

# Story time

A wealth of objects shelter under the great 'Asian art' umbrella – together representing five millennia of artistic endeavour across one quarter of the globe. Here we preview a series of Asian art objects available for sale at galleries and auctions over the next month, and each from a different moment in time or geography. From the cult of Monju to the beginning of a new Japanese imperial era – all tell a compelling tale. Compiled by *Roland Arkell, Laura Chesters, Frances Allitt and Noelle McElhatton*



## A new Japanese imperial era

### Lacquer figure by Kazunaga Shintaro

Simon Pilling: in the region of £5000

With the recent accession to the chrysanthemum throne of emperor Akihito's elder son Naruhito, 2019 marks the beginning of a new Japanese imperial era. The Reiwa – interpreted as 'beautiful harmony' – replaces the Heisei period and becomes the fifth imperial era since the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

*Reiwa* is the title of Simon Pilling's show that features objects from the Meiji period to the present day. At the beginning of this new era he asks: how will today's young artists take the story forward?

*Defying Gravity*, a 12in (30cm) high dry lacquer figure of a deer, is by Kazunaga Shintaro (b.1990), a graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts, the Gedai. His words describe his artistic inspiration:

"Lacquer has been intertwined with the history of the Japanese people for so many centuries that one could claim it is etched into our DNA. It requires a high level of skill and patience to produce. In my works, I try to find a way to bring the modern production methods in touch with the arduous methods of old. My designs are digitally drawn in computer software, but then executed entirely manually."

This figure of a deer – the traditional messenger of the gods of longevity – assumes a fractal form, a conscious reference by Kazunaga to early computer-generated imaging when games had to compensate for a lack of processing power in the modelling of their characters.

It is priced in the region of £5000.

► [simonpilling.co.uk](http://simonpilling.co.uk)

## The Romance of the Western Chamber

### Qianlong snuff box

Jorge Welsh: priced from £6000

The scenes painted to this Qianlong period porcelain and gilt metal snuff box are taken from the *Romance of the Western Chamber*, the most famous Chinese dramatic work written by the Yuan dynasty playwright Wang Shifu.

The 21-act saga takes place during the Tang dynasty and recounts the occasionally racy love story between a poor and young scholar and the beautiful daughter of a court official.

Dealer Jorge Welsh has identified the three scenes on the 2½in (7cm) wide box that are probably taken from woodblock prints. To the lid are the two protagonists, Zhang Sheng and Cui Yingying, with the military leader General Du. The scene to the front shows Zhang Sheng sending a letter to the general seeking assistance against the troops of the local bandit Sun Biao, while to the back Sun finally gets his comeuppance.

The story ends on a happy note. Zhang Sheng is appointed to high office and the two are finally married.

Snuff boxes in the exhibition are priced from £6000.

► [jorgewelsh.com](http://jorgewelsh.com)



## The land, sea and sky according to the Qing

### Monumental woodcuts of the earth and heavens

Daniel Crouch Rare Books: £400,000 each

The title of this large woodcut map, translating as *The Complete Geographical Map of the Everlasting Unified Qing Empire*, suggests it was as much a political as a geographical record.

Based on research originally presented to the Qianlong emperor by the cartographer Huang Qianren in 1767, it shows China as the Qing would wish it to be remembered: the physical, political and cultural centre of the world. Borders are vague and foreign entities inhabit the fringes. To the upper left of the map are both the Mediterranean or Small Western Ocean, and the Atlantic or Great Western Ocean, with Holland and England depicted as islands.

No example of Huang Qianren's original work survives (a painted copy was produced in 1800 and now resides in the Beijing National Library). This map is a revised and enlarged version printed during the reign of the emperor Jaiqing (1796-1820), c.1811. It was printed in 16 sections on eight sheets in two colours (black and white and blue

and white, as here) and measures 4ft 4in x 7ft 4in (1.33 x 2.23m).

Its 'pair' of a similar monumental size is a celestial chart, *Huntian yitong xingxiang quantu*, printed for Jaiqing's successor Daoguang (1820-50). A Qing interpretation of Southern Song learning, it too carries an overt political message: *the bestowing of the Mandate of Heaven on just rulers of China*.

Unlike the 12 houses of the zodiac devised by Western astronomy, Chinese astronomers identified 28 divisions in the sky known collectively as the *Ershi ba xingxiu* that were used to measure the coordinates of celestial bodies and constellations along the equator.

Three different states of this planisphere are known, each with slight differences in terms of the textual content and layout. This example is dated for the second year of the Daoguang reign (1822).

Daniel Crouch Rare Books has recently reunited the two maps and they will be offered for sale at £400,000 each.

► [crouchrarebooks.com](http://crouchrarebooks.com)

## Indian ritual art transformed

### 19th century Sri Lankan Raksha mask

Joost van den Bergh: £8500

Painted in vibrant colours with protuberant eyes and tongues, Sri Lankan Raksha masks are apotropaic – intended to ward off evil. They form part of the Raksha Kolama dance ritual,

which pays tribute to the Rakshasas, the mythical devil race of the Hindu epics whose people could assume 24 different forms. Some of these transformations were enacted

in performance, including the Naga Raksha or cobra demon depicted in this exceptionally large 2ft 8in (80cm) 19th century mask.

It is offered for £8500 at Joost van den Bergh's exhibition *Perfect Presence: Tantra, Jain & Hindu ritual art from India* (October 31-November 8) at Redfern Gallery on Cork Street.

The exhibition, focused on the mystical philosophy of Tantra, is accompanied by a 136-page catalogue with specially commissioned articles and information about the offerings in the show.

► [joostvandenbergh.com](http://joostvandenbergh.com)



## She danced for Queen Victoria

### Kangxi sang de boeuf vase

Sworders: £2000-2500

This Kangxi (1662-1722) period vase with a sang de boeuf glaze comes from a direct descendant of Countess Eleanor Golferelli (1882-1988).

The child actress turned music hall star, who danced for Queen Victoria in the Drury Lane Theatre in 1888, enjoyed a remarkably rich and long life. In the early 1900s, as wife to the pioneering brain surgeon Lt Col Dr Alfred Hull and mother of twins, she travelled extensively around India, south-east Asia and the Far East.

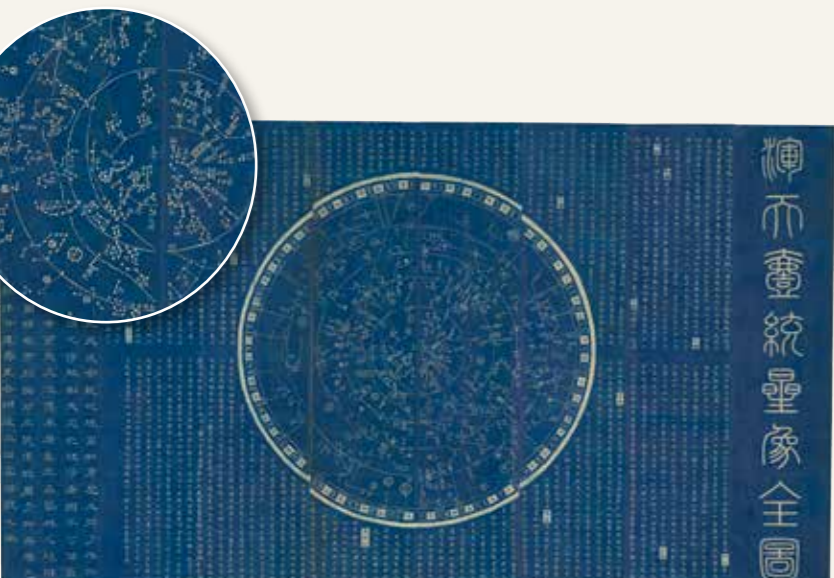
Later in life, after discovering her second husband, an Italian aristocrat Count Golferelli, was a bigamist, she fled back to England. Living in St John's Wood in north London, she became an international buyer for the John Lewis partnership where she worked until she was 90.

Eleanor gave the 15½in (39cm) high vase, with its distinctive crackle-suffused glaze of deep strawberry colour, to her grandson, Anthony Gaisford Hull, as a wedding present in 1966. He kept it in his home in Harrow until he passed it to his son when he married in 2003.

It carries an estimate of £2000-2500 at Sworders' sale of Asian art held at The Westbury Mayfair hotel in London on November 8.

The 15in (39cm) vase dates from the first flowering of the famous ox blood glaze that was developed in the Jingdezhen porcelain kilns during the last years of the Kangxi period (c.1705-10).

► [sworder.co.uk](http://sworder.co.uk)







A hairstyle that recalls a sacred site

Wood temple sculpture of Gokei (Five-Topknot) Monju riding a shish

Sydney L Moss: £60,000

The cult of Monju, the bodhisattva of transcendent wisdom, first crossed from China to Japan in the 9th century. Its carrier was a Japanese monk named Ennin (794-864) who – sent as a delegate to glean knowledge about the flourishing Tang dynasty (618-907) – had been inspired by the devotion to Monju he encountered at the sacred sites of Wutaishan (Mount Wutai). On his return to Kyoto, he built Japan's first temple dedicated to the deity.

Although in its new surroundings the iconography of Monju evolved across the centuries, one curious and very Chinese

attribute remained: his coiffure. Monju's five topknots, clearly seen here (inset) to a Japanese wood temple sculpture from the 14th or early-15th century, are a reminder of the five flat peaks of Wutaishan and a hallowed place of enlightenment.

The gin (22cm) sculpture, acquired by Mayfair dealership Sydney L Moss in Japan, has a price tag of **£60,000**.

► [slmoss.com](http://slmoss.com)

The tools of the scholar

Ming lacquer brush and cover

Eskenazi: \$125,000

This finely carved Ming dynasty lacquer brush and cover from the 16th or early 17th century is one of the objects on offer at Eskenazi's *Room for Study: Fifty Scholars' Objects* exhibition from October 31 to November 29.

An inscription includes a poem by Lu Lun (739-799 AD), together with the



name Huang Ruheng (1558-1626) who presumably owned the brush.

Ruheng was a late Ming calligrapher and poet who was a native of Hangzhou and held an official post in Jiangxi. Some of his calligraphy, inspired by Song masters, was included in the Ming dynasty painting and calligraphy album, *Tangshi Huapu (Paintings of Tang Dynasty Poems)*. The asking price is in the region of **\$125,000**.

► [eskenazi.co.uk](http://eskenazi.co.uk)

As long as it's a boy

Qianlong Yingxitu vase

Sotheby's: £150,000-250,000

In Chinese culture *yingxitu* (pictures of boys at play) and *baizitu* (pictures of 'hundred boys') are intimately connected with the strong desire for male offspring, who would perform ancestral sacrifices and thus endure the continuation of the family line.

Depictions of children in gardens became an established painting genre in the Song dynasty (960-1279). By the Ming period (1368-1644) boys were depicted engaged in activities that conveyed auspicious messages or impersonated adult aspirations. Under the Qing the Qianlong emperor in particular was especially fond of such propitious and amusing designs.

The two meticulously painted roundels on this 7in (18cm) Qianlong mark and period vase depict the boys playing with goldfish and butterflies, which represent prosperity, wealth and longevity. Goldfish (*jinyu*) are homophonous with the word for gold (*jin*) and jade (*yu*), and while butterflies are symbolic of longevity.

Last sold at Christie's New York in 1995, the vase was formerly owned by the great Chicago collector Stephen Junkunc III (d.1978) who bought Chinese art from dealers such as Bluett & Sons, John Sparks and his local branch of Yamanaka & Co that opened on North Michigan Boulevard in 1928.

It forms part of a sale titled *Imperial Porcelain – A Private Collection* at Sotheby's Bond Street on November 6. The estimate is **£150,000-250,000**.

► [sothebys.com](http://sothebys.com)



The Rolls-Royce of Indian weaponry

Ceremonial ayda katti

Runjeet Singh: £8500

An *ayda katti* is the traditional sword of the Kodavas of Coorg, the modern-day state of Karnataka in south-west India. The original function of the hatchet-shaped weapon was to cut through dense undergrowth, but this 18th or 19th century example, and others like it, were largely for ceremonial rather than for practical use. Visible on one face of the blade is a stamp containing a stylised letter *E*. A label accompanying the sword reads *Ex Lord Rolls coll. Stratford/A August 62 £3* – prompting the suggestion that it was once owned by Lord Charles Rolls. The date links it to when his sister Lady Eleanor Shelly-Rolls died in 1961.

An *ayda katti* with similar decoration at the hilt is in the Powys Castle and Garden in Wales collection as part of the National Trust Collections.

Dealer Runjeet Singh first bought the 22in (55cm) sword in 2013 from a Yorkshire dealer who had bought a group of arms and armour in the Midlands. He sold it to an American collector but was happy to buy it back recently. The asking price is **£8500**.

► [runjeetsingh.com](http://runjeetsingh.com)



Packing a punch after the Battle of the Saintes

Qianlong export punchbowl

Cohen & Cohen: price on application

This is one of a small group of Chinese export porcelain punchbowls made during the Qianlong period c.1785 to celebrate the Battle of the Saintes – the naval battle fought on April 12, 1782, in the Caribbean.

Victory for the British fleet, commanded by Admiral Sir George Rodney, against the French, led to British dominance of the high seas at a crucial time when they were negotiating with the American Colonies after the Revolution.

The en grisaille maritime scene is taken from a 1783 engraving by Francis Chesham (1749-1806) and John Peltro (1760-1808) after a painting by Robert Dodd (1748-1815).

More unusual is that to the reverse is a satirical scene (inset) representing British attitudes to enemies on the European continent after an engraving, *Politeness*, attributed to James Gillray (1756-1815). The stout figure on the left is John Bull, holding a pint of beer and with his dog, Mr Crusty. Bull says: "You be D\_m'd". On the right is a thin Frenchman in fine clothes and stockings, holding a bowl of 'meagre soup' with a small greyhound under his chair. He says: "Vous êtes une Bête."

Price on application from the Cohen & Cohen dealership, which has an appointment-only gallery in St James's Place, Mayfair.

► [cohenandcohen.co.uk](http://cohenandcohen.co.uk)

A deadly passion for porcelain

Yongzheng copper-red bowl

Marchant Asian Art: price on application

The Chinese diplomat and statesman Tang Shaoyi (1862-1938) – who served briefly as the first prime minister of the Republic of China in 1912 – was a well-known collector of porcelain.

During his years of public service he acquired both mark and period imperial porcelain and decorative Shiwan pieces made in his native province of Guangdong.

Following his retirement from politics in 1937 he had planned to devote himself to his collection, dividing his time between a home in the Shanghai French Concession and a villa and gardens in Tangjiawan.

Tragically, his passion for porcelain would prove his undoing. Shaoyi was executed at his home in 1938 by a Juntong squad. His assassins had gained access to his home by masquerading as antiques dealers.

Porcelain by descent from the family of Tang Shaoyi – including the 7½in (18cm) imperial Yongzheng mark and period bright copper-red bowl pictured below – forms one part of the forthcoming exhibition *Qing Porcelain from Three Private Collections* at Marchant.

Wares from the collections of Henry Mazot, a Frenchman who worked as a banker in Beijing from the 1920s, and Jeffrey Stamen, a Marchant client and Kangxi porcelain specialist, make up the trio.

► [marchantasianart.com](http://marchantasianart.com)



A record of court ritual

Twelve silk paintings from the Huang Chao Li Qi Tu Shi

Woolley & Wallis: £30,000-50,000

The *Huang Chao Li Qi Tu Shi (The Illustrated Regulations for Ceremonial Paraphernalia of the Present Dynasty)* serves as a record of the Qianlong emperor's passion for a rigid ritualised court life.

The book consists of six parts – ceremonial vessels, scientific equipments, dress, musical instruments, insignia, and weaponry – and contains more than 1300 leaves of illustrations and explanatory texts, each part of a desire to regulate the codes and procedures of the court.

As many as 27 court painters and calligraphers worked on the project between 1750-59 before the manuscript was edited and finally printed by the Palace Publications Office in the Wuying Palace in 1766. Ultimately seven

copies were produced and stored in libraries across the empire – including the version kept in the Wenyuan Pavilion library in the Yuanmingyuan (Old Summer Palace), elements of which are held in various major museums in the UK and Ireland.

Twelve ink, colour and gilt on silk paintings from one of the copies of the *Huang Chao Li Qi Tu Shi* are for sale at Woolley & Wallis in Salisbury on November 12-13.

Depicting ceremonial ceramic vessels (here a yellow-ground archaic stem bowl and cover or dou for use at the altar), by repute they were once part of the collection of the Victorian soldier Captain William Gordon Chalmers (1835-68). Estimate **£30,000-50,000**.

► [woolleyandwallis.co.uk](http://woolleyandwallis.co.uk)







# And the nominees are

Every year *Asian Art in London* presents two awards for the most outstanding work of art: one for an item offered by a dealer, the other for a work offered by an auction house. The awards are co-sponsored by *Antiques Trade Gazette* and *Apollo* magazine

Presented here is the 2019 shortlist of entries. The six candidates shown were selected by the AAL judging panel from a longlist of the 10 most popular submissions that had been voted for by all the AAL members. The two award winners will be announced at the AAL Gala Party to be held on Tuesday, November 5.

**◀ SWORDERS, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**  
 A 7½in (19cm) high Qianlong imperial inscribed famille rose wall vase, of pear shape with a flattened back applied with a pair of ruyi handles to the neck. The vase has a yellow sgraffito ground body and is inscribed with an imperial poem appraising incense in a circular cartouche with a *yuti* mark followed by two iron-red seal marks reading *Qianlong chen han* (the Qianlong Emperor's own mark) and *Weijing weiyi* (be precise, be undivided).  
 The poem is recorded in the *Yuzhi leshantang quanji dingben* [Definitive Edition of the Complete Works by His Majesty from the Hall of Pleasure in Goodness], *Siku quanshu* [The complete library in four sections] vol 30.  
 There are an exact pair of examples, but with different poems, in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing. The estimate is **£50,000-80,000**.

**◀ BONHAMS, LONDON**  
 An Edo period hanging scroll painted by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) in ink and colours on paper with a dragon above a great wave crashing over Mount Fuji. It is signed *Gakyo Rojin manji hitsu yowai hachijuichi* (Brush of Manji, old man crazy to paint, aged 81) and sealed *Katsushika*. The painting, which measures 4ft 5in x 14½in (1.35m x 37cm), is mounted on silk and comes with a double wooden storage box, the inner box inscribed on the lid *Noboriryu, Fuji no e* (Picture of an ascending dragon and Mount Fuji). Estimate **£125,000-135,000**.

**▲ CHRISTIE'S, LONDON**  
 A pair of Qianlong period double-gourd form *Da Ji* imperial plaques in carved lapis lazuli embellished with gilt bronze, kingfisher feathers, coloured stones, coral, rubies and stained ivory on a carved zitan stand inset with jade, gilt bronze and ivory. The overall height of the plaques and stands is 19in (48cm). They have a 19th century provenance to the collection of Daniel Beale (1759-1842), a Scottish merchant in Mumbai, Guangdong and Macau, who acquired them in China, and have passed down by descent. Estimate **£120,000-180,000**.

**▶ JONATHAN TUCKER ANTONIA TOZER ASIAN ART, LONDON**  
 A 2ft 4in (71cm) high Gandharan 2nd-3rd century AD statue of a moustached bodhisattva, possibly Maitreya the future Buddha, depicted wearing intricate jewellery and with long hair twisted into a top knot. The grey schist sculpture, from a private English collection, is very similar to two carvings of bodhisattvas illustrated in Isao Kurita's 2003 publication, *Gandharan Art II: The Buddha's Life Story*, and was possibly created by the same sculptor or studio.



**▲ SIMON RAY, LONDON**  
 A 10in (26cm) wide x 3¾in (10cm) high champlévé enamelled silver-gilt octagonal Mughal Indian tray dated to the early 18th century. The tray, on eight short balustroid legs, is enamelled in a palette of dark emerald green, apple green, mango yellow, white and a distinctive purple and decorated with concentric rings of iris flowerheads and a central lotus bloom. The pattern and palette is identical to that on an early-18th century hookah base that is now in the Musée Guimet in Paris. The tray was with Terence McInerney Fine Arts in New York and then in the collection of Florence and Herbert Irving.



**◀ ROSEBERYS, LONDON**  
 A 15¾in x 3ft 1in (40 x 90.5cm) oil on masonite board painting of two horses by the Indonesian artist Lee Man Fong (1913-88), signed and dated 1949.  
 In 1946 the artist was awarded the Malino scholarship to study in the Netherlands, where he lived until 1952. The painting has a provenance to Justus Blank, an employee the Dutch East India Company who lived in Jakarta until returning to Holland in the late 1920s. He is thought to have acquired the picture at Lee Man Fong's exhibition in The Hague in 1950 which has since passed down by descent. Estimate **£30,000-50,000**.





# Meeting demand

Upcoming auction highlights plus some of the objects on display in galleries around the capital as part of *Asian Art in London*. Compiled by *Roland Arkell*

## Bonhams – November 7

**Right:** the apricot-orange colour known as *xinghuang* was one of the 'Five Imperial Yellows' used at the Qing court. Garments of this colour could only be worn by princes and princesses of the First Rank and Imperial consorts of the Second and Third Degree.

This Imperial *kesi* probably dates to the 1880s and may have been worn by the Guangxu emperor (1871-1908) during the earlier years of his reign or when heir apparent to his mother, the formidable Dowager Empress Cixi. Worked with nine five-clawed dragons, the Twelve Imperial Symbols and the Eight Buddhist Emblems, among the extra colours used is aniline purple, a dye favoured by Cixi which was only first imported into China from Europe c.1863.

It comes for sale at Bonhams on November 7 from 'a Western private collection' with an earlier 1997 provenance to Qing textiles specialist Linda Wigglesworth.

Estimate **£150,000-250,000**.

► [bonhams.com](http://bonhams.com)



## Christie's – October 30-November 6

**Below:** the Van Daalen Collection of Chinese Art is being sold by Christie's in two parts: as 15 lots in the sale of Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art on November 5 and as a more diverse online sale with bidding running from October 30-November 6.

The collection was formed by Albert van Daalen Roel, a direct descendant of Jan Albert Sicheterman (1692-1764), a director of the Dutch East India Company and governor of Bengal. In the fashion of the time he returned home to Groningen after 27 years of service with several lavish Chinese porcelain dinner services displaying the Sicheterman coat-of-arms.

Pieces with this distinctive armorial centred by a nut-munching red squirrel are included in the sale, such as this large 16in (40cm) 'Verte Imari' dish c.1730 estimated at **£1500-2000**.

► [christies.com](http://christies.com)



## Nagel – December 5-6

**Below:** during *Asian Art in London*, German auction house Nagel takes the opportunity to preview objects for sale in Salzburg on December 5-6.

Among the pieces on view will be this pair of gin (22cm) Daoguang mark and period green dragon jars and covers that have been in a south German family collection since the early 20th century. They will carry an estimate of **€15,000-25,000**.

► [auction.de](http://auction.de)



## Chiswick Auctions – November 11-12

**Left:** The Asian art series of sales at Chiswick Auctions on November 11-12 includes an expanded offering of Japanese art. This 16in (40cm) Kakiemon figure of a bijin, c.1680, is fresh to the market from an English private collection. This particular piece was modelled after the famous courtesan, Tokuko Yoshino (1606-43), from the Shimabara 'pleasure district' in Kyoto. Many similar figures were exported by the Dutch East India Company to the treasure houses of Europe in the late 17th century.

Estimate **£5000-7000**.

► [chiswickauctions.co.uk](http://chiswickauctions.co.uk)

## Sotheby's – November 6

**Right:** Sotheby's sale of Important Chinese Art on November 6 includes this 7in (17cm) Qianlong mark and period copper-red decorated moonflask. Intricately painted with a complex geometric design, the form and decoration of this flask closely follows an early Ming (Yongle) blue and white prototype inspired by Middle-Eastern designs.

It is one of three similar vessels collected by Robert C Bruce (1898-1953) and has come by descent. Two others were sold by Sotheby's in 1953 and 1979. Estimate **£30,000-50,000**.

► [sothebys.com](http://sothebys.com)



## Mallams – October 30-31

**Left:** this 13in (32cm) bronze figure of a Daoist priest holding a vase is dated to the late Ming period. It comes for sale at Mallams in Cheltenham on October 30-31 from a Cotswolds vendor who had inherited it from his parents. It was taken to the recent *BBC Antiques Roadshow* valuation day in Compton Verney. Estimate **£3500-4500**.

► [mallams.co.uk](http://mallams.co.uk)



## Roseberys – November 11

**Above:** this spinach jade marriage bowl, dated to the Qianlong period, comes for sale at Roseberys London on November 11 by descent from a Dutch East India collection. The gin (23cm) vessel has dragonfly-form handles with wings resting on the rim of the bowl and bodies suspending loose ring handles. It is estimated at **£10,000-15,000**.

► [roseberys.co.uk](http://roseberys.co.uk)

## Bonhams – November 6

**Below:** Robert S Huthart, the Newcastle-born manager of the Hong Kong department store conglomerate Lane Crawford, was first introduced to netsuke on a visit to Tokyo when he was given of a copy of *The Wonderful World of Netsuke* by Raymond Bushell. His focus became the distinctive netsuke produced by late 18th and early-19th century carvers based in the seaboard province of Iwami (present-day Shimane Prefecture).

Bonhams sold the first part of the Huthart collection of Iwami netsuke in New Bond Street in May. The second tranche goes under the hammer on November 6. It includes, estimated at **£2500-3000**, this *umimatsu* (sea-pine) netsuke of a beetle on a decaying branch fully signed on a polished rectangular reserve by Tsuramitsu (1793-1859).

► [bonhams.com](http://bonhams.com)



## Lempertz – December 6-7

**Left:** this 18th century Tibetan thangka of a preaching Buddha, 3ft 4in 2ft 3in (1.01m x 68cm) is one of the pieces German auction house Lempertz will bring to *Asian Art in London* ahead of a sale in Cologne on December 6-7.

Acquired at Schoettler-Ostasiatica, Stuttgart, in May 1976, it comes from the collection of the artist-photographer Gerda Sökeland (1931-2013). It is estimated at **€15,000-20,000**.

► [lempertz.com](http://lempertz.com)





**Lyon & Turnbull – November 6**

**Left:** Ding ware, one of the Five Great Wares of the Song dynasty (960-1279) period produced in Ding Xian (modern Chu-yang) in Hebei Province, is most commonly seen with incised decoration of lotus or lily. The three-clawed dragon adorning this 7in (17cm) dish is a rarity.

It will be offered in Lyon & Turnbull's Fine Asian & Islamic Works of Art on November 6 at The Hellenic Centre, London W1. It comes from a private Japanese collection with an estimate of **£12,000-15,000**.

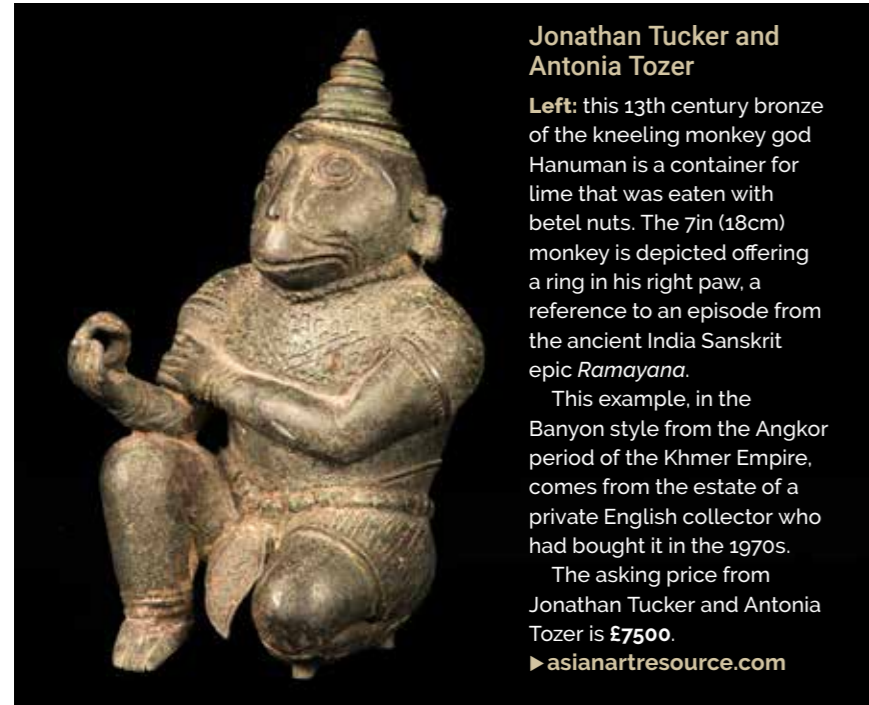
► [lyonandturnbull.com](http://lyonandturnbull.com)



**Woolley & Wallis – November 12-13**

**Above:** this 17in (43cm) model of the mythical rain-bringing dragon fish, the *shachihoko*, is a striking example of a jizai okimono - lifelike, articulated animal figures popular in the last decades of Edo-period and Meiji Japan. Its body is constructed from numerous hammered iron plates that allow it to bend from head to tail. The fins and jaws are also moveable. From a private collection, it carries an estimate of **£4000-6000** at Woolley & Wallis in Salisbury on November 12-13.

► [woolleyandwallis.co.uk](http://woolleyandwallis.co.uk)



**Jonathan Tucker and Antonia Tozer**

**Left:** this 13th century bronze of the kneeling monkey god Hanuman is a container for lime that was eaten with betel nuts. The 7in (18cm) monkey is depicted offering a ring in his right paw, a reference to an episode from the ancient India Sanskrit epic *Ramayana*.

This example, in the Banyon style from the Angkor period of the Khmer Empire, comes from the estate of a private English collector who had bought it in the 1970s.

The asking price from Jonathan Tucker and Antonia Tozer is **£7500**.

► [asianartresource.com](http://asianartresource.com)



**Raquelle Azran Vietnamese Contemporary Fine Art**

**Above:** veneration of the ancestors remains central to Vietnamese culture. Past generations offer emotional support while the living attend to the ancestors on a daily basis, offering fresh fruit and flowers at a small altar which can be found in every Vietnamese home.

Vu Thu Hien, a mid-career Vietnamese artist represented by Raquelle Azran Vietnamese Contemporary Fine Art, has chosen the subject as the primary narrative in her work.

In this 3ft 7in x 2ft 5in (1.1m x 80cm) watercolour on handmade paper titled *Generations of Grace* from 2018, the central figure in blue is surrounded by half-shadowed faces and figures while the division of the work into three vertical parts symbolises the unity of past, present and future.

Priced at **£7500**.

**Woolley & Wallis – November 12-13**

**Right:** the Chinese word *yingxiong* – meaning champion or hero – can be achieved by combining the words for bird (*ying*) and mythical bear (*xiong*). This large 13½in (34cm) Qing black and celadon jade *yingxiong* group comes for sale at Woolley & Wallis in Salisbury on November 12-13 by descent from the collection of Rev Victor Farmer (1898-1977). The estimate is **£8000-12,000**.

The first acquisitions of the Farmer collection began in the late 19th century when William Farmer went to Hong Kong in 1888 to work as a hotel manager. His son Victor, a chairman of ICI who took holy orders after leaving Shanghai in the 1950s, was a member of the Oriental Ceramic Society.

► [woolleyandwallis.co.uk](http://woolleyandwallis.co.uk)



CHINE - Époque Kangxi (1662-1722)  
Ritual *bianzhong* gilt bronze bell, marked « Huang Zhong » and « Kangxi Bing Shen Nian Zhi », corresponding to 1716.  
H. 20,9 cm.

Provenance : Famille De Semallé

[www.tessier-sarrou.com](http://www.tessier-sarrou.com)

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**Guus Roell**

**Left:** this profusely carved and pierced Cantonese ivory basket c.1820, priced at €21,000 by Maastricht dealer Guus Roell who is a regular at *Asian Art in London*, comes with a handwritten note reading *Ivory Basket HH given to me by my Mother December 1866. Bought from China by her sister Lady Urmstow and given to my Mother before her marriage in 1823.*

The monogram *HH* stands for Harriet Hanson (1802-66), the daughter of John Hanson of Great Bromley Hall, Essex, who married wine merchant John William Bridges on September 4, 1823. Her sister Elizabeth was married to Sir James Brabazon Urmston of Chigwell House, Essex who was Chief of All Affairs of the British Nation in China from 1819-26. The Urmston Road, a waterway between the island Lantau and Tuen Mun in Hong Kong, is named after him.

► [guusroell.com](http://guusroell.com)

**Bonhams – November 7**

**Below:** Bonhams conducts a sale titled *Masterpieces of Japanese art* from a Royal Collection on November 7 at New Bond Street.

Among the highlights are works by the revered lacquer artist Shibata Zeshin (1807-91). Leading the sale is this large-scale 2ft x 15in (61 x 38cm) panel of a farmhouse in the snow at Sano. The scene, taken from the Noh play *Hachi no ki*, shows the impoverished courtier Tsuneyo Genzaemon offering hospitality

to Lord Hojo Tokiyori disguised as a wandering monk. It is signed in gold *maki-e* characters *Gyonen nanajunana Koma Zeshin sei* (*Made by Koma Zeshin, aged 77*) and is dated 1883.

An accompanying receipt records its sale in Japan in April 1926 for Yen3750 but it has a much more recent auction history, having been sold by Bonhams in November 2014.

This November it has an estimate of £300,000-500,000. ► [bonhams.com](http://bonhams.com)



**Ben Janssens**

**Left:** this finely carved sculpture from the Jin dynasty (265-420) is of a type known in China as *yunren* – literally meaning 'iron man'. It was designed specifically to hold a flat metal plate and other tools for ironing fabric or clothes.

Three closely comparable Jin pottery stands of similar proportions with stylised bear finials were excavated from Henan province but this example, from dealer Ben Janssens, is carved from stone. It is priced at £12,000. ► [benjanssens.com](http://benjanssens.com)



**Chiswick – November 11**

The Fine Chinese Paintings sale at Chiswick Auctions on November 11 will include this rediscovered set of six works by the Kangxi period court artist Jiang Tingxi (1669-1732). The ink and colour on silk album leaves, each measuring 15½ x 16in (40 x 41cm), are believed to be part of the *Compendium of Birds* album, a monumental natural history work depicting 360 birds and lengthy texts completed around 1721.

The original version left the Palace collection in the early 20th century and was sold, piecemeal, in Europe, meaning the album is best known from a copy commissioned later in the 18th century by Kangxi's grandson, the Qianlong emperor. These later versions by the artists Zhang Weibang and Yu Sheng are in the collection of the Palace Museum.

These six works, depicting cockerels of various types, are all marked with the seals of Jiang Tingxi. They come for sale from a Scottish private collection by descent from Charles Blair (1856-1943), owner of a tea plantation in Ceylon. They were possibly acquired in Singapore between 1928-32. Estimate £20,000-30,000. ► [chiswickauctioneers.co.uk](http://chiswickauctioneers.co.uk)



**Röell Fine Art**  
*From Distant Shores*

Lobed silver dish, Dutch East Indies, 3rd quarter 17th century, with later engraving of the coat of arms of *Christian Hubert von Pfeffel* (1765-1834). His great-granddaughter, *Marie Louise* (Paris 1882-Cornwall 1944) who changed her name to *de Pfeffel*, was the great-grandmother of *Boris de Pfeffel Johnson*.



Unknown Chinese artist. Four Westerners with descriptions in Chinese, c. 1760. Top two, a Portuguese woman and man. Bottom two, a Dutch man and woman. Provenance: Mr. & Mrs. Rafi Mottahedeh.

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**Dreweatts – November 11**

**Above:** the opening 16 lots of the sale of Chinese ceramics and works of art at Dreweatts of Donnington Priory on November 11 come from the family of Lt Col William Roy Hodgson (1892-1958), an Australian soldier, public servant and diplomat.

It was during the period from September 1949 to April 1952, when he was Australian minister to Japan, that his Chinese collection was formed under the advice of Prof Fujio Koyama of Tokyo National Museum.

Among the items purchased in Tokyo in the early 1950s was this Ming, blue and white *Eighteen Scholars* stem cup probably from the probably Wanli (1563-1620) period. The estimate is **£5000-7000**.

On November 12 Dreweatts also holds an auction of Japanese, Islamic, Indian and tribal works of art. [►dreweatts.com](http://dreweatts.com)



**Jonathan Cooper**

**Left:** Contemporary gallery Jonathan Cooper features Chinese artist He Xi in its inaugural *Asian Art in London* show. Outside the Lines is the painter's first UK solo exhibition.

He Xi works with traditional ink and pigments and uses classic Chinese motifs. Works are priced between £7500-45,000 and include *The Fish Being Watched II* measuring 17 x 18½in (43 x 47cm).

[►jonathancooper.co.uk](http://jonathancooper.co.uk)

**The Pedestal – November 19**

**Right:** this striking late Edo period iron and red lacquer face mask or mempo (estimate **£700-100**) is from a collection of Japanese arms and armour and works of art offered as part of the Fine Interiors auction held by The Pedestal at Moor Park Mansion in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire on November 19. From the 1980s Patrick Donald lived in Putney surrounded by objects reflecting his twin collecting passions - Elizabethan and Jacobean oak furniture and the arts of Japan.

He became fascinated samurai clothing and weaponry while a youth in Canada studying kendo, the martial art for which he obtained a black belt.

[►thepedestal.com](http://thepedestal.com)



**Littleton & Hennessy**

**Above:** a miniature Beijing enamel hu vase is the highlight at Littleton & Hennessy's *Asian Art in London* exhibition. The Qianlong mark and period piece made in the imperial workshops measures only 2¼in (5.7cm) high. It is decorated with lingzhi mushrooms and bats, symbolising longevity and happiness in falangcai (foreign) enamels.

Similar to a vase in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing, this example is offered for **£100,000**.

[►littletonandhennessy.com](http://littletonandhennessy.com)

**Duke's of Dorchester - November 11**

**Below:** the Duke's of Dorchester sale on November 11 is headlined by items from a local resident and well-known auctioneer, academic and collector, Anthony du Boulay.

This finely painted 14in (35cm) Ming blue and white 'Dragon and Pheonix' basin belongs to a rare group of large and individualistic blue and white vessels produced in this short reign of the Zhengtong emperor (1436-49). Showing a continuation of the Yongle and Xuande styles, it is one of only two known basins of imperial quality from the period. Acquired by du Boulay from Roger Keverne in 1997, it carries an estimate of **£40,000-60,000**.

[►dukes-auctions.com](http://dukes-auctions.com)



**Martindale Chinese Art**

**Below:** Martindale Chinese Art stages *Fine Chinese Jade: Creatures and Beasts* at Stoppenbach & Delestre's St James's gallery during *Asian Art in London*.



The exhibition primarily includes jades from the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1912) but also includes this pale celadon and russet carving of a rolling horse from the Tang dynasty or later. Carved from a natural pebble, it shows the horse, a symbol of power and strength in Chinese art, with a ribbon tied through its tail

indicating that the animal is probably domesticated or trained.

Works in the show are priced from **£4000-50,000**.

[►martindalechineseart.com](http://martindalechineseart.com)



**Adam's – November 5**

**Above:** in the Qing court clothing became so distinct that a wearer's position was immediately clear. The blue-black fabric of this embroidered silk *kesi* indicated the wearer was a court official with the roundels filled with cranes showing he was of the first civil rank. It is on offer in the Asian art sale at Adam's in Dublin on November 5 from 'an Irish private collection and then by descent'. Estimate **€2000-4000**.

[►adams.ie](http://adams.ie)



**Christie's – November 5**

**Right:** this 7½in (19cm) Ming dynasty gilt-bronze Buddhist sculpture of Shakyamuni Buddha dates from the 15th century or earlier. In a UK private collection since the 1970s, it is estimated at **£50,000-80,000** at Christie's sale of Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art on November 5.

With a hunch that the original consecration 'relics' may still be intact, Christie's staff chose to have the piece X-rayed (**left**) to show the contents of the interior. The image revealed a most unusual miniature bronze Buddha and a miniature stupa placed inside six centuries ago.

[►christies.com](http://christies.com)



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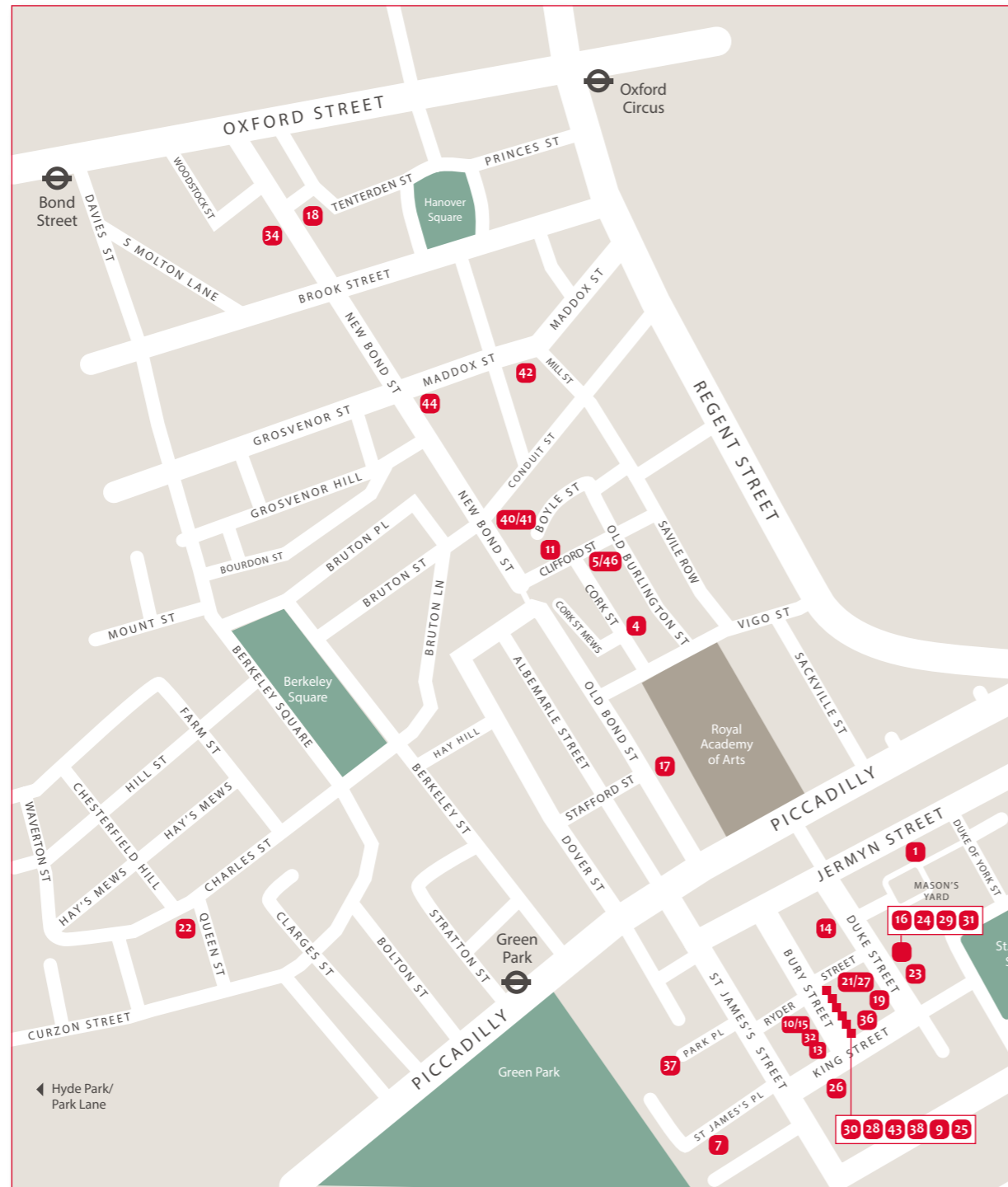
31 October - 9 November

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Late Night Opening: **St. James's** - Sunday 3 November 5pm-9pm, **Mayfair** - Monday 4 November 5pm-9pm

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www.joostvandenbergh.com
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- 23 Sue Ollemans  
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The Asian Art in London festival is co-sponsored by *Antiques Trade Gazette*.

The event unites dealers and auctioneers for 10 days of selling exhibitions and auctions. Objects on view date from antiquity to the contemporary. Here we present AAL's maps of the key areas and participants involved.

\* No late night opening. For full details visit [asianartinlondon.com](http://asianartinlondon.com)

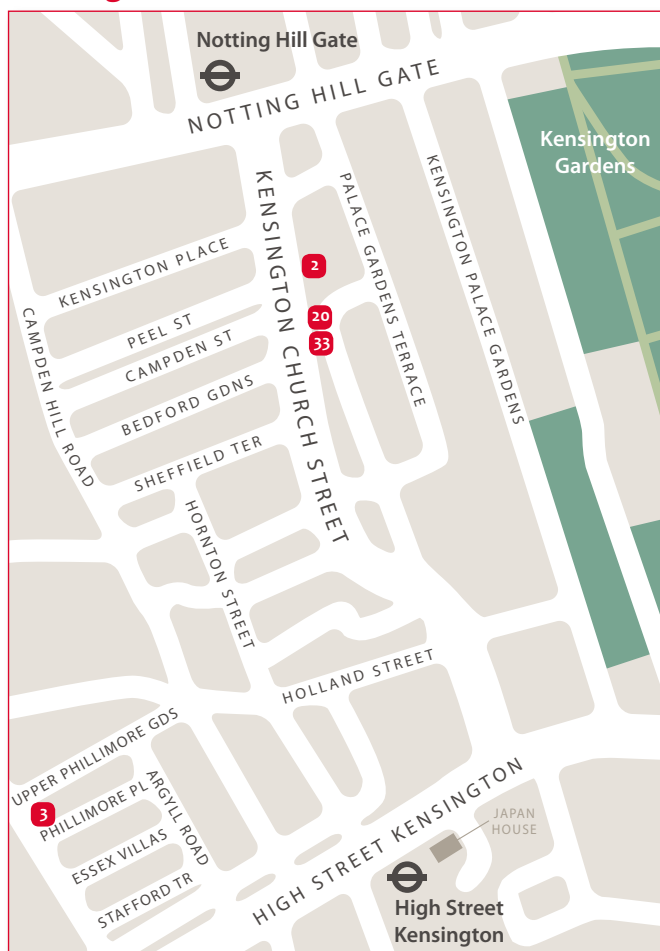




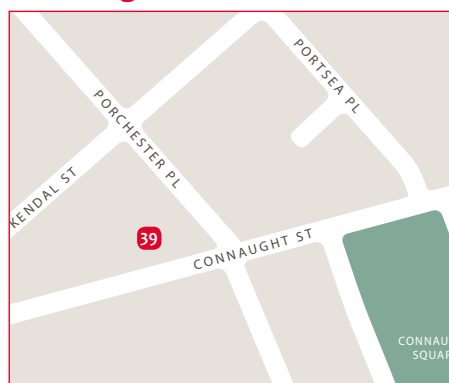
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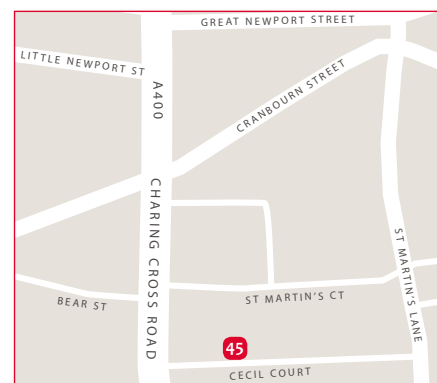
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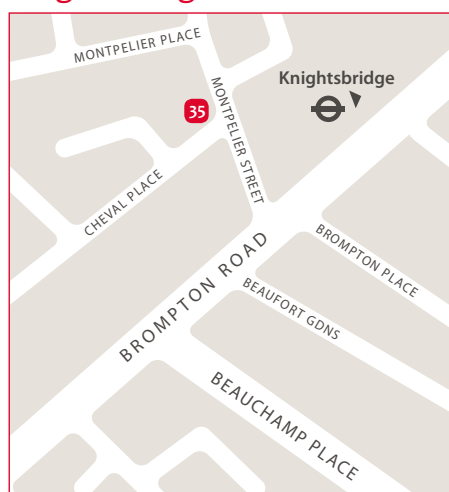
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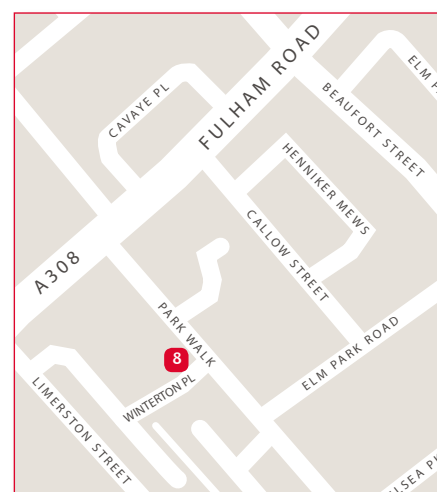
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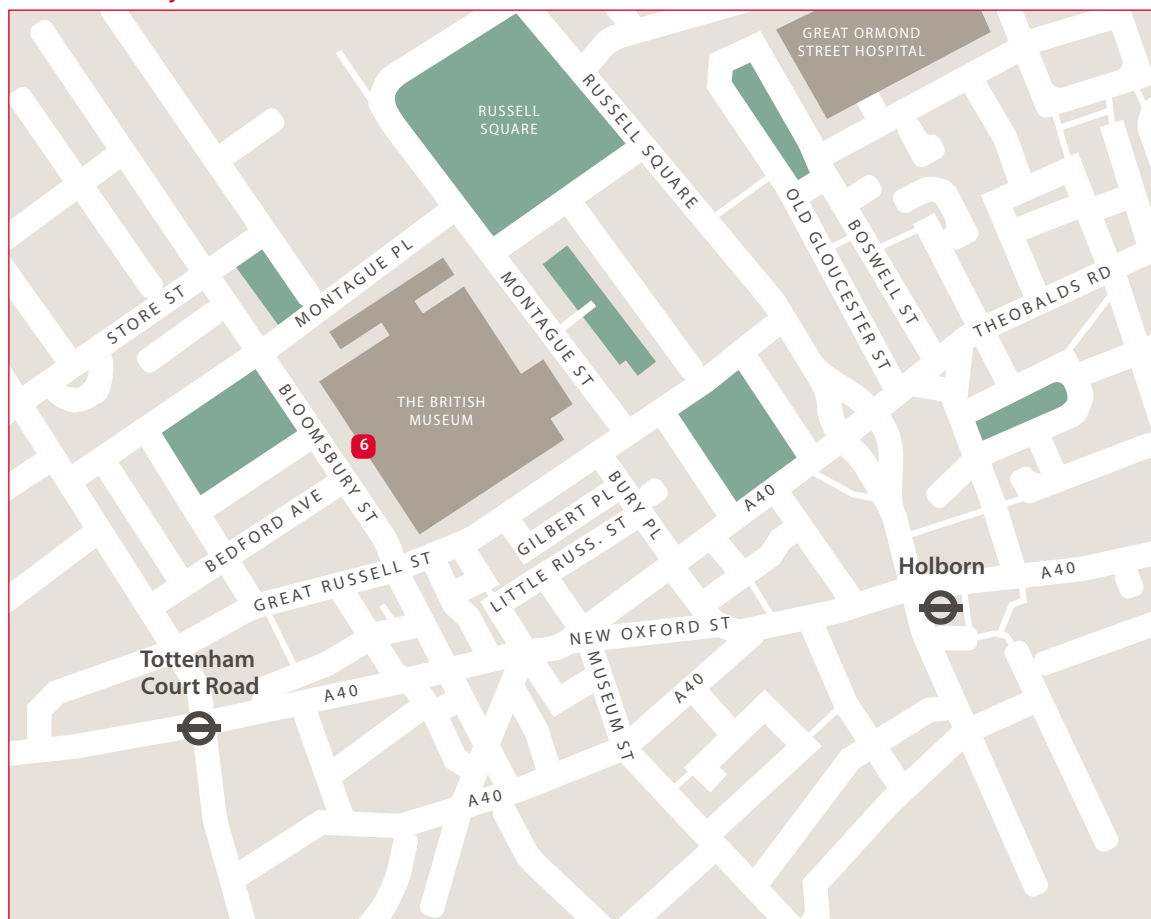
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