

CHRISTIE'S

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Christie's Spring Asian Art Auctions in London

*Led by a Magnificent Imperial 'Nine Dragon' Lacquer Throne
and Important Chinese Jades from the Dizang Studio*

14 May 2019



London – Christie's Spring Asian Art auctions in London will showcase exceptional works of art including exquisite ceramics, rare jade carvings, Buddhist art, important Yixing pottery, fine snuff bottles, textiles and paintings from celebrated modern Chinese artists. The season will comprise three sales; *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art*, alongside *Dragon Throne For The Son of Heaven* and *Important Chinese Jades from the Dizang Studio*, each taking place on 14 May. The works will be on view and open to the public from 10 to 13 May.

Leading the season will be a magnificent Imperial 'Nine Dragon' Lacquer Throne (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000, *illustrated page one centre*) offered in a dedicated sale *Dragon Throne For The Son of Heaven*. This impressive rare throne, dated to the Qianlong period (1736-1795) is decorated with nine five-clawed dragons amongst clouds. The dragon is one of the four celestial animals and was also adopted as the symbol of imperial power. The link between dragons and Chinese emperors can be traced back to early China, including the legendary first emperor, known as the Yellow Emperor (Huangdi) from

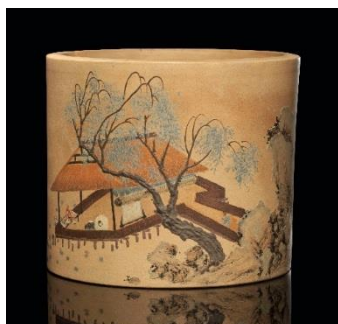
2697–2597 BC. Among the myths associated with the Yellow Emperor it is stated that on his death he was transformed into a dragon and ascended to Heaven.



Important Chinese Jades from the Dizang Studio will present fifty-five outstanding examples of fine jade carvings from the collection of Mr. Cheng Jiuan-min. These superb jades include a wide range of designs, which each capture the natural beauty of the nephrite stone and demonstrate the impressive carving skills of the lapidary. Born into a family of jade collectors, Mr. Cheng developed an appreciation for jade carving, and his collection has been exhibited and admired at a number of prestigious institutions. Highlights of the collection include a delicately carved white jade figure of Guanyin serenely seated in *dhyanasana* on a fitted spinach-green jade lotus

stand (Qianlong period, 1736-1795, estimate: £35,000-45,000, *illustrated left*) and a finely carved white jade dragon (17th century or earlier, estimate: £30,000-50,000, *illustrated page one right*).

The *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* sale will be led by a magnificently carved Ding 'Fish' Basin (Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127, estimate £800,000-1,200,000, *illustrated right*). This superb Ding ware basin is impressive in size and a testament to the skill and ambition of those who made it. Such large vessels are rare amongst Ding wares, and posed a particular challenge to the potters and kiln masters since warping and cracking during firing would have been significant risks. Given these challenges, the creation of a vessel would have been a costly undertaking and one which would almost certainly have been prompted by a specific important commission. Further highlights include an early gilt-bronze seated figure of Bodhisattva (estimate: £300,000-500,000, *illustrated page one left*), one of the few gilt bronze representations of the Water Moon Guanyin from the early Ming period and a rare and finely-



Painted Yixing Brush Pot (Qianlong period, 1736-1795, estimate: £300,000-500,000, *illustrated left*). Illustrating a scholar in a lakeside pavilion, surrounded by water and blooming lotuses, the brush pot bears the seal of Yang Jichu, one of the most famous artists active during the Yongzheng and Qianlong reigns of the 18th century, who was particularly admired for his fine painting in slip on Yixing wares.

Please click [here](#) to browse the auctions.

Christie's Feature: [5 minutes with... An extremely rare 'Nine Dragon' lacquer throne](#)

Christie's Feature: [5 minutes with... A finely carved white jade figure of Guanyin](#)

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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.*