
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

Press Office Contact!
Talesa Eugenio
(510) 740-0220 x 116

Auction:
Fine Asian Works of Art
December 18, 10am

Previews:
December 3, 4, 9, 10, 17, 18 and by appointment

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Exemplary Treasures From Esteemed Collections Await Bidders at Michaan's Fine Asian Works of Art Auction

When rare materials meet master craftsmen, the results are worthy of inclusion in Michaan's Fine Asian Works of Art auction, to be held Sunday, December 18. The works range in scale from very tiny to quite imposing: each one unique, yet all exhibiting the high quality that Michaan's Fine Asian sales are well known for. "This is our final auction of 2016," notes specialist Harry Huang, "and we will conclude the year with an event presenting exceptional opportunities for collectors."

One notable example is the huanghuali altar coffer. The lustrous huanghuali hardwood is not confined to the outside of the piece, but extends to every part of its interior, even to the backs of the drawers. This piece will appeal to the collector who seeks quality at a deeper level, yet its surface beauty is also unmistakable: the expertly joined huanghuali planks exhibit many easily detected "ghost faces," each one adding to its value. The altar coffer has been well preserved, retaining excellent structural integrity, and is expected to sell for \$60,000-\$80,000. It is one of a number of furniture pieces in this auction from a fine private collection, amassed by the original owner in China, primarily during the 1940s.

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

"Peachbloom" is a particular copper red porcelain underglaze that gives a lovely impression of ripening fruit. Copper red underglazes are harder to perfect than colors such as blue, so are less often seen. Chinese artisans' use of this technique during the reign of the Kangxi emperor (1662-1722) appears confined to a rather short timespan, which adds to its rarity and value. On December 18, Michaan's is privileged to offer an exemplary Peachbloom Guanyin vase from the collection of Dr. William J. and Pamela W. Morris of Tiburon, CA. The elegant, slender vase (\$3,000-\$5,000) bears the six-character Kangxi mark on its base, and is of the period. Dr. Morris developed a passion for Asian art during military service and medical missions in Japan and China. He was reportedly among the first foreigners to view the famous Terracotta Warriors of X'ian, unearthed in 1974, and was a docent at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco for many years. Additional lots from the Morris Collection include carved jade animals, agate and jadeite snuff bottles, and "Chrysanthemums," attributed to Yun Shouping (1633-1690).

Another important piece with excellent provenance is a spectacular silk Daoist Priest's robe of a type found in many museum collections around the world. Lavishly embroidered with symbolic motifs and auspicious emblems including stars and constellations, birds, pagodas, and mythical beasts, the Daoist robe mirrored the cosmos onto the figure of the priest. Estimated at \$10,000-\$15,000, this 19th-century exemplar of the genre comes from the collection of Selma Nelson Scott, an American who acquired many antiques in the 1920s and 1930s, while living in Beijing and on the Bund in Shanghai's chic International Settlement. Also from the Selma Nelson Scott Collection are a Chinese export silver presentation vase, a pair of flambé glazed vases, and two Qing Dynasty embroidered textile fragments.

The December 18 sale will showcase a fine private collection of Chinese cloisonné amassed primarily in Europe during the 1970s-1980s, its stunning highlight a large covered brazier of colorful cloisonné enamel and gilt bronze. The richly decorated quatrefoil-shaped piece is raised on curved legs accented by golden lion masks, its elaborately fashioned bronze lid topped by a fierce qilin serving as finial (\$15,000-\$20,000). Numerous vases, a charger and two court necklace boxes are also in the sale, as are a tripod censer, a pair of lanterns and an unusual figure of Zhong Kui on a rosewood stand, all of cloisonné enamel from the same excellent collection.

MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Amber in every form attracts many bidders to Michaan's, and in this sale is a highly collectable carved amber pendant representing a mythical beast with a lingzhi fungus (\$2,000-\$3,000). It is butterscotch caramel in color and dates from the 18th or 19th century. Opposite in scale is the stately cast iron jardinière, an imperial artifact of the Qianlong Period, dated by inscription and decorated in a lotus motif (\$3,000-\$5,000). A Fine Asian sale must include a selection of fine jade, and this auction features a superb pendant, comprising tiers of luminous white jade suspended in a graceful display stand (\$3,000-\$5,000).

Buddhist artifacts continue to perform very well at auction, a strong trend bolstered by the ongoing expansion of Buddhism throughout the West. Michaan's is honored to offer a compelling bronze Vajrapani (\$4,000-\$6,000), an image of the ancient Bodhisattva who represents the energy of the enlightened mind and serves as a protector of the Buddha. The figure assumes a powerful stance wielding a vajra, a symbolic thunderbolt-inspired weapon won in battle. Another highlight in bronze is the trio of tsuba (\$1,500-\$2,000). These are decorated in masterful detail, with landscapes, tiny figures and a bird of prey on the hunt incorporated in their sculptural design. There are many more discoveries in store for visitors to the December 18 sale, which is completed by a generous selection of hanging scrolls.