

# CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9 MAY 2017

## A RARE & IMPORTANT PAIR OF CHINESE VASES SELL FOR £14,725,000 / \$19,054,150 / HK\$147,588,675 AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON



A magnificent pair of *famille rose* 'butterfly' double-gourd vases  
Qianlong six-character seal marks in underglaze blue and of the period (1736-1795)  
Estimate on request  
**Price Realised: £14,725,000/\$19,054,150/HK\$147,588,675**

**London** – A magnificent pair of *famille rose* 'butterfly' double-gourd vases has sold for £14,725,000 / \$19,054,150 / HK\$147,588,675 at Christie's London. This is the very first time that a pair of these Qianlong vases has been offered; only four other single vases of this type have been sold at auction to date. This important pair of 18<sup>th</sup>-century vases were made for the court of the Qianlong Emperor and his reign mark is painted on the bases. The vases are elaborately decorated with butterflies amidst flowers, which carry a wealth of auspicious messages. For example, the camellias have five deep red petals, a colour associated with joy and protection.

Rosemary Scott, Chinese ceramics specialist and International Academic Director at Christie's, discusses the vases in a video on the Christie's website [here](#).

Christie's [Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art](#) sale realised a total of **£19,456,750 / \$25,177,035 / HK\$195,015,005**. Further highlights of the auction included a large Qing dynasty *huanghuali* display cabinet, which realised £1,805,000; a pair of Qianlong period *famille rose* elephants, which achieved £281,000, and *An Autumn Day* by Huang Binhong (1865-1955), which sold for £197,000. View the full results [here](#).

**Pedram Rasti, Director and Head of Chinese Works of Art Department, Christie's London, commented:**  
*"This beautiful pair of Qianlong vases have caused great excitement, attracting the attention of key collectors internationally, both when touring to Christie's New York and Hong Kong and on display at Christie's King Street saleroom in London. My colleague Jeremy Morgan knew that they were very special when he saw them for the first time; the only pair of their type to have come to auction, the vases are exquisite works of art and deserve to have achieved such an exceptional price. This result builds on Christie's outstanding Asian Art Week series in New York this March and we look forward to the sale on 12 May at Christie's South Kensington."*

**The Christie's South Kensington sale of Chinese Ceramics, Works of Art and Textiles will be held on  
Friday 12 May**