriguing examples of two grand cultures and societies will be offered and will present an array of Japanese ceramics, paintings, lacquer ware, textiles, arms and armor as well as a group of modern Korean paintings and a selection of Korean works of art from the collection of Robert Moore.

Japanese Art



A superb pair of six-panel screens in ink, color and gold leaf on paper by Maruyama Okyo (1733-1795) will be among the leading works of the sale (estimate: \$300,000-400,000). *Cranes*, as the work is titled, is dated to the seventh month of 1774, and each screen has been sealed *Okyo no in*. The screens have an extensive exhibition history including the Shizuoka Prefectural

Museum of Art, the Staatliche Museen in Berlin and the Tokyo Bijutsu Club. A superb set of twelve hanging scrolls executed in ink, color and gold on silk by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi will also be offered (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). *Tsuki junidai (Twelve aspects of the moon)*, was painted by Yoshitoshi after a set of 100 prints, *One hundred aspects of the moon*, which he had created and of which these twelve images were chosen to be rendered as paintings.

In the ceramics section, one outstanding work is the deep stoneware footed bowl (*Hachi*), Mino ware, *E-Shino* type, Momoyama period (late 16th century) (estimate: \$250,000-300,000). This impressive bowl (11 ¼ in. diameter) was formed with the flat base set on three loop feet. The interior is decorated with water plantains, grasses, scrolling vines and flowers in iron oxide and the entire dish is covered in a creamy glaze.



An impressive section of arms and armor will form part of the sale, including an exquisite private collection assembled over the past four decades and completely fresh to the market, featuring swords and fittings, most of which come with a certificate from the prestigious Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword. One of the highlights of this group is a Yamato Shizu *Katana*



in mounts, Nanbokuchō period (second half 14th century) with certificate (estimate: \$30,000-40,000). Among the spectacular suits of armor two highlights shine. One is a *Do-Maru* suit of armor with a Muromachi period (16th century) helmet and an Edo period (17th/18th century) armor (estimate: \$40,000-50,000). Typically the helmet would be the 'heart' of the outfit and whenever the suit would be too worn, a new version would be made, in a style that would befit the helmet. This explains the later date of the suit of armor of this set. A second suit of armor is a *Ni-Mai Do* suit with Chinese

court-cap *Tokan* helmet, Edo period (early 17th century) (estimate: \$20,000-25,000). This suit of armor reputedly belonged to the Satake family, one of Japan's most illustrious warrior families. The gold-lacquered sun-in-fan and paulownia flower decorations which can be found on the helmet, reflect the heraldic crest of the Satake family.

A lovely set of miniature lacquer furniture for the Girl's Day Festival (*Hina Matsuri*), Edo period (19th century), displaying the same crest motifs of the Satake family will also be presented (estimate: \$15,000-20,000).

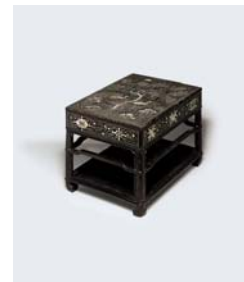
The sale will once again offer a wonderful group of Noh costumes from a Japanese institution and Noh masks including an Edo period *Choken* Noh costume in silk embroidered with a chrysanthemum arabesque design (estimate: \$6,000-8,000) and a Noh mask of Hashihime, Edo period (estimate: \$4,000-5,000), a startling depiction of a spurned woman intent on killing her unfaithful husband, used in the play *Hashihime* (Bridge Princess).

Korean Art



The highlight of the Korean section of the sale is a 16th century painting, *Gathering of Scholars*, with an inscription by Chung Sayong (1497-1572), executed in ink and color on silk (estimate:\$700,000-900,000). Chung was a courtier in the service of four consecutive emperors during the Choson period. Other highlights include works from the collection of Robert Moore, a selection of fine lacquer and ceramics, and two masterworks of abstraction, paintings by Lee Ufan.

Standout pieces from the Moore collection - which is comprised of a screen and a variety of lacquers inlaid with mother of pearl as well as ceramics - include Ideographs (*Munjado*), a rare eight-panel screen, which is composed of eight paintings on paper, executed by an anonymous master in the 19th century (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). Among the many lacquer ware pieces, a black lacquer scholar's box inlaid with mother of pearl, from the Choson period (late 19th century) is of exceptional quality (estimate: \$6,000-8,000).



An excellent group of works by modern Korean masters will attract wide attention. *Untitled (Two Figures)* by Kim Sou (b. 1919), painted in 1961 (estimate: \$50,000-70,000) is among them. Also featured is Kim Whanki's *Untitled*, a gouache and pastel on paper (estimate: \$40,000-50,000).



The sale further features two works by Lee Ufan, a South Korean-born artist who became a student of philosophy in Japan and a famous proponent of the Japanese avant-garde movement of the 1960s Monoha ("school of things"). *With Winds*, a painting from 1987 (estimate: \$600,000-800,000), is part of the *From Winds* and *With Winds* series which the artist undertook in the 1980s. This group of works followed the *From Line* series, which he commenced in 1971. A strong example of this phase in his oeuvre is *From Line*, 1980 (estimate: \$300,000-400,000), the second Ufan work presented in the sale. The *From Line* body of work is among the strongest in Ufan's artistic output and has been described by the artist himself as "a pictorial enactment of the idea of infinity." Lee Ufan had numerous one-man shows over the years, including in Tokyo, Paris, Seoul, and Milano.

Auction: Japanese and Korean Art

September 18 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and
approx. 4 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

September 14 - 17

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