

For Immediate Release

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EXQUISITE AND RARE CHINESE TREASURES AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN NOVEMBER



A pair of magnificent famille rose armorial 'carp' tureens for the Spanish market, Qianlong, 1736-95
Estimate: £200,000-300,000

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art
Christie's King Street
7 November 2006 at 10.30am, viewing 3-6 November

London — Following record breaking Asian Art sales in Hong Kong in May and June, Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of **Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art including Export Art** at King Street, London on 7 November 2006. Spanning the Archaic Bronzes from 1,100 BC to Republican ceramics of the early 20th century, the sale will feature 277 lots with estimates ranging from £500 to in excess of £300,000.

A very rare and important blue and white ewer with Yongzheng sealmark and period (1723-35) which is estimated to fetch in excess of £300,000 leads a superb selection of ceramics. This rare and elegant vessel was thought to have been inspired by Middle Eastern metalwork. In Chinese such ewers

are called *hua jiao*, or flower watering jugs, but the shape suggests that it may also have been used to pour wine. Only three similar examples are known to exist - one is in the Palace Museum, Beijing; another from the Grandidier collection is in the Musée Guimet, Paris and the third, formerly in the collection of E.T. Chow, is now in the Meiyintang Collection.

Also on offer is a pair of magnificent *famille rose* armorial 'carp' tureens for the Spanish market, Qianlong (1736-95) (estimate: £200,000-300,000) which was formerly in the collection of Maria Cristina de Borbaon y de Muguiro, Duquesa de Marchena, a relation of the Spanish royal family. Probably inspired by Chelsea prototypes dating to 1755, these tureens bear the coat-of-arm of the Ochosa de Olza family, who also commissioned soup-tureens in the form of boars'-heads, ox-heads, geese and cockerels. Armorial carp tureens are extremely rare and it appears that only one other pair of this size has been published. The present pair are mounted on original 18th century ormolu mounts, possibly of Spanish origin.

A very rare and small *doucai* vase from the Yongzheng period (1723-35) is one of only three examples which are known (estimate: £100,000-150,000); the first is now in the Percival David Foundation, and the second was formerly in the collection of H. R. N. Norton. The design on this vase was inspired by the grapevine pattern of the Chenghua period (1465-87) and variations can be found on stem cups, wine cups and small dishes. Also included amongst the strong selection of ceramics is a very rare celadon-glazed moulded double gourd vase, Qianlong sealmark and period (estimate: £180,000-220,000).

The wide-ranging selection of fine works of art includes an impressive Imperial ivory and hardwood inlaid standing screen, Qianlong period (1736-75) (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and a group of rhinoceros horn carving including a very rare inscribed 'ear-cup', 17th/18th century (estimate: £100,000-150,000). Elsewhere in the sale is a group of cloisonné enamel pieces, including a pair of impressive tri-lobed vases formerly in the Elveden Hall, Qianlong (1736-95), (estimate: £70,000-90,000) and a group of Buddhist art objects, including two 15th century gilt-bronze figures of Buddha (both estimated at £60,000-80,000), and a rare Yungang carved stone bust of Buddha as a prince from the Northern Wei period (5th century, estimate: £100,00-150,000).

Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles

Christie's South Kensington

10 November 2006 at 10.30am

This sale features over 300 lots of Chinese Imperial and Export ceramics, jade, cloisonne, paintings and works of art, court dress and textiles (including Japanese textiles), with estimates ranging from £500 to £20,000. Among the highlights included are an Imperial cloisonné disc, Wanli mark and of the period (1573-1619) (estimate: £8,000-12,000); an Imperial green ground incised baluster vase decorated with phoenix and cranes, Jiajing (1522-1566) (estimate: £20,000-£30,000) and a pale celadon jade carving of a celestial horse riding foaming waves, Qianlong (1736-795) (estimate: £15,000-£25,000).

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors

CHRISTIE'S ASIAN ART WEEK SALE DATES;

Christie's King Street:

- Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art Including Export Art, 7 November 2006 at 10.30am & 2pm
- Japanese Art and Design, 8 November 2006 at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Christie's South Kensington

- Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles, 10 November 2006 at 10.30am

Christie's are the world's leading auction house in the field of Asian Art. Sales in 2005 increased by 27% to £186.8 million (\$338.2 million). The most expensive work of art sold in 2005 also became the most expensive work of Asian art ever sold when an exceptionally rare and important blue and white jar, Yuan Dynasty, 14th century, realized £15,688,0090 (\$27,679,100) in London in July 2005. The most recent sales at Christie's Hong Kong in May 2006 achieved the highest total ever in this sale category realizing £23,198,826 (US\$43,083,534/HK\$331,411,800).

Christie's Education

New Master's Programme: The Arts of China 1700 BC – AD 1799

From September 2007, Christie's Education will offer a new full-time Master's qualification dedicated exclusively to Chinese art and culture. The new degree is designed for post-graduate students who wish to gain a thorough knowledge of Chinese art and culture. No prior knowledge of the culture and language of China is required.

Christie's Education M. Litt Programmes, accredited by the University of Glasgow, have an international reputation for their innovative approaches to study and the professional success of their alumni.

For further details, please contact: Christie's Education on 020 77665 4350 or education@christies.com