

CHRISTIE'S

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THE MARIE THERESA L. VIRATA COLLECTION

OF ASIAN ART: A FAMILY LEGACY

家族遺珍：瑪麗·泰瑞莎·L·維勒泰亞洲藝術珍藏

OVER 80 LOTS OF EXCEPTIONAL ASIAN ART ACQUIRED OVER THE
LAST 50 YEARS

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS OF CLASSICAL
CHINESE FURNITURE EVER TO BE OFFERED AT AUCTION

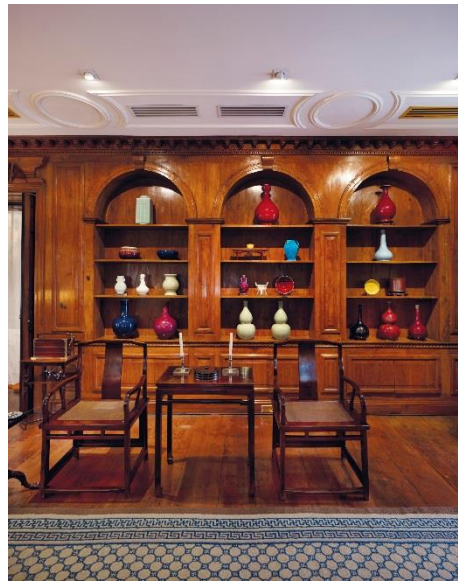
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

MARCH 16, 2017



Video: 'A benchmark of quality and refinement' — the Virata Collection

New York – Christie's presents ***The Marie Theresa L. Virata Collection of Asian Art: A Family Legacy***, which will be offered on March 16, 2017 during Christie's Asian Art Week. This collection of over 80 works is one of the most significant private collections of classical Chinese furniture, and also includes an exceptional range of ceramics, Japanese screens, Chinese carpets, and works of art with estimates from \$200 to \$2,000,000. Proceeds from this auction will be donated to charitable organizations including [Child Protection Network](#), [ICanServeFoundation, Inc.](#), and [Cribs Foundation, Inc.](#)



LEFT: Yellow-Glazed Cup, Yongzheng Six-Character Mark In Underglaze Blue Within And Double Circle And Of The Period (1723-1735) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000); CENTER: Interior of Virata's Study; RIGHT: A *Flambé*-Glazed Vase, Qianlong Six-Character Incised Seal Mark And Of The Period (1736-1795) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000)

Over the course of the last fifty years, the Virata family has assembled one of the most significant collections of Asian art in the Philippines. For Marie Theresa L. Virata, also known as 'Bebe', collecting was rooted in her interest in archaeology and her desire to connect to the past as well as her interest in history and culture. In 1966 she sponsored a school at the site of one of the most important excavations in Philippine history. Her interest in early export Chinese ceramics led to a friendship with Sir John Addis, the British ambassador to the Philippines at the time, a keen collector of Chinese furniture.



The legendary dealer and collector Robert Hatfield Ellsworth was a close friend and also a major influence in the shaping of Bebe's collection. His striking New York apartment on Fifth Avenue was an inspiration for her interiors, in which Chinese furniture and objects complemented Japanese screens, Asian and European decorative arts and paintings.

The Virata family focused on works with distinguished provenance, superior condition and esteemed publication history. Many of the furniture pieces have appeared in major international exhibitions of Asian art, and previously belonged to important collectors and scholars in the field. Highlights include a pair of very rare 17th century *huanghuali* 'southern official's hat' armchairs (estimate: \$600,000- 800,000), which come from the collection of Gustave Ecke, and appears in the groundbreaking 1944 book *Chinese Domestic Furniture*, as does a *huanghuali* lamp stand (estimate: \$120,000-180,000), formerly of the famed Pan-Asian collection; a very rare *huanghuali* kang table dating the Wanli period (1572-1620) (estimate: \$500,000-700,000); a rare pair of *zitan* 'official's hat' armchairs, *sichtuguanmaoyi* (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000); and an important *zitan luohan* bed, *luohanchuang*, 18th century (estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000).



An Important *Zitan Luohan* Bed, *Luohanchuang*, 18th Century (estimate: \$2,000,000-3,000,000)

Additional highlights demonstrating the range of objects on offer in this sale include *Sunrise Over Water*, a hanging scroll by Qi Baishi (1864-1957) (estimate: \$500,000-700,000); a *Flambé-Glazed Vase*, Qianlong mark and of the period (1736-1795) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000); a 'Goloubew' Five-Medallion daybed cover carpet, Ningxia, North China, Kangxi Period (1662-1722) (estimate: \$20,000-30,000); and an Imperial Yellow-Glazed Cup, Yongzheng Mark and of the period (1723-1735) (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).



The 'Ecke Chairs', A Very Rare Pair of *Huanghuali* 'Southern Official's Hat' Armchairs, 17th Century (estimate: \$600,000-800,000)

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2016 that totalled £4 billion / \$5.4 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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 in 46 countries, with 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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