

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | JANUARY 22, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS

AN ERA OF INSPIRATION: 17TH-CENTURY PORCELAINS FROM THE COLLECTION OF JULIA AND JOHN CURTIS

Sale Date: Monday, 16 March 2015



A Superb Large Blue And White Brush Pot
Chongzhen Period, circa 1640
8 in. (20.3 cm.) high
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



A Rare Incised Lavender-Blue-Glazed Jar And Cover
Shunzhi Period, circa 1650
14 1/2 in. (36.8 cm.) high
Estimate: \$50,000-70,000



A Rare Large Blue And White Vase
Early Kangxi Period, circa 1680
16 in. (40.6 cm.) high
Estimate: \$25,000-35,000

New York – As a highlight of New York Asia Week, March 2015, Christie's is pleased to present an important private collection of superb Chinese porcelain. ***An Era of Inspiration: 17th-Century Porcelains from the Collection of Julia and John Curtis*** will feature 95 lots, each vividly showcasing the talent and creativity of the 17th-century porcelain artisans. A one-day symposium will also take place during the sale preview. (For more detail on the symposium and exhibition dates, please see page 2.)

Combining superb quality and sophisticated connoisseurship, the Curtis Collection of 17th-century Chinese porcelains provides a unique window into the exciting period of porcelain production in China between the fall of the Ming dynasty and the onset of the Qing dynasty. Freed from the confines of imperial restrictions, artisans at Jingdezhen looked to literary sources and printed illustrations that appealed to literati taste and highlighted popular narratives from the past. The period witnessed a closer relationship between works on paper and silk and painting on porcelain, vividly illustrating the skills of porcelain painters who were true artists in their own right. This brief period of unprecedented artistic license resulted in works of unsurpassed creativity and innovation. The exhibition, symposium and sale of this carefully assembled and meticulously researched collection will provide collectors and scholars the unique opportunity to engage with the brilliantly decorated porcelains produced in this short period of time.

Julia and John Curtis have assembled this important collection over a period of over thirty-five years. Drawn to each piece first for its beauty as a work of art, the Curtises would then consider its place in the overall scheme of the collection.

A well-known scholar on the subject, Dr. Julia Curtis has published extensively on Chinese porcelain production in the 17th century. She has also curated numerous exhibitions, including two for the China Institute, the first on Chinese porcelains for the domestic market produced between 1620 and the 1690s and the second on wares made in Jingdezhen for the Japanese market between c. 1620 and 1645. Dr. Curtis was also the co-curator with Sir Michael Butler and Stephen Little of the seminal exhibition and publication *Shunzhi Porcelain: Treasures from an Unknown Reign, 1644-1661*. She served on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Board of Trustees for ten years and has been the North American representative of the Oriental Ceramic Society, London, since 1988.

Mr. Curtis has served as a trustee of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts or the VMFA Foundation since 1982. He was President of the Board of Trustees 1988-1992 and Chairman of the Foundation 1998-2004. He was trustee of China Institute in America 1992-2009, and trustee of the Freer-Sackler Galleries 2006-2010. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Visiting Committee of the Department of Asian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Sale	Mon, 16 March 2015	10am
Exhibition	Wed-Sat, 11-14 March 2015	10am-8pm
	Sun, 15 March 2015	10am-5pm
Symposium	Sat, 14 March 2015	10am-4:30pm

10 – 11am

Shawn Eichman, Curator of Asian Art, Honolulu Museum of Art

Daoist Subjects in Ming Ceramics

11:15am – 12:15pm

Elizabeth Hammer, Vice President, Senior Specialist, Head of Sale Chinese Paintings, Christie's New York

Trends and Developments in Depicting Landscapes in Seventeenth-Century China

Break

2 – 3pm

Julia K. Murray, Professor Emerita of Art History, East Asian Studies and Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Associate in Research, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University

The Lure of the Visual: Seventeenth-Century Chinese Illustrated Books and Their Audiences

3:15-4:15pm

Rosemary Scott, Christie's International Academic Director, Asian Art

Seventeenth-Century Porcelain: Incentive and Inspiration

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year 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. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 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, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

