

# A Monumental Chinese Seated Bodhisattva Statue on a Wood Table.

A masterful example of Chinese religious art, the Buddhist statue on offer at Michaan's Auctions features fine details and the sublime rendering of an important religious figure. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer A

**Monumental Chinese Carved and Lacquered Seated Bodhisattva Statue on a Wood Table (\$2/3,000)** for sale in our July Gallery Auction, held on Friday, July 19th.

This lot includes a Buddhist Statue on a wood table, featuring a wooden seated figure of the Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion and Mercy, gilded with gold and brown enamels. The figure is presented in a seated position, holding a large wisdom pearl in

the left hand, symbolizing her virtues, while the right-hand forms a Mudra gesture, symbolizing generosity, morality, patience, effort, and meditative concentration. Additionally, there is a wooden carved and gilded

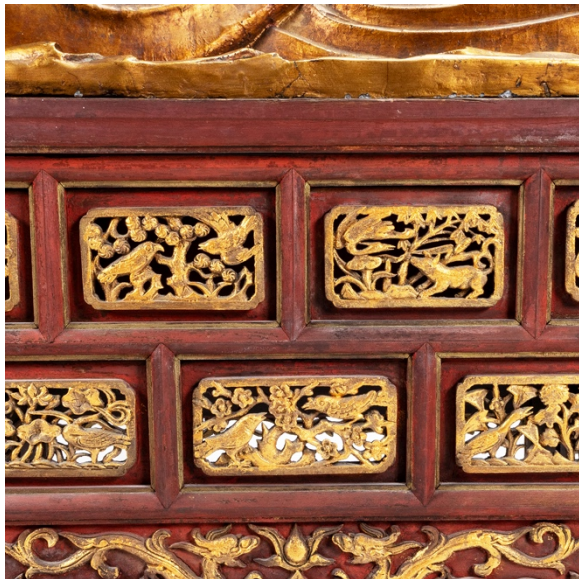


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table, bringing the combined height to sixty-five inches. The front facade of the table features five rectangular panels of openwork depicting animals and plants, and two square panels with the Chinese characters 'Fu' (luck) and 'Shou' (longevity) in openwork. The other three sides of the table are adorned with woodcarvings of flowers and birds, and the four legs of the table are decorated with gilded dragon carvings.



The Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion and Mercy is a popular object of devotion in Buddhist religions, fulfilling a similar role to the Virgin

Mary or other saints in the Catholic faith. In South Asian languages, this figure is typically known by their Sanskrit name Avalokitesvara, while in China they are referred to as Guanyin. Guanyin is a genderless deity who is the savior of the common people and representative of unconditional love. Their ability to change genders reflects their divine nature and was commonly used as evidence that nirvana can be reached by anyone. Their popularity since the Song dynasty across the country has resulted in their adaptation by a number of other Chinese religions including Chinese folk religion, Confucianism, and Taoism, not least because of their similarity to Hariti, another goddess who is associated with the protection of women and children.

Buddhism originated in the Ganges Valley in northeastern India between the sixth and fourth centuries

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BCE. It quickly spread throughout the Indian subcontinent, and north to Tibet but did not reach China until around 1 CE. The religion faced early difficulties in the area, where it was heavily criticized by Confucian elites within the ruling Han dynasty while common people often being confused it for Taoism or simply combined the beliefs, leaving the religion without a stable identity. However after the successful translation and publication of important religious texts throughout the second and third century CE, the religion became better organized, and by the 460s it was a mainstream institution in the country. The Tang (618-907 CE) and Song (960-1279) dynasties were major proponents of Buddhism, supporting the religion within China and helping missionaries reach Korea and Japan. The Yuan (1271-1368) dynasty was Mongol-led and thus followed Tibetan



Buddhism, however, the influence of this sect fell out of favor with the return of the Han to power in the Ming (1368-1644) dynasty, which emphasized an eclectic mix of Chinese-Buddhist traditions. The Tibetan sect returned to power with the final imperial dynasty, the Qing (1644-1911), only to be suppressed by the early Chinese Communist Party. However, since the 1970s traditional Chinese Buddhism has been authorized and has continued to grow in popularity.

### **A Monumental Chinese Carved and Lacquered Seated**

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**Bodhisattva Statue on a Wood**

**Table** (\$2/3,000) will be offered in Michaan's Auctions July Gallery Auction on Friday, July 19th. This sale features interesting and important pieces from the Furniture & Decorations Department, works from important artists brought to you by the Fine Art Department, and a collection of well-regarded pieces from the Jewelry Department. The auction is led by a pair of candelabras in the Rococo style by

French sculptor Claude Michel, a portfolio of woodcuts by the preeminent Surrealist Salvador Dali, and an impressive Rolex watch in black and gold.

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