



COLLECTING

# Asian Art in London enjoys royal lift-off

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An 18th-century jade incense burner

KEN ADLARD

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If not exactly by royal appointment, Asian Art in London, the annual feast of dealers' selling shows, auctions, institutional exhibitions, seminars, lectures and book launches, which will run from November 3 to 12, has obviously earned the Royal Collection's approval.

The launch of its much-anticipated catalogue raisonné of Chinese and Japanese works of art

will take place during this year's AAL, at 6.30pm on November 10 at the Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace.

There will be a discussion led by John Ayers, the sinologist, the catalogue's author, with Rose Kerr, the art historian, and Rufus Bird, deputy surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art. The evening includes a private view of the gallery's winter exhibition and a glass of wine (tickets £15, [royalcollection.org.uk](http://royalcollection.org.uk)). The exhibition, *Portrait of the Artist*, includes more than 150 works, ranging from Rembrandt and Rubens to Freud and Hockney.

This is the 19th AAL week and its influence is now felt far beyond London. Auction houses sensibly co-ordinate specialist sales to take advantage of visiting collectors and London salerooms, including Chiswick Auctions for the first time, are now joined not only by Edinburgh-based Lyon & Turnbull (holding a London sale at Asia House, New Cavendish Street, W1) and Woolley & Wallis of Salisbury, but Nagel Auktionen of Stuttgart in Germany.

In London there will be 51 participating dealers and galleries, and as usual they will stay open late over the first weekend.

Collectors will find Asian and other refreshments in Kensington Church Street on November 5; St James's on November 6; and Mayfair on November 7. There is also an opening champagne reception at the China Exchange, 32A Gerrard Street, Soho (pre-booked tickets £40), on November 3, 6.30pm-9pm.

The range of art and expertise on offer sweeps across the continent and through the ages from antiquity to contemporary, and the occasion attracts collectors and curators from around the globe. Until recently I have not shared the fashionable enthusiasm for contemporary Chinese painting, some of which has more connection to the movement of resources for property acquisition than to art. However, on the evidence of this year's shows there is also genuine quality on offer, as in the recent paintings by Zeng Xiaojun at Eskenazi of Clifford Street, W1, or in the photographic art work by Han Bing shown by Fitzgerald Fine Arts from New York at Dorsett Shepherd's Bush on Shepherd's Bush Green, W12.

Eskenazi has a second show of early Chinese

art from private collections, while across the street Roger Keverne also offers early Chinese works.

[asianartinlondon.com](http://asianartinlondon.com)

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