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Gianguan Auctions Offers Chinese Material Culture During Asia Week

NEW YORK CITY — At 6 pm Monday, March Gianguan Auctions will conduct the 18th edition of its annual spring sale. As in previous years, the auction is scheduled to offer Chinese works of art to international collectors participating in events during Asia Week.

In tribute to the Year of the Pig, three carved jade pigs will cross the podium, the highlight of which is a Ming carving of a smiling pig recumbent in a woven basket with handle estimated at \$40/50,000. A Kangxi ruyi scepter in the form of a lingzhi fungus leads a collection of Qing jade carvings. A translucent white jade brush pot with russet inclusions carries an estimate of \$40/60,000, while a white jade wine pot and cover with russet inclusions, a phoenix-head spout, curled bixie handle and an ovoid body bears the Yongzheng six character mark and has an estimate of \$60/100,000.

Works by two female artists of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries highlight the paintings collection. "Pomegranates in Bamboo Basket" by Dr Yuhua Shouzhi Wang carries an auction estimate of \$1/1.5 million. Song Meiling (1898–2003), publicly known as Madame Chiang Kai-shek, is represented by "Sun Moon Lake," a 1956 chiaroscuro hanging scroll that recalls a romantic outing. It is signed, has one artist seal and a colophon with seal commemorated by her husband (\$30/50,000). Best-selling artist Qi Baishi (1864–1957) is represented by "Shrimps," which depicts a field of seven free swimming shrimp

(\$80/100,000). One of several works by Zhang Daqian is "Boys and Pomegranate." The charming scene is dated 1947, is signed Zhang Yuan and is estimated at \$150/200,000.

The sale headlines a collection of Buddhist art and statues. Among the more unusual is a Thirteenth/Fourteenth Century Tibetan gilt-bronze thangka frieze of the Avalokiteshvara. Embossed in high relief, the enlightened one is posed in pralambopadasana on a stepped throne with hands in dharmachakra mudra (\$30/50,000). Also featured is a bronze Ming statue of seated Guanyin leaning on a stack of sutra, sacred scriptures. Of the period, the 22-inch-tall statue is impressed with the Yongle six-character mark (\$30/40,000).

One of the more important porcelain lots is a blanc-dechine ceramic statue of Guanyin by He Chaozong, a Seventeenth Century master potter of the Dehua kilns. The figure sits in dhyanasana on a plinth of louhans and lotus blossoms has fingers raised in abaya mudra that are long and delicately shaped, while the eyes and smile exude the serenity of meditation. Standing 151/4 inches tall, the figure is estimated at \$50/100,000.

A pair of Qing dynasty hexagonal hu-form vases leads a section of porcelains and decorative items (\$30/50,000).

The sale will preview March 12-17 and the auction will be conducted live in the gallery and online.

Gianguan Auctions is at 39 West 56th Street. For information, www.gianguanauctions.com or 212-867-7288.

ASIA Week



"Pomegranates in Ramboo Basket" Yuhua Shouzhi Wang (Contemporary Chinese), ink and color on paper mounted and framed, signed Yuhua, with one artist seal, 27 by 18 inches (\$1/1.5 million).

A rare Dehua Figure of seated Guanyin, with four characters mark within a square, Ming dynasty, He Chaozong, potter's mark (\$50/100,000).



carved jade wine pot and cover, Qing dynasty, with dragon-phoenix carving, Yongzheng six-character mark (\$60/100,000).

