

Paris: Press Release

| 33 (0)1 53 05 53 66 | Sophie Dufresne | sophie.dufresne@sothebys.com

| 33 (0)1 53 05 52 32 | Claire Jehl | claire.jehl@sothebys.com

Asian Arts



A Pair of 14th-Century Gilt-Bronze Bodhisattva Figures Will Make its First Appearance at Auction

Paris, December 2019 - On 10 December, Sotheby's will have the pleasure of inviting connoisseurs to a new session devoted to Asian arts. The highlight of this fall's sale will be a pair of partially gilded bronze figures of Bodhisattva, set atop 18th-century lacquer-gilt thrones, one of the rare 14th-century casts to have survived. The pair was crafted in the brief transition period between the Yuan Dynasty and very early Ming Dynasty. These works are from the never-before-sold collection of a Belgian aristocrat who served as ambassador to Japan in the early 20th century, an ensemble that also contains some exquisite imperial porcelains.

14TH- AND 15TH-CENTURY BRONZE FIGURES



The objects in this small collection, gathered in the first years of the 20th century by a Belgian diplomat stationed in Japan, are testament to the collector's eye for quality pieces, including exquisite imperial porcelain items and rare Buddhist bronze figures (**lots 8 to 14**). The pieces being sold from this collection were passed down through the family and have therefore never seen on the market.

The most remarkable lot of all is a **rare pair of 14th-century parcel-gilt bronze figures of Bodhisattva (lot 14 – estimate: €500,000 – 700,000)** that might originally have been part of a larger group, like a group of Eight Great Bodhisattvas. These two figures are a rare example of 14th-century cast works. The pair was crafted in the brief transition period between the Yuan Dynasty and very early Ming Dynasty.

Among the other remarkable pieces up for auction is a **gilt-bronze figure of Akshobya, Zhengtong mark and period, dated 1439 (lot 18 – estimate: €220,000 – 250,000)**, a key art-history milestone with respect to the stylistic development of Buddhist sculpture in the early Ming period. **It is exceedingly rare to find a bronze dating from this period.**

Another **gilt copper alloy figure of Ushnishavijaya (Goddess of Long Life), Mongolia, Zanabazar style, 18th-19th century, (lot 30 – estimate: €150,000 – 250,000).**

IMPERIAL PORCELAINS

From the aforementioned collection is a **rare blue-and-white moon flask, Qing Dynasty, Yongzheng period (lot 9 – estimate: €150,000 – 250,000)** that faithfully reproduces, in both form and aesthetics, a Yongle period prototype of which there is only one other known copy, which can be found at London's British Museum. It illustrates the skill of that era's craftspersons to impeccably reproduce the qualities of the original.



From the same provenance comes an **rare large blue and white baluster vase, Qing Dynasty, 18th century (lot 8 – estimate: €80,000 – 120,000 €)** and **two green-enamelled 'dragon' jars, Qianlong seal mark and period (lot 13 – €60,000 – 80,000).**

A rare Famille Rose “Ladies of the Han Palace” lantern-shaped vase, Jiaqing seal mark and period (lot 52 – estimate: €80,000 – 120,000) is from a French aristocratic collection. It is part of a group of porcelains produced in the Jingdezhen imperial kilns during the first years of Jianqing’s reign. The porcelains of this period, influenced by those of the Qianlong period, were probably made by the same craftsmen responsible for those dedicated to Emperor Qianlong and his house. The collection also includes a **small blue and white pilgrim flask, Daoguang seal mark and period (lot 53 – estimate: €25,000 – 35,000).**



Also worth mentioning is a **very rare ruby-ground Famille-Rose bowl, Jiaqing seal mark and period (lot 55 – estimate: €100,000 – 150,000).**

QIANLONG PERIOD JADES



A rare archaistic-style pale celadon jade disc, *Guibi*, Qing Dynasty, Qianlong period (lot 59 – estimate: €40,000 – 60,000) is from the former collection of George Knight (1880-1933), a French diplomat who was Consul General of China. Since then, the disc has been handed down through the family. It combines two of the most recognisable objects in the history of Chinese jade: the disk (*bi*) and the tablet (*gui*).

Another noteworthy jade object is a **small white and russet jade vessel, Qing Dynasty, Qianlong period (lot 58 – estimate: €15,000 – 20,000)**, most certainly crafted in the palace workshops established by Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722). We know of few other comparable pieces.

The second session of the auction will feature a set of ten jades (lots 160 to 170), including a **censer (lot 161 – estimate: €15,000 – 20,000).**

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PAINTINGS

The sale will include a few contemporary works, including a previously unseen **Zhang Daqian, *The Lotus*, 1976 (lot 72 – estimate: €80,000 – 120,000)**, which the artist gave to the family of the current owners.

Another notable work of this category is the ink-on-paper ***Seated Woman with Flowers* by Lin Fengmian (lot 76 – estimate: €120,000 – 150,000).**



JAPANESE ART

The sale will close with a group of Japanese objects (**lots 178 to 194**) that includes a **lacquer cabinet (*kodansu*) of the Edo/Meiji period** that may have belonged to French Marshal Joseph Joffre (**lot 187 – estimate: €2,000 – 3,000**).



ASIAN ARTS

Sale on 10 December

About Sotheby's

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection, artist, estate & foundation advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's also presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and three retail businesses: Sotheby's Wine, Sotheby's Diamonds, and Sotheby's Home, the online marketplace for interior design.

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Snapchat](#) | [Weibo](#) | [WeChat](#) | [Youku](#)

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.*

Images are available upon request

Stream live auctions and place bids in real time, discover the value of a work of art, browse sale catalogues, view original content and more at [sothebys.com](https://www.sothebys.com), and by downloading Sotheby's apps for iOS and Android

#