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PRESS RELEASE | HONG KONG | 11 November 2015

THE TRANSCENDENCE OF BUDDHA

An Exquisite Journey of Pan-Asian Buddhist Art



Hong Kong – Christie's today announces an unprecedented Pan-Asian Buddhist art sale of carefully selected pieces of exceptional museum quality to take place on 2 December 2015 as part of Christie's Hong Kong Autumn 2015 Auction Week.

The meticulously curated **Masterpieces of Buddhist Art** sale reflects the momentous journey Buddhism took from the 5th Century BC as it proliferated across the region, showcasing enlightened pieces of Buddhist art and sculptures from Nepal, Tibet, China and Japan. The sale charts the significant way Buddhism touched each culture, as an important theme uniting artworks across Asia.

Chi Fan Tsang, Specialist Head of Department, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, commented: *'Never has such a diverse and unique showcase of pan-Asian Buddhist works been offered in a single auction, affording a privileged vantage viewpoint into the philosophical and artist evolution of Buddhist works of art. The 14 timeless works resonate the heritage and individual sense of spirituality from each culture as they embraced Buddhism with unique interpretations.'*



AN IMPORTANT AND EXCEEDINGLY RARE WOOD FIGURE OF GUANYIN

CHINA, SONG DYNASTY (AD 960-1279)

Estimate upon request

The standout masterwork from the sale is a momentous seated Guanyin in wood from the Northern Song dynasty (Illustrated left and on title page). The figure possibly from the Northern region of Shanxi is both an artistic feat as well as a powerful religious image with its exceptionally fine workmanship and commanding presence. The figure is larger than life-size and provides a special dynamic between object and viewer, reverberating with an arresting and contemplative calmness.

The Guanyin was published in in 1930 and was previously in the collection of the Chinese dealer Paul Houo-ming-tze (b. 1879), who was one of the earliest Chinese dealers in Chinese Art, and played a significant role of introducing Chinese Buddhist sculptures to Europe.

The exquisite Tibetan eleven-headed Avalokiteshvara in silver and copper-inlaid bronze from the 15th century (Illustrated right) will also be offered for sale. The eleven faces arranged in tiers, portray a myriad of striking expressions, some peaceful others wrathful, while the silver-inlaid eyes and teeth and copper-inlaid lips create an aura of intriguing beauty. The multi-armed deity stands in a graceful posture with hips swayed and is clad in an ankle-length dhoti with cascading folds and adorned with various jewelry.

The work is also very well documented, having been exhibited in The Smithsonian Institution Washington D.C, The Royal Academy of Arts London and The Art Institute of Chicago to name a few.



AN EXCEPTIONALLY RARE AND LARGE SILVER- AND COPPER-INLAID BRONZE FIGURE OF ELEVEN-HEADED

AVALOKITESHVARA
TIBET, 15TH CENTURY

47 1/4 in. (120 cm.) high

HK\$24,000,000-38,000,000

US\$3,200,000- 4,900,000



AN IMPORTANT GILT-BRONZE FIGURE OF

BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI

NEPAL, EARLY MALLA PERIOD, 13TH CENTURY

Estimate upon request

A further highlight of the sale is the gilt bronze figure of Buddha Shakyamuni from Nepal from the early Malla period (13th century), which was previously on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1985 to 1992. The Buddha stands in slight tribhanga with his right hand lowered in varadamudra and the left holding the folds of his robes. Each hand has delicately articulated fingers with a chakra incised on the palm. The face is exquisitely modelled with full lips, aquiline nose and elongated eyes with incised pupils beneath finely wrought eyebrows, centred by a spiral urna. As a unique variation on one of the most important images in Buddhism, the large scale, beautiful casting and exquisite finishing exemplifies the finest tradition of renowned Nepalese craftsmanship.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

MASTERPIECES OF BUDDHIST ART

Auction: 2 December 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai

VIEWINGS:

Friday 27 November 10.30 am - 6.00 pm
Saturday 28 November 10.30 am - 6.00 pm
Sunday 29 November 10.30 am - 6.30 pm
Monday 30 November 10.30 am - 6.30 pm
Tuesday 1 December 10.30 am - 6.30 pm

Image download:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/92h01ky1rig6yz0/AAC1Vf3RpWlcyzOqWxLj_ILTa?dl=0

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2015 that totalled £2.9 billion / \$4.5 billion. In 2014, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totalled £5.1 billion/\$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Christie's has a global presence with 54 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, third-party financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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