

Chinese Symbolism Infuses Gianguan Auctions' September 12th Sale

NEW YORK, NY , New York August 27, 2015

Gianguan Auctions Fall Asia Week Chinese paintings Kwong Lum antiquities asian antiques Asian art

(ArtfixDaily.com) The splendor of China's heritage is once again the focus of the exceptionally strong collections of classical and modern paintings and dynastic works of art set for auction on September 12 at Gianguan Auctions New York. The symbolism that underlies every facet of Chinese culture and Buddhist art is front and center. The elevation of scholarship is apparent in the craftsmanship displayed in items as varied as classical and modern paintings, carved jades, antique ceramics, and jewelry and teapots.

A collection of multi-million dollar scroll paintings underscores the leadership position accorded Gianguan Auctions in this category. Among the highlights is Lot 105, "The Steed and Groom," by Zhao Mengfu (1254-1322). A prince and descendant of the royal family, Zhao Mengfu broke from tradition to explore the layering of grounds at various heights to create depth. In this ink on a stone-black stallion with one red tether is matched with a lone handler within a proscenium of rocky outcroppings. The pre-sale estimate is \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 USD.

Considered one of the four great masters of the Yuan Dynasty, Huang Gongwang (1269-1354) created Lot 102, "Rain Falling on Mist Forest". Comprised of rolling hills and rocky boulders, the landscape is inscribed and signed Dachi Daoren, one of the artist's sobriquets, and has one artist seal. Ten collectors' seals, a frontispiece by Wen Peng and a colophon by Xiang Yuanbian give this painting its pre-sale estimated value of \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 USD.

The epitome of Ming Dynasty Buddhist art is Qiu Ying's "Venerable Buddha," Lot 91. The image of Buddha, with halo and colorful robes, is rendered transcendent by placing him amidst clouds with a companion hoisting a ceremonial parasol. Deftly colored, signed and with one artist seal, nine Emperors' seals and six collectors' seals, the painting has a \$2,000,000-\$3,000,000 value.

The contemporary Buddhist art highlight is HH Doje Chang Buddha III's 2013 "Loquat". Treating the ink as if it were as precious as gold, the artist has honed in on an ascending branch laden with fruit. Deft strokes give it an airy elegance, a simplicity that belies the hidden power within. There are no broken strokes or extraneous marks. The ink on paper painting carries the bell seal of Dorje Chang Buddha III and a three-dimensional finger print Gui Yuan. It is priced at \$9,000,000.

Xu Beihong, the 20th century master known as the father of modern Chinese art, excelled at capturing the personalities of horses. Lot 110, "Two Horses" is a supreme example of this skill. Here he pairs a white and black duo frolicking in full gallop. The 1944 work is inscribed and signed Beihong. It has three artists' seals. Bidding begins at \$200,000 and may go as high as \$300,000.

In 1939, Xu Beihong staged a war benefit at Victoria Memorial Hall in Singapore. Among the artists showcased was the 19th century painter Ren Bonian aka Ren Yi. (1940-1896). Lot 87, his "A Traveling Master", is punctuated with carefully applied blue and yellow dabs at hat and sash. It is a hint of the color splash techniques of the mid-20th century. The work is estimated at \$12,000-\$20,000.

The vibrant color splashed works of mid-century Chinese artists were frequently of traditional tonality over laid with bold color splotches. Lot 101, "Spring in Southern China" by Wu Guanzhong, advances the color concept by emblazing an abstraction of sketched houses along a river with bridge in tones of blue, yellow, pink and green. Its presale estimate is \$40,000-\$60,000. Lot 86, Liu Halsu's "Mountain Springs," translates the ferocity of rushing water with roiling bursts of blue, white and black and a smattering of fiery pink. Signed Liu Haisu at 89, it has one artist seal. It catalog value is \$8,000-\$15,000.

Lot 97, Qi Baishi's "Insect on Leaf in Water" is a minimalist work in gentle strokes of an ephemeral insect rafting on a leaf as a dragonfly circles above. It is signed and has two artist seals. It will see \$50,000-\$60,000.

For the complete line up of Chinese scroll paintings and works of art in the sale scheduled at Gianguan Auctions on Saturday, September 12th, please visit <http://gianguanauctions.com>.

The auction will be conducted live at the gallery, 295 Madison Avenue. Online bidding takes place on invaluable.com, liveauctioneers.com, and on the Gianguan website. For details and condition reports, please call 212-226-2660.

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"The Steed and Groom" by Zhao Mengfu, Yuan Dynasty. Signed Zhao Mengfu, with one artist seal and sixteen Collectors' seals. Lot 105. \$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000



"Mountains Springs", a 1984 painting by Liu Haisu. Lot 86. \$8,000 - \$15,000



"Loquat," 2013, by HH Dorje Chang Buddha III. Carries the bell seal of Dorje Chang Buddha III and a three-dimensional finger print Gui Yuan. Lot 79. \$9,000,000.

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Gianguan Auctions Fall Asia Week Sale is Strong on Chinese Porcelains, Carved Jades, Buddhist Art

NEW YORK, NY , New York August 27, 2015

Gianguan Auctions Fall Asia Week Chinese porcelains carved jades buddhist art antiquities asian antiques Asian art ceramics

(ArtfixDaily.com) Fall Asia Week in New York will bring to the fore the impact that Buddhism, mythical beasts and floral symbols have had on Chinese artisans through the ages. Nowhere will this be more apparent than in the Decorative Arts session of Gianguan Auctions' sale on Saturday, September 12.

The highlights begin with a rare piece of Buddhist art. It is Lot 253, a painted clay-coated linen figure of Guanyin draped in robes. The statue has a rich-red lacquer finish. It is defined as "bodiless" because all that remains of the original clay mould is lacquer coated linen. The effect is achieved by dissolving the clay in water and removing it. The seated figure is draped in robes and has an overall rich-red lacquer cast. Its value: \$8,000-\$15,000.

The archaic peoples had their own rituals, about which little is known. Lot 195, for instance, is a Taotie mask with pictogram on an animal bone. Of the Liangzhu culture, it is believed to be a Royal Decree used to more troops. The shallow relief is carved on the obverse and reverse. It's price: \$10,000-\$20,000.

Exceptional antique ceramics are highlighted by Lot 214, a Qing Doucai Bajixiang double-gourd vase on which polychrome clouds scroll up and around the body highlighting the Bajixiang emblems. A countersunk base is turquoise with and underglazed blue reign mark. The Qing six-character mark is visible. Bidding begins at \$120,000 and may soar to as much as \$180,000.

The marquee carved jade item is Lot 233, a Mughal style bowl. Translucent and rising from a short foot to a slightly flared rim, the exterior is carved in low relief with ruyi trefoils, acanthus-leaf scrolls and meandering blossoms skirted by petal lappets. Six-inches in diameter and two-inches tall, the bowl is \$15,000-\$30,000.

Chinese animals, flowers and mythological creatures dominate the decorative arts portion of the auction. Lot 17 is a Warring States yellow jade hair ornament carved with a vulture. Its estimate is \$8,000-\$15,000. Lot 273 is a large pottery painted ox of the Han Dynasty. Hollow moulded, standing foursquare, it retains original gray pigment on the body and red and white swirling clouds. The price for the large creature is \$3,000-\$5,000.

Han Dynasty carved jades further the quest into the mysterious. Lot 36 is a rare white jade mythical beast rhyton with Qilins. It is embellished with gold wire and stones. The Han reign Mark is impressed on the underside. It will bring \$15,000-\$30,000. Lot 24 is a white jade Qilin with cub on its back. Of even tone with russet inclusions, its estimated is \$5,000-\$8,000. Lot 143 offers a jade Bixie with its head turned backward. It too has the reign mark on the underside and is valued at \$6,000-\$8,000.

The powerful dragon makes a dramatic appearance at Lot 167 in a set of nine chasing flaming pearls across the bodies of a massive pair of egg-yellow Meiping. The dragons are green and aubergine. The green and aubergine dragons are set amidst flaming clouds and flame motifs encircled by ruyi. Inscribed with the Ming Dynasty Kangxi six-character mark, and of the period, the vases are \$30,000-\$40,000.

Lot 255, a Ming blue and white ovoid vase features two phoenixes, king of birds and symbolic of good fortune and opportunity. Of the period and bearing the Xuande six-character mark the price is \$30,000-\$40,000.

Representative of the scholar's quest is Lot 270, a rare Ji-Yun tortoise shell box. Its rectangular shape is overlaid with tortoise shell. A poem is inscribed in gilt on the top. The interior is fitted with a shallow upper tray that slides. It has a brass plate and latch. Of the Qing Dynasty, the box bears the Jiaqing four-character mark. A collector will be lucky to get it for \$5,000-\$8,000.

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Lot 253, a tall statue of Guanyin of starchy linen, hollow in the center where moulded clay was extracted. \$8,000-\$15,000.



Lot 167, a pair of egg-yellow Meiping decorated with nine aubergine and green dragons. Ming, with Kangxi six-character mark. \$30,000-\$40,000



Lot 233, a pair of Mughal style carved jade bowls. Translucent, the exterior is carved in low relief. \$15,000-\$30,000