

SOTHEBY'S ASIA WEEK HONG KONG ACHIEVES FIVE WORLD RECORDS

THE HIGHEST PRICES FETCHED FOR:

CHINESE PORCELAIN

CHINESE GLASS

QING BLUE AND WHITE PORCELAIN

ENAMEL WARE

CHINESE BRONZE FIGURES

Hong Kong – Five new world records have been set at Sotheby's Asia Week Auction of An Extraordinary Collection of Ming and Qing Porcelain on October 29, 2000. The most expensive prices have been fetched for Chinese Porcelain, Chinese Glass, Enamel Wares, Qing Blue and White Porcelain. and Chinese Bronze Figures. This collection, from a private trust, is the most valuable collection of Chinese art to have ever appeared at auction. The grand total of the sale was HK\$112,867,500 (US\$14,498,073).

The star lot of this sale and the world record setter for Chinese Porcelain was A MAGNIFICENT AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT WUCAI 'FISH' JAR AND COVER, MARK AND PERIOD OF JIAJING (1523-1566), MING DYNASTY. It was sold for HK\$44,044,750 (US\$5,657,640), this jar was also a former world record in 1992 when it was sold at Sotheby's New York for HK\$22,300,000(US\$2,860,000).

This large ovoid jar is decorated with carps swimming through abundant green pond plants, their bodies colored in golden yellow, the color of the "Imperial" yellow monochrome porcelains, and their heads and scales detailed in vivid iron-red applied over the yellow. The jar is in immaculate condition and is complete with its original cover, also decorated with fish and surmounted by a flamboyant multi-colored lotus bud knob.

The piece that set two new world record is AN IMPORTANT BEIJING ENAMELLED POUCH-SHAPED GLASS VASE BLUE ENAMEL MARK AND PERIOD OF QIANLON, QING DYNASTY. It was sold for HK\$24,244,750 (US\$3,114,290) It is the most expensive Chinese Glass and the most expensive enamel ware (falangcai) ever sold. This vase is pouched shaped in enamel white glass. It was enameled in the Palace Workshop with flamboyant phoenix flying among peonies on a brilliant yellow ground. It is no doubt that it numbers among the most important surviving examples in the rare category of Beijing enameled glass.

A world record for Blue and White Porcelain from Qing Dynasty was set by AN IMPORTANT BLUE AND WHITE 'NINE DRAGON' VASE (TIANQUIPING) from the Qianlong period. It was sold for HK\$9,064,750 (US\$1,164,390), The well-potted, slightly compressed globular body set, with a tall cylindrical neck, is magisterially painted in underglaze-blue only, with a scene of nine ferocious three- and five-clawed dragons chasing ever-eluding 'flaming pearls'. It is already extremely rare to find nine dragons adorning a Tianqiuping piece, but with the addition of the billowing clouds and turbulent waves, this item is incomparable.

A FINE AND EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE GILT-BRONZE FIGURE OF A BUDDHA, FROM MING DYNASTY, set the world record for the most expensive gilt-bronze figure to be ever sold. It fetched HK\$8,624,750. A massive size (94cm, 37inches), the figure is cast seated on a waisted pedestal.

"We are delighted with the results today," said Jason Tse, Director of Chinese Ceramics Department, Sotheby's Hong Kong. "A total of five world records were achieved – the highest prices fetched for Chinese Porcelain, Chinese glass, enamel ware, Qing Blue and White Porcelain and Gilt Bronze figure. We are happy that there is participation from new collectors in such an important auction. The two top lots in the sale were both bought by an American private collector. It has foster the position of Chinese Art in the world's art market."

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