

KOLLERZURICH

For immediate release: Asian Art Auctions in Zurich: 13 - 14 June 2017

Spectacular auction results for Asian Art in Zurich:

RECORD PRICES FOR RARE CHINESE IMPERIAL ARTWORKS AND HIMALAYAN SCULPTURE

The 13-14 June Asian Art auctions at Koller Zurich were enormously successful, with a string of top prices for Chinese & Himalayan art, particularly for three rare Chinese Imperial artworks from a private collection - which alone realized 2.64 million Swiss Francs - as well as for lamaistic sculpture from the Himalaya region, which saw very competitive bidding and record prices. The two-day auction series realized in total 8.4 million Swiss Francs, against a pre-sale estimate of 2.9 million, making it the most successful Asian Art auction of any European auction house this season.

Regi Preiswerk, Head of Department for Asian Art at Koller: *"We were thrilled to be able to offer these magnificent works in our auction. Because of an intensive marketing campaign in China, including our presence at the International Antiques Fair in Hong Kong, we attracted a significant number of new bidders and buyers to the auction, whom we are pleased to welcome to Koller's clientele."*

CHINESE IMPERIAL TREASURES CREATE A SENSATION

Three important Chinese imperial artworks from a private collection were featured in Koller's 13 June auction, and their presence created a wave of excitement that was felt as far as Beijing and Hong Kong. The three items - a carved palace partition, a pair of Imperial bronze censers, and a bronze bell with an emperor's inscription, were in a German private collection for over 100 years and came to the market for the first time in Koller Auction's sale. The three lots will all very likely return to China.

Antique Chinese bell changes hands for 1.2 million Swiss Francs

Dating from the 18th century, the bronze bell bears an inscription from the Chinese emperor Qianlong (1711-1799). Shepherds found eleven antique "bozhong" bells from a set of twelve in 1761, and they were brought to the imperial court. In order to complete the set of twelve distinct tones, the Emperor had this twelfth bell cast and inscribed. After a prolonged, tense bidding war, the bell sold to a Chinese bidder for CHF 1.2 million.

Masterfully carved room divider realizes nearly a million

According to Koller's research, the masterfully carved palace partition was very likely made for the living quarters of the Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908). This type of partition with pierced carving was a typical element of interior decoration for imperial palaces of the Qing period in China. In Beijing two other examples with octagonal doorways are known: a room divider in the Chuxiugong palace hall, a residential building in the western area of the Forbidden City, and another in the Yiluandian Palace, but which was completely destroyed by fire in 1901. The partition in Koller's auction is the only one of its type ever offered for public sale, and realised CHF 940 500.

Imperial bronze censers sell for more than eight times the pre-sale estimate

The Imperial provenance of this pair of unusual bronze censers was never in doubt, as comparable examples only exist in front of two palaces in the Forbidden City, as well as at the entrance of Beihei Park (which was formerly also part of the Imperial city). Representing mythical dragon-turtles, or Bixi, bidding for the pair quickly rose far above the pre-sale estimate and finally ended at CHF 486 000.

HIMALAYAN BRONZES SELL FOR RECORD PRICES

The demand for lamaistic art from the Himalayan region was very strong in Koller's 13 June auction, and several sculptures made top prices, such as a very early Buddha Shakyamuni from the Pala Empire that sold for CHF 1.17 million, a Nepalese figure from the Khasa-Malla Kingdom that fetched CHF 538 000, and a wonderfully serene Tibetan figure of a standing Bodhisattva that changed hands for CHF 756 000.

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High-resolution images available [here](#).

ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in London, Munich, Dusseldorf, Milan, 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, jewellery, 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.



185
A VERY IMPORTANT IMPERIAL BRONZE BELL "BOZHONG"
China, Qianlong, dated 1761.
With inscription by Emperor Qianlong.

Sold for CHF 1.2 million



115
A BRONZE FIGURE OF BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI ON A LION THRONE
Northeastern India, Pala, 8th/9th c.
Height 16.5 cm. Silver and copper inlay.

Sold for CHF 1.17 million



184
**A MAGNIFICENT CAOHUALI IMPERIAL PALACE PARTITION
WITH OCTAGONAL DOORWAY CARVED IN OPEN WORK**
China, 19th century. 287 x 396 x 11 cm

Sold for CHF 940 500.



127
**A MAGNIFICENT GILT COPPER ALLOY FIGURE
OF A STANDING BODHISATTVA**
Tibet, 14th c. Height 27 cm. Stone inlays.

Sold for CHF 756 500



111
A WELL-MODELLED GILT COPPER ALLOY FIGURE OF MANJUSHRI
Nepal, Khasa Malla kingdom, 14th c. Height 23 cm.

Sold for CHF 538 000



205

**A RELIEF CARVED CELADON COLOURED JADE PLAQUE
DECORATED WITH EIGHT LUOHANS AND INSCRIPTIONS**

China, Qing dynasty, 14.5 x 21.5 cm.

Sold for CHF 515 000



183

**A FINE PAIR OF IMPERIAL BRONZE CENSERS
IN THE SHAPE OF DRAGON-TURTLES (BIXI)**

China, 18th/19th century. Length 42 cm.

Sold for CHF 486 250



179

A FINE DRY LACQUER FIGURE OF A SEATED BUDDHA

China, Ming dynasty, height 81 cm.

Sold for CHF 288 500



267

**AN IMPERIAL SIX-FOLD ZITAN-SCREEN
WITH MIRRORS AND LACQUER PAINTING**

China, early 19th c. Height 204 cm.

Sold for CHF 240 500



126

A GILT COPPER ALLOY FIGURE OF A BUDDHA

Tibet, 16th century. Height 27 cm.

Sold for CHF 180 500