

## Post Event Press Release Asian Art in London 2016

In a politically historic year **Asian Art in London** saw positive results and proved that it remains of significant importance to the London art world calendar.

An increase in the number of contemporary participants and participants dealing in antique works who branched out into the contemporary sector found positive results. **Gregg Baker's** exhibition with Post-war artist *Suda Kokuta* achieved 90% sales, with prices ranging from £5,000-70,000 bringing in a range of new collectors. **Jorge Welsh** 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition, '*A time and a place*' also had strong sale results as did **Marchant**, selling 10 works from their exhibition '*Kangxi Blue and White and Underglaze Copper-Red*' exhibit.

Other contemporary participants including **Aktis Gallery** and **Raquelle Azran Vietnamese Contemporary**, reported a good week and sales pending by the weeks end. **MD Flacks'** exhibition of works by *Clive Barker*, entitled '*The Swinging Scholar*', certainly swung into action after a slow start. During the week numbers of visitors steadily grew, with half of Barker's exhibition selling overall and interest in the antique works as well. The show was extended a further two weeks.

Moving round Mayfair; leading Asian dealer **Eskenazi Ltd** had healthy sales with 12 works of art from their, '*Archaic Bronze Ware Vessel's*' exhibition selling for five and six figures sums and a further six works from the contemporary exhibition by *Zeng Xiaojun*. **Sotheby's** Chinese Song Dynasty Jianyao teabowl from a Japanese collection (estimate £300,000-400,000) sold at £1,085,000 and **Woolley & Wallis** also reported an 80% sold rate. Christies totalled sales of over £9 million, with the top lot selling almost £300,000 over the top estimate.

**Ben Janssens** of **Ben Janssens Oriental Art Ltd.**, commented, "*Asian Art in London remains a very important part of my business*" and had standing room only in the gallery during AAL late night opening weekend. Sharing his Jermyn Street gallery, **Joost van den Bergh**, specialist in Indian & Japanese art, also commented it had been a strong year with new clients and acquisitions by museums. St James's veteran Indian & Islamic dealer and expert **Simon Ray**, also saw the majority of his beautifully crafted catalogue, see substantial sales as did **Rob Dean** whose exhibition '*Indian Paintings, Classical & Modern*' completely sold out.

New overseas participant, **Mika Gallery/Shouun Oriental Art** of New York & Tokyo, showing prehistoric and contemporary Japanese works in the newly opened exhibition space above *Brian Haughton Gallery*, were surprised to see the number of Chinese collectors interested in antique Japanese works; several small pieces were sold with further sales pending. **Genrokuart** of Italy also experienced substantial interest in their exhibition, *'Four Hundred years of Japanese Porcelain'*. At one stage during the late night opening weekend ten people at a time entered the Duncan Miller Fine Arts Gallery where the exhibit was held.

**Runjeet Singh** had substantial sales from his 'Arms & Armour from *the East*' exhibit, with 40% sold by the end of the first weekend. **Peter Finer** sold 13 works from their exhibition, **'Islamic & Oriental Arms & Armour'** including his prize-winning shield, selling six pieces to the local trade. Finer commented, *'Asian Art in London is now firmly embedded in our calendar'*. **Simon Pilling's** lacquer gorilla plaque, by artist *Ando Saeko* found a home with a UK collector, as did co-exhibitor *Chiko Nara's* evocative prints by artist *Katsunori Hamanishi*, whose prices started from £2,000.

There was an excellent response to the Preferred Hotels & Resorts competition where the two winners would be visiting Hotel New Otani, EXECUTIVE HOUSE ZEN, Tokyo and Hotel Sans Souci, Vienna.' *With further results still to come from Participants, AAL 2016 has shown that despite major world events, London is still 'Open for Business'!*

**Dates for AAL 2017: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year! 2 – 11 November.**  
**image courtesy Runjeet Singh.**

