

## POST-SALE PRESS RELEASE

Successful Asian Art auctions at Koller Zurich, 17-18 November 2015  
Chinese bidding still very active

The great majority of the rare Chinese works at Koller's Asian Art auctions this week in Zurich were purchased by Chinese bidders, who maintained a strong presence in the saleroom, the telephone and online. These highlights included a rare 1950s painting by Lin Fengmian, as well as a group of 1980s paintings by various Chinese artists collected by the former Swiss ambassador to Beijing, Hans Müller. Buddhistic art was also highly sought after in Tuesday's auction.



Lin Fengmian. Sold for CHF 228 500

"Two Dancers" is one of the rare works by Lin Fengmian to have survived the Cultural Revolution. Depicting a scene from the Beijing Opera, this was the painting's first appearance on the art market since the artist himself sold it to a Swiss collector living in Hong Kong in the mid-1950s to help pay for his wife and daughter's passage to Brazil. The work will finally make its way back to China, having sold to a Chinese bidder for CHF 228 500 / GBP 155 000 (lot 295).



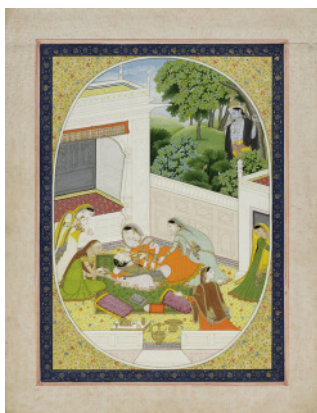
A group of six Chinese paintings from the 1980s were also highly successful. All found buyers, many at prices well above the pre-sale estimates. The paintings were all purchased by Hans Müller, the Swiss Ambassador stationed in Beijing between 1982 and 1986. A composition in brown, yellow and red by Zhang Wei estimated at CHF 5 000 – 8 000 / GBP 3 500 – 5 500 sold for CHF 29 300 / GBP 19 800 (lot 301), and an untitled composition from 1984 by Zhu Jinshi estimated to bring between CHF 6 000 and 9 000 / GBP 4 000 – 6 000 sold for CHF 55 700 / GBP 37 600 (lot 303).

Zhu Jinshi, sold for CHF 55 700 A famille rose painted porcelain plaque, signed by the important Republican Period artist Wang Dafan (1886-1961), was the subject of an intense bidding war which resulted in a very respectable sales price of CHF 102 500 / GBP 69 200 (lot 347). Among the furniture that stood out in this sale was the huanghuali wood southern “official’s hat” armchair – so-named because of its shaped crest rail, resembling an official’s cap – from a Swiss private collection that sold for CHF 120 500 / GBP 81 400 (lot 278).



Wang Dafan, sold for CHF 102 500

Among the Buddhistic art in this sale, a striking thanka depicting the Arhat Kanakavatsa (lot 173), which had been acquired at Koller in 1978, sold for CHF 82 100 / GBP 55 500, and a 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century Tibetan gilt copper alloy figure of Buddha Shakyamuni with Vajra sold for more than double its low estimate at CHF 41 300 / GBP 27 900 (lot 105). An 18<sup>th</sup> century rhinoceros horn libation cup found a new Chinese owner for CHF 31 700 / GBP 21 400 (lot 272).



Kangra School, sold for CHF 24 500

Japanese, Indian and Southeast Asian art was the focus of Wednesday’s auction, and one of the unanticipated successes was a large Thai silver covered vase from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (lot 396). Decorated overall with the signs of the zodiac and lotus flowers, bidding rose well above its upper estimate of CHF 6 000 / GBP 4 000, finally selling to a Singapore bidder for CHF 17 300 / GBP 11 700. The top lot among the Indian miniatures was an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Kangra school painting of a young woman fainting at the sound of Krishna’s flute (lot 421). In a Swiss private collection since before 1953, the beautifully painted work has now entered another Swiss collection, changing hands for CHF 24 500 / GBP 16 500.

# KOLLER

Koller Auktionen AG  
Hardturmstrasse 102  
8031 Zürich, Schweiz  
Tel +41 44 445 63 63  
Fax +41 44 273 19 66  
office@kollerauktionen.ch  
www.kollerauktionen.ch

Koller Auctions Ltd.  
2, Rue de l'Athénée  
1205 Genève, Suisse  
Tél +41 22 311 03 85  
Fax +41 22 810 06 30  
geneva@kollerauctions.com  
www.kollerauctions.com

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### **Press contact:**

Karl Green  
green@kollerauctions.com  
+41 44 445 63 82

## **ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS**

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in London, Munich, Dusseldorf, Genoa, Hamburg, Beijing, Moscow and New York. Each year Koller holds over thirty auctions, covering all of the major collecting categories in the fine and decorative arts, jewelry, Asian art and wine. Koller regularly sets record prices and benefits from a large base of international bidders. With its team of highly experienced specialists, as well as its membership in the worldwide group "International Auctioneers," the family-owned auction house combines the distinct advantages of an internationally active auction house with Swiss reliability and efficiency.