

Himalayan and Chinese Art Take Centre Stage in Saffronart's First Asian Art Auction



Images from left: A porcelain vase from the Dhillon collection; Gau, Tibet, 19th century. Parcel gilt silver and copper, 7.5 in; Amitayus, China, Tibet, 18th century. Gold lacquered bronze, 6 in. All works were available in the Saffronart, Asian Art, 9 – 10 August 2017. Image courtesy of Saffronart

Chinese porcelain from the 17th – 20th centuries, Tibetan *thangkas* and Nepalese *paubhas*, and exquisite bronze sculptures are part of Saffronart's first Asian Art Online Auction, to be held on **9 – 10 August 2017** on saffronart.com.

Among the Chinese porcelain pieces on auction is the collection of Dr. Harish Dhillon who was an educator, headmaster and writer. Dr. Dhillon developed an interest in Chinese art through extensive reading and interactions with fellow collectors and institutions worldwide. Over a lifetime of travel and research, he built up a fine collection of Chinese porcelain and artefacts, which are part of this auction.

Among the pieces with a fascinating narrative is one from the Hatcher Cargo, one of the largest cargos of Chinese porcelain recovered from a 17th century shipwreck, around the port of Jakarta in 1983. Another piece from the Dhillon collection is from the famous Nanking Cargo, the cache of Chinese porcelain and gold ingots recovered from the *Geldermalsen*, a cargo ship of the Dutch East India Company that sank off the coast of Jakarta in 1751.

Other key highlights include 18th – 20th century Tibetan *thangkas* and Nepalese *paubha* paintings based on Buddhist and Hindu iconography. Also on offer are Buddhist sculptures, a bronze sculpture of Shiva-Parvati, and ritual implements. Himalayan art forms an important part of India's cultural heritage with leading museums in the country, such as the CSMVS Museum in Mumbai, housing significant collections.

Commenting on the auction, CEO Hugo Weihe said, *"We're excited to establish a category of Asian Art with this first sale. This auction includes works which are not only rare, with a unique story of collecting behind them, but are also significant as they illustrate Indian influence and the historic exchange of ideas and trade within Asia. It offers new discoveries that open up fresh perspectives. We plan to establish Asian Art as an annual category, highlighting and celebrating important works from across Asia."*

All lots from the auction can be viewed on saffronart.com. The auction is preceded by viewings in Saffronart Mumbai.

For further information, high-res images and interview requests please contact Shriya Pant or Josh Dobbins:

E: shriya.pant@flint-pr.com T: +91 9643516347

E: josh.dobbins@flint-pr.com T: +91 81305 13892

Auction Dates

9 – 10 August 2017

Saffronart.com

Viewing Dates

31 July – 10 August 2017

11 am – 7 pm, Monday – Saturday

Sunday by appointment

Address:

Saffronart, Industry Manor, 3rd Floor

Appasaheb Marathe Marg

Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025

About Saffronart

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's most reputed, with over a hundred auctions to its credit. It is headquartered in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, we hold online and live auctions, exhibitions, and prime property sales throughout the year. Our focus is to bring transparency to the auction process, and providing easy access to bidders around the world.

Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, art storage, appraisals and valuations for our clients, and supporting the efforts of the Indian art world by holding fundraiser auctions. We have set several global benchmarks for online auctions, and were the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

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