

CHRISTIE'S

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Christie's Hong Kong Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art Department Presents

A CONNOISSEUR'S STUDIO - THE CISSY AND ROBERT TANG COLLECTION OF CHINESE CLASSICAL FURNITURE

To be Offered in a Dedicated Live Auction on 30 May



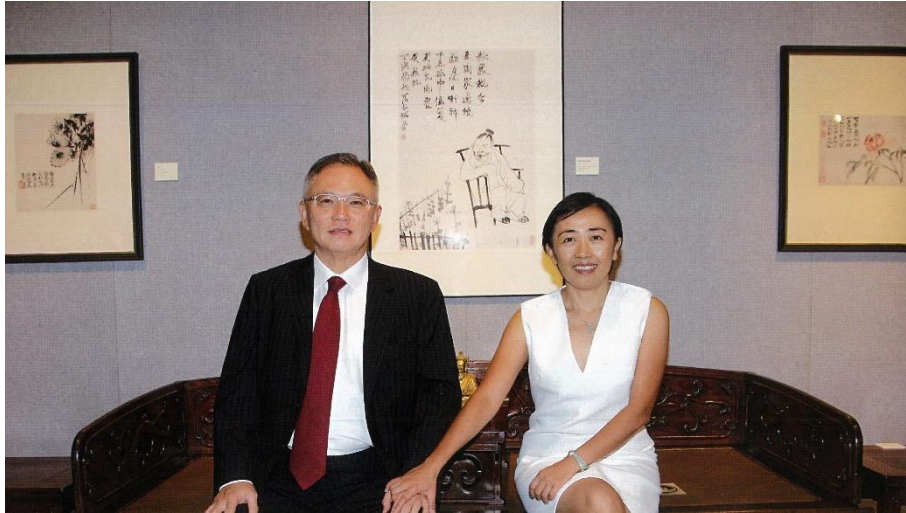
Hong Kong – On 30 May, Christie's will present the live auction "**A Connoisseur's Studio: The Cissy and Robert Tang Collection of Chinese Classical Furniture**" at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, featuring a diverse selection of rare and exquisite *huanghuali* furniture and scholarly objects, thoughtfully assembled 30 years ago by the Justice Robert Tang.

"As a collector, I have purchased pieces I found attractive, that appealed to me... Every piece of furniture had to fit into my home and have a function."

– Mr. Tang

Encompassing a diverse array of forms and functions, this elegant collection features distinguished Chinese furniture, including armchairs, bookcases, screens, cabinets, tables and stools, as well as refined scholarly objects. Each item resonates with Tang's insightful eye and a curatorial philosophy steeped in intellectual curiosity. In these cherished pieces, one senses a profound respect for artistry and a heartfelt reverence for the past, bearing witness to the refined taste and passion of a discerning collector.

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Robert and Cissy Tang

Many of the pieces in the collection were acquired from esteemed dealers and cherished lifelong friends, including Robert Ellsworth, Cola Ma, and Ho Cheung. Their trusted relationships and expertise guided Tang in the 1980's and 1990's when there was a steady influx of *huanghuali* furniture into Hong Kong. As a seasoned collector in various fields, Tang appreciated the exquisite artistry and craftsmanship, and selected the finest examples available at the time.

Marco Almeida, Head of Department, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, shared his personal admiration for the collection, saying, "*Having witnessed Tang's passion and connoisseurship first-hand, the diversity and beauty of the huanghuali furniture in this collection is outstanding. The dedicated Chinese furniture sale of Tang's collection not only celebrates his discerning taste and devotion to collecting, but also further underlines the strong desirability for this category, as witnessed at Christie's New York Asian Art Week in March 2023, and at our Hong Kong sales last Autumn in 2022. This Spring, we sincerely invite Chinese furniture enthusiasts and collectors from around the globe to join our previews and auction in Hong Kong, to discover and appreciate the intricate craftsmanship and timeless beauty of this classical furniture collection.*"



**A PAIR OF EXTREMELY RARE
HUANGHUALI BOOKSHELVES, JIAGE**
17TH CENTURY
68½ in. (173.9cm.) high
Estimate: HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000 /
US\$1,100,000 – 1,500,000

This remarkable pair of *huanghuali* bookcases, once separated, were reunited through the efforts of Justice Tang. The first bookcase was acquired directly from Cola Ma, while the other was acquired from *The Dr. Yip Collection Of Important Chinese Furniture* auction at Christie's in 2002. The reunion of these exceptional pieces speaks to the dedication and passion of a true collector.

The pair of bookcases showcase exquisite proportions, their vertical and horizontal lines enhanced by the restrained ornamentation found on the gallery of the second shelf, adorned with delicately carved open panels.

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These extraordinary *huanghuali* yoke-back armchairs feature exquisite carvings to the pierced panels on the backrests – one depicting a *qilin*, while the other portrays a pair of mystical beasts.

The chair's elegant lines are further accentuated beneath the seat with mid-relief carved aprons of confronting dragons.

These exceptional pieces were acquired from dealer Robert Ellsworth, and exhibited at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. in 1991 and again in several Min Chiu exhibitions in Hong Kong.



**A PAIR OF IMPORTANT AND
EXTREMELY RARE CARVED
HUANGHUALI YOKE-BACK ARMCHAIRS,
SICHUTOUGUANMAOYI
17TH CENTURY**

47 in. (119.5 cm.) high
Estimate: HK\$8,000,000 – 12,000,000 /
US\$1,100,000 – 1,500,000

Other highlights include:



**A HUANGHUALI SQUARE-CORNER RECTANGULAR CABINET
AND STAND
18TH CENTURY**

71 in. (180.5 cm.) high overall
Estimate: HK\$1,500,000 – 2,500,000 /
US\$200,000 – 320,000



**A VERY RARE HUANGHUALI DEMI-LUNE TABLE, YUEYAZHUO
17TH - 18TH CENTURY**

34 1/4 in. (87.6 cm.) high
Estimate: HK\$1,800,000 – 2,500,000 /
US\$240,000 -320,000

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**A HUANGHUALI HIGH-WAISTED SIDE TABLE
WITH 'GIANT'S ARM' BRACES**
17TH CENTURY
31 1/4 in. (79.5 cm.) high
Estimate: HK\$1,200,000 – 1,800,000 /
US\$160,000-230,000



A PAIR OF HUANGHUALI RECTANGULAR STOOLS
LATE 16TH / EARLY 17TH CENTURY
20 1/4 in. (51.5 cm.) high
Estimate: HK\$1,200,000 – 1,800,000 /
US\$160,000-230,000

NOTES TO EDITORS

Previews:

Hong Kong | 3 – 6 Apr | 22/F, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Central

Hong Kong | 25 – 29 May | Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

Live Auction:

Hong Kong | 30 May | Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No.1 Harbour Road, Wanchai

Image Download Link: please click [here](#)

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- Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019). Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's Everydays](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.
- Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.
- Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: www.christies.com or by downloading Christie's apps.

** Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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Images available on request

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