

POST-SALE PRESS RELEASE

Asian Art
Auction in Zurich: 4 June 2019

Record price at Koller Auctions RARE CHINESE BRONZE CENSER SELLS FOR CHF 4.8 MILLION



AN IMPORTANT "PHOENIX AND PEONY" IMPERIAL BRONZE CENSER

China, 17th/18th century. Parcel-gilt
bronze. Height 24 cm, width 59 cm.

Sold for CHF 4.8 million

An important Chinese bronze censer from circa 1700 was auctioned at Koller Zurich for the record price of CHF 4.8 million (\$4.9 million).

The parcel-gilt bronze incense burner was consigned by a Swiss private owner and had been in the same family for three generations. It was being used to hold tennis balls when the specialists from Koller Auctions discovered it last autumn.

The incense burner caused a sensation when it was exhibited at the IAF antiques fair in Hong Kong from 25–28 May, along with other highlights from Koller's Asian Art auction. At the auction, the censer sparked intense telephone and saleroom bidding by important Asian buyers, and was acquired by a Chinese collector.

The quality, dimensions and design of this work are all exceptional. The handles are modelled as two phoenix heads, which subtly blend into luxuriously rendered peonies. In Chinese symbolism, the phoenix is considered the king of birds, and the peony the queen of flowers. Together they symbolise wealth and good fortune. The phoenix was also often employed as the emblem of the Chinese empress, which indicates that it was very likely made for one of the empress's palaces or temples.

Koller in China

The price obtained, CHF 4.8 million, is an auction record for any comparable object, and is the result of the excellent relations that Koller has long maintained with collectors in China and Southeast Asia. Koller established a representative office in Beijing in 2011, and is a regular presence at the most important art and antiques events in Hong Kong each year.

For Koller, this is the latest success in a series of top prices obtained in recent years for important Asian works of art, including CHF 3.24 million for a Tibetan bronze of the goddess Panca Raksha, and CHF 940,000 for an imperial carved room partition in 2017. Also in 2017, Koller sold a bronze sculpture of the Buddha Shakyamuni on a lion throne for CHF 1.17 million, and a rare imperial bronze bell for 1.2 million.

Very good overall results

Results overall in the sale were very good: the auction garnered a total of CHF 6.5 million, more than three times the total of the pre-sale estimates. A Ming Dynasty bronze figure of the Buddha Shakyamuni sold for CHF 98,000, a 17th-century carved rhinoceros horn libation cup for CHF 59,000, and two Chinese embroidered panels from the 18th century rose far above their estimate to fetch CHF 50,000. A rare Tibetan copper alloy figure of Manjushri from circa 1800 more than tripled its estimate at CHF 49,000. Cloisonné wares fetched particularly strong prices in the auction, for example an 18th-century Chinese signed cloisonné panel which quadrupled its estimate to sell for CHF 49,000, and a Qianlong period cloisonné enamel tripod censer which fetched CHF 47,000. Among the Southeast Asian works of art, a rare 9th/10th century Javanese bronze figure of Mahavairocana exceeded its upper estimate at CHF 51,000.

*All prices include buyer's premium.

SELECTED RESULTS



275
TWO EMBROIDERED PANELS
 China, 18th century.
 137.5 x 37.5 cm.

Sold for CHF 50 000



183
**A FINE BRONZE FIGURE
 OF BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI**
 China, Ming dynasty, dated 6th year
 of Chenghua (1471), height 41 cm.

Sold for CHF 98 000



226
**AN EXQUISITE WHITE JADE CARVING
 OF A HANGING VASE WITH LOTUS**
 China, 19th/20th c. Height 36 cm.

Sold for CHF 44 000



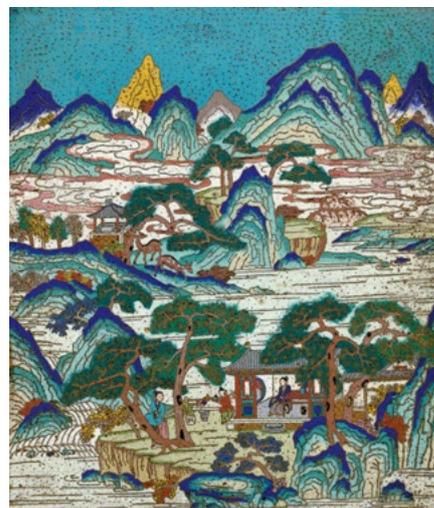
205
AN IMPRESSIVE CLOISSONNÉ ENAMEL CENSER
 China, Qianlong period. H 53 cm.

Sold for CHF 47 000



454
**A RARE BRONZE FIGURE
 OF MAHAVAIROCANA**
 Central Java, 9th/10th Century.
 H 21 cm.

Sold for CHF 51 000



207
**A CLOISSONNÉ ENAMEL PANEL
 DEPICTING A LANDSCAPE**
 China, 18th century. 49 x 41 cm.

Sold for CHF 49 000

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

Catalogues and results online: www.kollerauctions.com

Next auction: December 2019

ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in Munich, Dusseldorf, Milan, Hamburg, Beijing and Moscow. Each year Koller holds over sixty 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, the family-owned auction house combines the distinct advantages of an internationally active auction house with Swiss reliability and efficiency.