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PRE SALE PRESS RELEASE!

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Auction:
Fine Asian Works of Art Auction
June 23, 2013 at 10am (Pacific Time)

Previews:
May 31 – June 2, 21-23 and by appointment

Location:
Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
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Classic Ming Dynasty Cups, Rare Tang Ying Carving, Fine Scroll Selection Highlight June Asian Auction

Outstanding pieces are seen in many artistic disciplines of the Fine Asian Works of Art Auction. Chinese paintings will showcase works from masters including Qi Baishi (1864-1957), Li Yin (17th century), Lui Haisu (1896-1994), Wang Yuan (14th century), Xu Longjiu (13th century) and Li Tang (1050-1130). Pristine white jades are found in various forms in the sale, with pendants, toggles and a multitude of small carvings as part of the selection (carving examples include animals, auspicious symbols and archers' rings). Sure to peak bidder interest is an assortment of fine textiles as well as exceptional Japanese and Chinese silver. Porcelains are found dating to the Song Dynasty, with quite a prestigious collection highlighting the offered lots. Nine exceptionally crafted wucai wine cups will be presented that bear a uniquely esteemed provenance. The consigner of the cup collection is a descendant of General Song Zheyuan on his mother's side. The cups came into his possession as they were passed down multiple generations of collecting from his father's side. Thus, the consigner's family holds the distinguished distinction of celebrated lineage as well as a brilliant family legacy of fine Chinese works of art.

The small wine cups are a beautifully classic example of late Ming dynasty enamel-porcelains. The ogee form cups are painted with red, green, blue and brownish red

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enamels upon a white background. Paintings of lotus flower sprigs, lanterns and Chinese figures adorn the exterior while the interior of each cup centers a front-facing dragon. The paintings bear differing levels of translucency, adding a wonderful sense of depth and are finished by a lustrous, glassy overglaze. A six-character Wanli mark is painted upon each base, with each cup measuring approximately 2 1/2 inches in diameter (lot 3286 estimate: \$70,000-90,000).

Another rare and important artwork from the Asian fine sale offerings is seen in a soapstone figural carving of Tang Ying (lot 3080 estimate: \$100,000-150,000). The substantial piece dates to the 18th century and displays a range of detailed carving workmanship. The central figure of the carving is Tang Ying, the most innovative and successful Qing dynasty imperial porcelain kiln supervisor. Porcelains produced under Tang Ying's direction exhibited innovative forms, decoration and patterns with the most gorgeous displays of color. Tang Ying took the medium to a new level, often creating porcelains resembling other materials to such a realistic state that they were often mistaken for the real thing. Tang Ying is a rare subject matter in Asian works of art, making this an especially collector worthy piece. The seated Tang Ying is depicted wearing a dragon robe and a serene smile as he is flanked by five young boys. Inscriptions are carved in the stone around him revering his character and the significance of the young boys. The scene is an artistic expression of the gentle Tang Ying being a worthy father figure as well as in the good fortune of bearing sons. The carvings are expertly executed, realistically portraying the figures and the rocky landscape that they are positioned in. The entire piece is finished by various pigment rubs, further highlighting the fine detail apparent in the carvings. Commissioned for Tang Ying's seventieth birthday, the uncommon artwork was created in reverence and homage to the kiln master.

Chinese artworks are highlighted by a trio of scrolls that are each an example of excellence in their own right. An early Qing Dynasty piece by Li Yin titled Mountainous Dwellings will be offered at an estimate of \$25,000-30,000 (lot 3217). The ink and color on silk scroll depicts a grand rock formation in reverence to the Song Dynasty style. The piece was acquired in Japan during the 1940s by an avid Asian art collector and is complete with three accompanying professional commentary letters from 1968. Two of the letters are from Thomas Lawton, the assistant curator of Chinese Art of the Smithsonian Institute Freer Gallery of Art and the third is from James Cahill, Professor of Chinese Art at the University of Berkeley. Another wonderful scroll is found in an 18th century ink and color on silk by an anonymous artist. It depicts Amitabha with numerous attendants and was created upon commission during the Qing dynasty (\$15,000-20,000). The last is a scroll of a slightly smaller scale (11 3/4 x 75 1/4 inches) in the style of Wen Boren (lot 3212). The landscape ink and color on silk is dated to 1569 and will be sold at an auction estimate of \$4,000-6,000.

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Nineteen lots from the estate collection of Senator Theodore Francis Green will also be included in the fine auction (1867-1966). Green once served as a Democratic governor and U.S. senator from the state of Rhode Island. He held a seat in the U.S. senate from 1936-1961 and at the time of his retirement at 93, was the oldest person serving. Green's illustrious political career also lead him to be selected by then President Harry Truman to serve as a delegate to the 7th General Assembly of the United Nations in 1952. Fine Asian artworks including paintings, woodcuts, scrolls and kesi-woven panels from the Green estate collection will also be made available to bidders in June.

For more information on Michaan's summer fine auctions, including the Asian offerings on June the 23rd, please visit us on the web at www.michaans.com or call the front desk at (510) 740-0220. Previews for the Fine Asian Works of Art Auction will be held on May 31st to June 2nd and June 21st to June 23rd. Michaan's Auctions is located at 2751 Todd Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

About Michaan's Auctions

Michaan's Auctions is a leading full service auction house on the West Coast. Specializing in the appraisals and sale of antiques and fine art, Michaan's has specialists in the fields of Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary Art, European and American Paintings and Prints, Jewelry and Asian Works of Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year attracting a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the world. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California and the Bay Area's lowest buyers premium Michaan's offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to preview and bid on many unique and desirable property. Some of these pieces realized world record prices. In 2005 A.D.M. Cooper's oil painting, Three Graces 1915, sold for a record \$21,060 and an Eduard Gaertner oil, German City Street Scene 1831, sold for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on its ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with its "no risk consignment policy" free of hidden fees and charges. Michaan's specialists are dedicated to staying current on the latest issues and developments in the market and are committed to providing personalized and professional attention throughout the entire auction process.

For a full listing of upcoming auctions or to view a complete catalog, please visit www.michaans.com.