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Rare Asian Art for Auction

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ARTS & DESIGN

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE 29 OCTOBER 2013



A YELLOW GROUND 'FAMILLE-ROSE' SGRAFFIATO BOWL SEAL MARK AND PERIOD OF QIANLONG.
ESTIMATE \$25,000-30,000

Sotheby's Australia's upcoming auction of **Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design** is expected to gain enthusiastic interest from collectors of Asian Art in the wake of strong Asian Art sales at Sotheby's Hong Kong, where demand for fine bronzes, jade carvings, furniture, ivories and rare ceramics was evident not just from local Chinese buyers but from collectors across the globe. Offered in Melbourne on 29 October, Sotheby's Australia's Arts & Design sale features 256 lots, of which 122 are Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian Art.

One of the highlights of the sale is a rare 18th century **yellow ground 'famille-rose' sgraffiato bowl** from the period of Qianlong (estimate \$25,000-30,000, lot 109, pictured previous). The unusual flower decoration features a hibiscus bloom and peony (auspicious symbols for wealth, fame and good fortune) accompanied by smaller flowers painted in coloured enamels and finely engraved with dense *sgraffiato* scrollwork. 'The decoration is quite unusual,' said Sotheby's Australia's Asian Art specialist Ann Roberts. 'I have seen many yellow-ground famille-rose bowls, however, none identical to this. It is certainly rare and in very good condition,' she continued.

The great interest from Europeans in exotic Chinese and Japanese decoration from the 16th century onwards is embodied in a **red lacquered double domed cabinet on chest** from the period of George

II and later (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 50, pictured). The European design is heavily influenced by Oriental taste in its highly decorated exterior, adorned with oriental figures, birds and butterflies.

The **gilt-bronze ruyi sceptre** with the mark of Daoguang (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 101) is a strongly auspicious piece with its shape resembling a *lingzhi* fungus stem, which in Chinese mythology, is said to bestow long life. Used on ceremonial occasions the ruyi sceptre is also said to bring good luck and grant wishes. Often made in wood, lacquer and jade, this particular ruyi sceptre is rare for its use of gilt-bronze, as well as its unusually large size (63cm). Heavily decorated with the *an baxian* and the *bajixiang*, the sceptre is inlaid with three carved jadeite plaques, each of whitish colour with green suffusions.



A GEORGE II AND LATER RED LACQUERED DOUBLE DOMED CABINET ON CHEST.
ESTIMATE \$40,000-60,000

A striking **embroidered blue-ground 'nine dragon' robe** is a fine example of the Chinese skill of embroidery. This item, featuring auspicious emblems and nine dragons, was worn by society's most elite during the Qing dynasty, probably an imperial courtier. 'It is rare to find an embroidered nine dragon silk robe in such good condition,' said Ann.



'Sotheby's Australia remains highly focused and committed to sourcing and offering only

AN EMBROIDERED BLUE-GROUND 'NINE DRAGON' ROBE QING DYNASTY, 19TH CENTURY. ESTIMATE \$20,000-25,000

the finest examples of Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design,' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'This commitment provides an unparalleled opportunity for collectors to acquire an item of fine quality made by some of the most skilled Asian practitioners.'

AT A GLANCE

FINE ASIAN, AUSTRALIAN & EUROPEAN ARTS & DESIGN

AUCTION IN MELBOURNE

29 OCTOBER 2013 | 6 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 1, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE

24-28 OCTOBER 2013, 10 AM TO 5 PM

ANZAC HOUSE, LEVEL 4, 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

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For high resolution images, further information or to arrange an interview with Geoffrey Smith, Chairman, or Ann Roberts, Specialist please contact John Keats or Yumeko Leung.

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**Pre-estimates do not include buyer's premium.