

Asian Art in London 2016

This year's Asian Art in London will take place from 3 to 12 November, bringing together galleries, auctions houses, societies and museums in a series of exhibitions, sales, talks and receptions. Evening receptions will be held at the galleries on Kensington Church Street on 5 November, at St James's on 6 November, and in Mayfair and Marylebone on 7 November, all from 5 to 9 pm. For further information on the event, see www.asianartinlondon.com.

Kensington Church Street

The exhibition at **Marchant** will focus on Kangxi blue-and-white and underglaze copper-red ceramics, and comprises 34 pieces sourced over a period of years. Arranged in chronological order, the works include a number of different forms. An imperial fish bowl with bold freehand painting is an example of early style and technique; the bowl was formerly in the O'Byrne and Sachot collections, and was



Bowl with scene from *Romance of the Western Chamber*
China, Kangxi period (1662–1722)
Porcelain with underglaze cobalt-blue decoration, diameter 20.3 cm
Marchant

shown in the Oriental Ceramic Society exhibition 'The Animals in Chinese Art' in 1968. Other works typically feature landscapes and stories from Chinese literature. (2–18 November; 120 Kensington Church Street)

Fleurdelys Antiquités, who specialize in antique Chinese wood stands and works of art, will be showing some unusual stands in their exhibition 'The Art of Display'. Traditionally considered an essential element in the display of Chinese artworks, stands are often made of exotic



Stand
China, 19th century
Hongmu, diameter 26 cm
Fleurdelys Antiquités

and rare species of wood, which adds to their attraction. A highlight is a 19th century *hongmu* stand with burl-wood top above a carved apron, with five cabriole legs. (3–12 November; at Patrick Sandberg, 150–52 Kensington Church St)

Jorge Welsh will be celebrating their 30th anniversary with a show titled 'A Time & A Place: Views and Perspectives on Chinese Export Art'. From the 18th



Detail of punch bowl showing the London Hospital
China, Qianlong period (1736–95)
Porcelain with *grisaille* and gold decoration, diameter 40.3 cm
Jorge Welsh

century, Views and Perspectives grew in popularity as a subject in European arts, influenced by the ideal of Picturesque and by Antiquarianism, and came to be commissioned on Asian artworks in a similar commemorative, curious and documental sense. The exhibition showcases the theme of buildings in their settings from the late 17th to the 19th century, in diverse media. A highlight is a punch bowl featuring a scene based on a 1753 print titled *View of the London Hospital in White Chapel Road*, which however shows a manipulated composition and was prepared before the buildings were actually completed, in order to raise funds and promote the location. (4–11 November; 116 Kensington Church Street)

St James's

Nicholas Grindley will be holding a non-selling exhibition of photographs taken by the

medical doctor Georges Auguste Morache from 1865 to 1866, when he was attached to the French Legation in Peking. Included are eighteen works from the Stephan Loewentheil Historical Photography of China Collection. Morache's connections allowed him entry to sites rarely accessible to foreigners, and his knowledge of the local light, temperature and atmospheric conditions as well as particular photographic techniques enabled him to produce images that skilfully convey the character



Sedan Chair Bearers at Rest
By Georges Auguste Morache
(1837–1908), 1865–66
Albumen silver print
Nicholas Grindley

of a particular time and place. His main themes were portraits (not included in the show), genre scenes and architecture. Photographs of the city by other photographers from the 1860s to the 1880s will also be on view. (3, 4 and 7–11 November; at Hazlitt, 37 Bury Street)

Chinese Ming and Qing dynasty works of art in a variety of materials and crafted in scholar's taste are the theme of **Ben Janssens's** exhibition. Several examples of miniature furniture are included, as well as works in lacquer, among them a small brown *taxi* pattern box and a red

lacquer box carved with lychees, possibly used in the Qing court. Brushpots, stands and incense burners are also featured. (3–11 November; 91C Jermyn Street)



Incense burner
China, Ming dynasty, 16th/17th century
Bronze, height 16.5 cm
Ben Janssens

Joost van den Bergh will be presenting Indian visual art derived from tantric thought and practice in an exhibition titled 'Magic Markings'. Van den Bergh was first struck by tantric art in the early 1990s, when he came across the 1971 catalogue from the 'Tantra' exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery. 'The highly abstract, geometric and



Shri Yantra
India, 17th/18th century
Bronze, width 13 cm
Joost van den Bergh

mysterious shapes were not something I had ever known existed, yet they somehow made total sense and had a peculiar familiarity about them,' he says. Highlights include an unusually large bronze Shri Yantra from the 17th/18th century, a black stone stele depicting the Jain teacher-deities Padmavati and Parshvanatha from 1618 and a 17th/18th century bronze figure of Bahubali. (4–18 November; 91C Jermyn Street)

Mayfair and Marylebone

Specialists in Han to Qing period Chinese ceramics **Berwald Oriental Art** will be exhibiting recent acquisitions. Highlights include a large Longquan celadon bowl from the 13th/14th century, formerly in the Idemitsu Museum of Art in Tokyo. (1–11 November; 17 Clifford Street)



Bowl
China, Longquan, 13th/14th century
Stoneware with celadon glaze, diameter 36.8 cm
Berwald Oriental Art

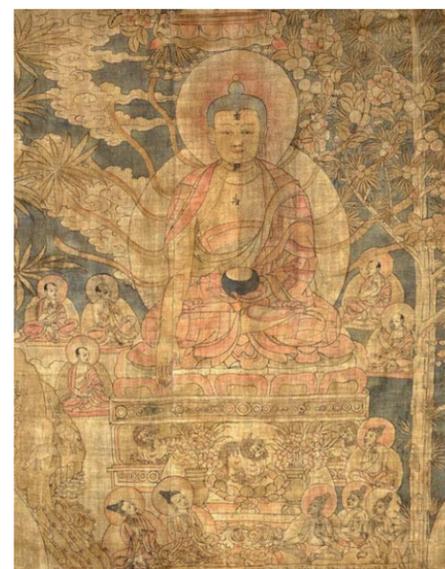
David Baker's selection will include Chinese Song and Yuan dynasty ceramics from various kilns in addition to Ming and Qing dynasty works in jade, bronze and other materials. Early Japanese porcelain will also be on view: a highlight is a Kakiemon vase, circa 1660, decorated in polychrome enamels with a pair of exotic birds perched on a flowering branch.



Vase
Japan, c. 1660
Japan, Kakiemon ware, height 28 cm
David Baker

(3–12 November; 29 New Bond Street)

Rossi & Rossi will be showing a number of classical pieces and will also be launching a special publication in celebration of their 30th anniversary. Titled *Thirty Years: 1987–2016*, the book contains essays by art historians Pratapaditya Pal and Steve Kossak



Detail of *Shakyamuni's Miracles*
Eastern Tibet, 14th century
Distemper on cotton, 241 x 172 cm
Rossi & Rossi

and spotlights major artworks shown and sold by the gallery since its opening. Also included is an interview with founders Anna Maria Rossi and Fabio Rossi by Elizabeth Knight, which explores their introduction to Asian art, their founding of the gallery and their experiences during the last three decades. (3–15 November; 27 Dover Street)

Eskenazi's exhibition this year will feature 24 diverse examples of early Chinese art from the late Neolithic to the Tang, many from private collections. The core of the show is a group of bronze

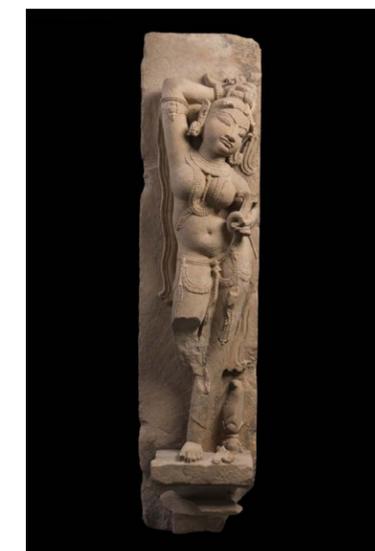


Bear
China, Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE)
Gilt bronze with agate and turquoise inlays, height 10.6 cm
Eskenazi

vessels, some formerly exhibited at museums such as the British Museum and the V&A. Highlights include an early Western Zhou period archaic bronze wine vessel (*zun*) shown in Venice in 1954 and recorded in 19th century Chinese literature as having been in the collection of the late Qing official Pan Zuyin. Animal motifs and forms are another characteristic of the show, and a Han dynasty gilt-bronze bear inlaid with agate and turquoise is especially worthy of note; its original function would have been to support a bronze

vessel or piece of furniture, as part of a set. (3–25 November; 10 Clifford Street)

John Eskenazi's show will present Indian, Southeast Asian and Himalayan sculptures and works of art, on view by appointment. A group of figures from an Italian collection is of particular interest. Other highlights include a sculpture of Shalabhanjika from northern India dating from the Chandela period, 11th century; the presence of the goddess in a tree is said to cause it to flower and bear fruit. A tall-necked vase from 2nd–1st century BCE Bengal decorated with *yakshas*, who were worshipped as gods of wealth, demonstrates the importance to trade of the seaports in the Ganges Delta. (6 October–12 November; tel: [44] 20 7409 3001; email john.eskenazi@john-eskenazi.com)



Shalabhanjika
Northern India, Madhya Pradesh, Chandela period, 11th century
Buff sandstone, height 97 cm
John Eskenazi