

Among The Properties In Gianguan Auction—

Personal Accessories & Internationally Famous Paintings



"Cranes," a four-panel work by Lu Kuchon (1898-1983).

NEW YORK CITY — Beginning with classical Chinese paintings and continuing through collections of bronzes, ceramics, stone seals and teapots, Gianguan Auctions' June 17 sale takes collectors deep into their favorite categories.

The sale begins with collections of personal accessories and swells to encompass paintings by internationally famous artists. Among the smalls is a set of scholar's garniture in cloisonné. The five pieces — an inkstone warmer with cover, brush holder; brush washer with ladle and a weasel bristle pen — have a sapphire-blue ground decorated with a yellow Wan character above and amid a front-facing dragon in pursuit of a flaming pearl. The details are set within multicolored ruyi clouds and rolling waves, all set off by a gilt border. Each piece bears the Qing dynasty, Qianlong four-character mark and is of the period. The lot is estimated at upwards of \$40,000.

A rare, polychromed lacquer box with 16 lobes is an example of the tianqi method of coloration. Incised on the fitted lacquer cover is a central lotus bloom surrounded by scrolling

Ba Jixiang (Eight Buddhist Emblems). The flower is made vibrant in shades of red, turquoise blue, burnt amber and green. Of the Qing dynasty, the lot 71 is 15½ inches in diameter and 7 inches tall (in excess of \$10,000).

Another scholar's item is a floral cup carved from a bamboo root. An anonymous visionary worked chisel and blade with great care to forge a budding flower surrounded by smaller buds on a stand. Measuring just 4 inches, the cup's surface has been patinated to a dark caramel brown (in excess of \$1,500).

Votive properties include several pieces such a massive zitan guanyin with child clutching a lotus. Carved from a single piece of wood (with mandorla added on) the deity presents as the bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion (\$60,000 or more).

Contrasting is a naturalistic, root-carved grotto housing a guanyin. The knotty stumps of the tree root flow in free form around the deity seated within. The cowl and loose robes are in keeping with her peaceful countenance (upwards of \$4,000).

At the midrange is a porcelain figure of the Bodhisattva of



Cloisonné five-piece scholar's set.

A naturalistic portrayal of guanyin carved from a root.

Mercy. The full-length guanyin is glazed in blue and blanc-de-chine. Of the Yuan dynasty (Twelfth–Thirteenth Century), the long flowing robes are open at the chest. The hands are in mudra, with the left holding sutra (begins at \$20,000).

Leading the stone seals is a jade seal within a zitan box surmounted by a carved dragon in flight. Chinese and Manchu script decorate the sides. The seal offers three script marks and is of the Qing dynasty (\$3,000 or more).

Shoushan stones decorated with Bixie and Young knots follow. There are more, of reddish Juxie stone, Furong and Tianhuang, as well as a collection of boulders carved with mythical creatures and fantastical motifs. Heights range from 4½ to 8½ inches and values start at \$800.

A favorite of Gianguan regulars are teapots. Within a collection of 12 are an octagonal melon-form Yixing Zisha teapot with conforming bud finial by Chen Mansheng. A diminutive Yixing Zisha burl teapot with a knot-tie finial on the cover is by Gao



Jianfang. A massive Yixing Zisha teapot by Chen Wenbo is polychromed with a stylized landscape scene. The artist's mark is on the base (\$800–\$1,500).

A group of ceramic consignments of both collectible and decorative value are scattered through the sale. At the top tier is a famille rose vase with peony motif. Its slender form with bulbous base and garlic head mouth is in perfect proportion to the 16-inch height. Of the Qing dynasty, with the Yongzheng six-character mark within double circles, the lot is of the period



"Lady With Fan," a romantic interpretation of a court beauty by Zhang Daqian, 1949.

(\$150,000 upwards).

From the Song dynasty, a crackle-glaze celadon mallet vase with canted shoulder will stir the emotions of pottery lovers. It is 6½ inches tall (minimum value of \$40,000).

The catalog cover lot "Lady with Fan" leads a selection of four paintings by Zhang Daqian that display his virtuosity and mood in the mid to late 1940s. Daqian heightened the interest in this statuesque portrait of a courtly maiden by focusing on the detail in the back of her golden silk robe. The face, done in flesh tones with white makeup, is a three-quarter portrait. Dated 1949, it is inscribed and signed Zhang Daqian, with three artist seals and one collector seals (upwards of \$80,000).

Previews open Monday, June 10. Gianguan Auctions is at 39 West 56th Street.

For additional information, www.gianguanauctions.com or 212-867-7288.