

Gianguan To Host Sale Of Chinese Paintings & Works Of Art

NEW YORK CITY — Gianguan Auction will present a selection of archetypal ceramics in various glazes, jade carvings, early bronzes together with its traditional and contemporary Chinese master paintings, Saturday, June 12, at 10 am.

For aficionados of Chinese seals, the highlight is Qing Kangxi, a russet brown jade imperial seal of the Kangxi emperor. Of square form, it is surmounted by an articulated pair of adressed dragons, each powerfully depicted and pierced through the center with an aperture. The seal face is deeply and crisply carved with the characters: Kangxi Chenhan, the calligraphy and painting of the Kangxi emperor. Compared to his grandson, Emperor Kangxi owned relatively few personal seals. Extant examples are very rare and this russet brown jade one is unique and rare. It is contained in a fitted zitan box with a central jade plaque (\$15/20,000).

In the long history of Chinese ceramics, Song Longquan ware decorated with iron red is famed for its rarity. Well potted with a compressed, globular body rising from a flared foot to a slender neck ending in a garlic head mouth with three raised rings, a Longquan bottle vase is covered overall with a lustrous glaze of pea-green tone and decorated with nine lifelike underglaze-iron-red swimming fish arranged on parallel bands. These iron red fish were painted with a brush before firing, three fish on the garlic head, three on the shoulder and three on the body (\$30/40,000).

Su sanci porcelain reached its pinnacle of refinement and technical advancement during the Kangxi period. Such is a rare su sanci Crane Jar. The potters using su sanci enameling technique first incised the crane motifs directly into the biscuit-fired body and then colored with green, yellow, white and aubergine enamels and fired the jar a second time at a lower heat to create a subtle three dimension-



Qing, Kangxi, a rare suanci Crane Jar.

ality and add a sense of dancing movement amid the clouds. The 41 partially raised white crane above galloping waves is an auspicious emblem.

Wucai porcelain on the exterior and the interior with dragon and phoenix in bright and vibrant colors are extremely rare. The star lot of this sale is a rare gilt wucai Dragon and Phoenix basin. It is robustly potted with deep cylindrical sides from a flat base, gently sweeping up to a broad everted mouth rim. The interior cavetto is painted in deft strokes of copper red and gold with a front-face, five-clawed, scaly dragon in pursuit of a fiery pearl amid wucai ruyi head clouds and fire scrolls encircled by gold band and four alternating dragons snaking in a cresting wave band. The top of the flat rim is bordered by a gold band within stylized lattice motifs and florets. The exterior is decorated with phoenixes amid scrolling leafy stems of peony, revolved on a diaper ground all within classic borders. The dragon and phoenix represent the height of power and auspiciousness. This basin is a rare example of a fine pictorial rendering of imperial male prowess with the benevolence of beauty as bestowed upon the empress, conveying blessing (\$40/60,000).



Zhang Daqian, "Lotus."

with two realist scrolls from Xu Beihong. He combined Chinese brush and ink techniques with western perspective and methods of composition. Integrating firm and bold brush strokes with



Qing Kangxi, a russet brown jade imperial seal of the Kangxi emperor.

the precise delineation of form, Xu used his proficiency in western art technique to portray the humanity between fishermen, old and young in one example and the vitality of the morning rooster in another (\$50/60,000 and \$20/30,000).

Liu Kuiling, a self-taught artist, carved a niche for his vivid portrayal of flowers and animals. In "Peony and Dove" Liu painted imaginatively with the sensuous colors and brush styles that he adapted from earlier generations of artists, depicting vivid and lively gestures and textures (\$20/30,000).

One of the most influential painters of Twentieth Century China, Zhang Daqian is said to have transformed traditional Chinese painting into a contemporary form. He combined the talent and skill of the masters with the bold, innovative brushwork of a modern artist. His "splashed-ink" style strongly suggests inspiration from Abstract Expressionism. "Lotus," which

reveals itself through a grayish-blue nebula of saturated color, embodies Zhang's ambitious integration of East and West as well as past and present (\$60/80,000).

Collectors and curators, dealers and decorators will find many more important and accessible treasures, including lacquer, bronze, stone seals and jade carvings throughout the sale. For information, 212-867-7288 or www.gianguanauctions.com.

ANNEX
ANTIQUES CENTER

Antique, Vintage and Collectible Items
30+ Dealers Located in Red Hook Business Park

7578 North Broadway (Rt. 9)
Red Hook, NY 12571

845-758-2843

Open Thursday - Monday 11-5