

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG PRESENTS AN INAUGURAL AUCTION OF MASTERPIECES FROM THE MEIJI ERA



AN IMPORTANT IRON ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF A DRAGON
Meiji-Taisho period (early 20th century), signed Muneyoshi (Tanaka Tadayoshi; ?-1958)
118 1/8 in. (300 cm.) long
Estimate: HKD 6,500,000-9,500,000

Hong Kong – Marking the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, Christie's is honoured to present an inaugural sale of 41 exquisite works of art from the Meiji era entitled "**The Meiji Aesthetics: Selected Masterpieces from a Private Asian Collection**", to take place on 27 November.

This remarkable collection comprises of almost 30 extremely rare *Jizai* sculptures and a dozen important fine metal artworks. Offering collectors a glimpse into the unique and timeless beauty of the Meiji era are the highlights – **An Important Iron Articulated Sculpture of a Dragon by Tanaka Tadayoshi** (Estimate: HKD 6,500,000-9,500,000) which is believed to be the largest articulated dragon in the world, and **an Iron Articulated Sculpture of an Eagle by Ito Shinjiro** (Estimate: HKD5,500,000-7,000,000).

Takaaki Murakami, Head of Sale, commented, "We are thrilled to present the first ever dedicated sale of Meiji works of art in Asia, with 41 superbly crafted artworks selected for our global collectors. Complimenting the array of Chinese Works of Arts this season, these aesthetically intriguing and technically groundbreaking works represent one of the first areas of Asian art that was understood by the Western world and reveal the relevance across Asia of this art form".

As a highly specialized art form in Japan, '*Jizai*' is defined as articulated and movable three-dimensional works in animal forms made of finely hammered metal. Invented by the armorers turned sculptors and metalsmiths in the late 19th century, *Jizai* transformed hundreds of years of craftsmanship in arms and armor making to a new discipline that has fascinated local and international collectors for more than a century.

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Today, such works are housed in the collections of the world's most prominent museums such as the British Museum and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The twelve fine metal wares on offer are equally significant, with the artists responsible for their creation such as Yamada Sobi (1871-1916), Unno Minjo (1873-1910), Yotsuya Masami (1876-1941) and Oshima John (1858-1940) achieving international recognition in numerous World Expositions, helping to spark the early fascination of Asian art forms in the West.

JIZAI HIGHLIGHTS



AN IRON ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF A LONG SNAKE

Early 20th century, signed Muneyoshi (Tanaka Tadayoshi)

81.7/8 in. (208 cm.) long

Estimate: HK\$1,600,000-2,400,000



AN IMPORTANT IRON ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF AN EAGLE ON STAND

Meiji period (circa 1894), signed Shinjiro (Itao Shinjiro; 1842-1911)

19 3/8 in. (49.2 cm.) long without stand

Estimate: HKD5,500,000-7,000,000



AN IRON ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF A MYTHICAL BEAST (SHACHI)

Edo period (18th-19th century)

20 1/2 in. (52.1 cm.) long

Estimate: HKD 2,800,000-4,000,000

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AN IRON ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF A LARGE CARP

Meiji period (late 19th century),
signed Munekazu (Tomiki Isuke I; 1835-1894)
Estimate: HK\$800,000-1,200,000 HKD



A SILVER ARTICULATED SCULPTURE OF A CICADA

Meiji-Taisho period (early 20th century)
2.1/2 in. (6.4 cm.) long
Estimate: HK\$65,000-100,000

NOTES TO EDITORS

DATE: 27 NOVEMBER 2018

LOCATION: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, HK

PRESS CONTACT: Lee Bingle | +852 2978 9966| lbingle@christies.com

IMAGE DOWNLOAD [LINK](#)

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**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 and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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