

For Immediate Release

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EXQUISITE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF CHINESE CERAMICS TO BE SOLD AT CHRISTIE'S THIS AUTUMN

Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art

Christie's King Street

8 November 2005

London – Over eighty exquisite Chinese ceramics and bronzes from a European collection forms the nucleus to Christie's sale of *Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art* on 8 November 2005. Formed during the second half of the 20th century, the collection comprises goods examples of Chinese ceramics, dating mainly from the early 18th century, and is notable for being in excellent condition. The majority of the works have not been seen on the market since their acquisition over forty years ago. This sale is timed to coincide with Asian Art in London (3-12 November 2005) when a series of events are planned to take place promoting art from around Asia. China has a major presence in London this autumn: the Royal Academy of Arts main exhibition *China: The Three Emperors, 1662-1795* opens on 12 November and an exhibition about new photography and video from China has opened at the V&A Museum.

One of the highlights from this collection is a spectacular pair of large *famille-rose* octagonal jars with covers surmounted by Buddhist lion finials, Yongzheng period (estimate: £100,000-150,000). Made for the export market, the jars and covers are 90cm high and brightly decorated with exotic birds and blossoming branches. Other key works from the collection include a large punch bowl finely decorated with cockerels running around the outside, again from the Yongzheng period (estimate: £15,000-25,000), together with a number of fine blanc-de-chine figures of devotion, either standing or seated, finely modelled with flowing robes (estimates: up to £25,000). Further highlights include a pair of cloisonné enamel and gilt copper qilin (mythical beasts), bearing Imperial marks indicating that this was made for the Emperor's court, Qianlong period (1736-95) (estimate: £25,000-35,000).

In addition to this collection, the sale will offer a rare, large, blue and white fish bowl from the Longqing period, decorated with powerful five-clawed dragons confronting flaming pearls in cloud scrolls around the curved sides (estimate: £80,000-100,000). Other ceramics of note include a complete set of *famille rose* 'Four Elements' plates - earth, air, fire and water, circa 1742 (estimate: £3,000-5,000 each). Each scene is

taken from a series of mythological paintings by Italian Francesco Albani representing 'The Four Elements' which were commissioned by Cardinal Maurice of Savoy, and now found in the Turin Gallery in Italy.

The sale also features a fine 18th century delicately pierced wood decorative wall panel, applied with jade and cloisonné enamel representing antique vessels, each supported on an elaborate wooden stand (estimate: £8,000-12,000). It is thought that this was originally one of a pair. In addition, there is a rare large celadon model of a shrine (estimate: £60,000-80,000), depicting Guanyin flanked by acolytes, within and below a celestial canopy. A rare late 14th/early 15th century carved lacquer figure of Manjusri, sitting on a lion is also offered for sale (estimate: £60,000-80,000) dating from the Ming dynasty. This devotional figure is of the type that would have been made for a temple. Over 134.5 cm high, this regal figure is in a good state of preservation.

Among the items in the private collection being sold on 10 November 2005 at Christie's King Street in a sale entitled *A View over Eaton Square: A Private Collection of Furniture, Objects, Chinese Works of Art, Silver, Porcelain, Textiles and Pictures* is a quantity of Chinese ceramics and works of art. Included among six pieces of fine white jade from the 18th century are two skilfully carved white jade bowls, one of which is supported on bracket feet of winged mythical beasts and has an incurved rim with bat-formed handles (estimate: £15,000-25,000), while the other is set with *shou* characters and bats above foliate sprays (estimate: £15,000-25,000).

Christie's South Kensington, Friday 11 November 2005, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

The final sale of the November 2005 Asia Week at Christie's London, the South Kensington sale of *Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* on 11 November will offer over 500 pieces of Chinese ceramics, works of art and paintings, ranging from the Ming Dynasty to the 20th century. The sale includes rare Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty porcelain including an Imperial Jiajing blue and white jue, (1522-66); and fine snuff bottles from private collections; estimates range from £1,000 up to £35,000.

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors

Christie's King Street sold the most expensive Asian Work of Art ever in July 2005, when an exceptionally rare and important blue and white jar, Yuan Dynasty, 14th century, realized £15,688,0090 (\$27,679,100).

Sales taking place at Christies during Asian Art in London fortnight (3-12 November 2005):

- Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art – 8 November, King Street
- A View over Eaton Square: A Private Collection of Furniture, Objects, Chinese Works of Art, Silver, Porcelain, Textiles and Pictures – 10 November, King Street
- Chinese Textiles – 11 November, South Kensington
- Japanese Art and Design – 9 November, King Street
- Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art – 11 November, South Kensington