ASIAN ART

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR COLLECTORS, DEALERS, MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES · MAY 2022 · £5.00/US$10/€10

TOP LOTS FLY AT ASIA WEEK NEW YORK SALES

Asia Week New York was back in action after the disruptions caused by the Covid pandemic. Sales seemed buoyant in the galleries and at the auctions. Chinese bidders and Chinese lots attracted a lot of interest in the sales with Sotheby's having a white-glove auction of the Dr Wou Kiuan Collection, Part I, which realized US$10.6 million, doubling the auctions high estimate. Across the auctions of The Dr Wou Kiuan Collection, Part I and Important Chinese Art, collectors from mainland China and Hong Kong made up nearly half of total buyers, underlining the strength of the market still in the region. Other areas also saw strong interest with two Indian artists providing top lots – in the Modern and Contemporary South Asian on 21 March, Vasudeo S Gaitonde's 1972 *Painting 4* led the week, selling for US$2.47 million and Bhupen Khakhar's *Sheikh Shoe Mart* sold for US$1.4 million, more than double its $500,000 high estimate.

The top lot of the week at Christie's was in the Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, an inlaid bronze faceted jar *(fanghu)*, Warring States period, 4th/3rd century BC, sold for US$2.76 million, against an estimate of US$400-600,000, more than six times its low estimate. Selling within estimate was a 11th/early 12th-century gilt-bronze figure of Guanyin, from the Dali Kingdom, with a strong provenance, which sold for US$2.58 million (est US$2-3 million). Chinese furniture was also in demand – a 17th-century *huanghuali* table sold for US$504,000 (est US$150-250,000). The top furniture lot was a 17th-century huanghuali trestle-let table that achieved US$2.1 million (est US$800-1.2 million). In the single-owner snuffbottle sale, an imperial *famille-rose* enamelled glass bottle, Qianlong period, sold for US$693,000.

Elsewhere at Christie's, the 16th-century hanging scroll, *Gathering of Scholars at the National Library* (Dokseodang), sold for US$693,000 (est US$500-700,000) in the Japanese and Korean Art sale on 22 March. Other top lots in the series included a bronze figure of a dancing Krishna, which sold for US$693,000. Indian contemporary showed strong sales when Bhupen Khakhar's *The Banyan Tree*, from the Mahinder and Sharad Tak Collection realized US$2.46 million. In the same sale, Francis Newton Souza's *Still Life* achieved US$2.16 million.

Over at Bonham's, a gilt-copper figure of Tara from Nepal, early Malla period, 13th-century, was the top lot across their auctions, achieving US$£2.3 million, selling four times over estimate. Chinese works of art also sold well, with nine of the top 10 lots selling for multiples of their high estimates. The most contested lot was a pair of lemon-yellow glazed bowls with Yongzheng six-character marks, which sold for US$200,313, 40 times its pre-sale estimate (US$5-7,000). Chinese furniture brought strong bidding at Bonham's, too, with an 18th-century *huanghuali* Qin table, *tiaoji*, selling for US$212,813 against a pre-sale estimate of US$30-50,000.

Inlaid bronze jar, fanghu, Warring States period, sold for US$2,760,000 (est US$400-600,000), at Christie's, New York, Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art on 24 and 25 March 2022

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NEWS IN BRIEF

THE BURRELL COLLECTION REOPENS, GLASGOW

The Burrell Collection in Scotland has reopened to the public late March after major refurbishment. Sir William Burrell (1861-1958) devoted more than 75 years of his life to amassing, along with his wife, Constance, Lady Burrell, one of the world's greatest personal art collections, including a renowned collection of Chinese art. The additional gallery space has vastly increased the areas for display, enabling visitors to see and appreciate much more of the entire collection. More information can be found on burrellcollection.com.

BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM AT THE OSCARS 2022

In March, Ryusuke Hamaguchi's *Drive My Car* won the Academy Award for best international feature film. It is the second Japanese film to win in the best international feature film category, the only other being Yojiro Takita's *Departures*, which won the international award in 2009. Based on a short story by Haruki Murakami, the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in July 2021 where it won three awards. It was also named the best picture in the non-English language category at the 79th Golden Globe Awards in January.

SINGAPORE BIENNALE

Singapore Art Museum (SAM) announces the naming of the seventh edition of the Singapore Biennale (SB2022) as Natasha. Through this act of naming, SB2022 moves away from its perception as a mega-thematic exhibition and towards an engagement with the ways that art, and that which is considered other to art, may be deeply connected to the subject and matter of life. Even contemporary interactive technologies – such as Siri and Alexa – are

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A round-up of Summer events

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PARIS AUCTIONS

Cloisonné gilt-bronze vase, China, Qing dynasty, Qianlong mark and period (1736-1795), height 25.5 cm, est €20-30,000, Artcurial

Brass figure of Kapaladhara Hevarja embracing his consort Nairatma from Northeast India, Pala period, 12th century, height 14.5 cm, est €120-160,000, Bonhams

Several auction houses are having sales in June. With **Christie's** and **Adam's** (Dublin) previewing June auctions in the Pagoda during Printemps Asiatique. Christie's starts the Paris season of Asian art auctions with their sale on 6 June. The sale features works from private European collections spanning more than 3,000 years of Asian art. Featured are Ming- and Qing-dynasty porcelain from several private European collections, jade carvings, *cloisonné* enamels and lacquer, as well as classical and modern Chinese paintings. Highlights include an imperial cinnabar and ochre lacquer 'dragon' circular box and cover from the 15th century, an important pair of *zitan* cabinets from the Qianlong reign, and a flambé-glazed vase with an impressed Qianlong mark and of the period and a green-ground *famille-rose* vase from the Daoguang period (r 1820-50). Also on offer is another selection of objects from the Galerie Duchange Collection, including porcelains, Buddhist art, and scholar's objects. More lots include an important selection of imperial porcelains, lacquer boxes and cloisonné enamels from a French private collection, which has not been offered on the market before. The Arts of Asia online sale takes place from 27 June to 12 July.

Artcurial are holding their sale of Asian Art on 8 June, with a highlight being a Chinese 18th-century, cloisonné, gilt-bronze vase. **Bonhams** are holding their first sale of Indian and Buddhist art in Paris with the Collection of Claude de Marteau, Part 1, on 14 June. A grey schist standing Buddha, sculpted in the ancient region of Gandhara during the 3rd century, leads the sale, with an estimate of €500-700,000. The collection, which has an estimated value of over €10 million, is a unique assemblage of art gathered over decades by the late dealer and collector, Claude de Marteau. Much of it has never been seen in public before and spans works created over a period of 1,500 years in the Hindu and Buddhist cultures that once flourished in India, Nepal, Tibet and China. This sale is the first in a series of four auctions of some 400 works of art from the collection. A further sale will take place in Hong Kong on 3 October 2022 with the remaining two sales being held in Paris and Hong Kong during 2023.

A highlight of **Sotheby's** Arts of Asia sale in Paris, on 16 June, is an imperial green jade *De Sui Shu Xin* seal, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 1796, estimated at €100-150,000. It belongs to a set of three seals and paired with *Taishang Huangdi* (Treasure of Emperor Emeritus) and *Guizheng nai xunzheng* (Retired but still giving advice). The seal is called a *Yinshou zhang*, which was used to make impressions at the right top corner of a painting or piece of calligraphy. The *Desui chuxin* (Able to Follow My Original Intention) seal was a very important seal during the time of Emperor Qianlong's retirement, since it means 'that he now has fulfilled his heart's desire, which he had had from the very beginning of his life'. The seal revealed his enormous satisfaction that family and national matters were progressing just as he had planned from the very beginning.

● Other auctions in Paris in June include sales by **Millon Asium, Pescheteau-Badin, Thierry de Maigret, Tessier Sarrou, Aponem** and **Maison R&C.**

Red leaves by Qi Baishi (1864-1957), ink and colour on paper, signed, dated and with one seal of the artist, 66 x 33.8 cm, €40-60,000, Christie's

Grey schist Buddha, Gandhara, 3rd century, est €500-700,000, Bonhams

Flambé-glazed vase, Qianlong impressed six-character seal, mark and of the period (1736-1795), est €70-90,000, Christie's

Imperial green jade 'De Sui Shu Xin' seal, Qing dynasty, Qianlong period, 1796, est €100,000-150,000, Sotheby's. Photo: Sotheby's / ArtDigital Studio

MUSEE ALBERT KAHN

The new musée Albert Kahn opened on 2 April 2022, in Boulogne-Billancourt, in a building designed by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. The project is part of the long-term process of preserving and transmitting the considerable heritage created by the philanthropist banker at the turn of the 20th century, around his exceptional collection of images, the garden, and the botanical collection.

The inaugural exhibition, *Around the World*, takes visitors on a journey to the origins of the Archives de la Planète, offering a tour of the museum's collections and an exploration of representations of travel through photography and film since the beginning of the 20th century. It revolves around the work of Albert Kahn and the geographer Jean Brunhes, scientific director of Archives de la Planète. Following a professional world tour in 1908-1909 with Maurice Lévy, his representative at the bank, and Albert Dutertre, who captured the itinerary of their trip in images, Albert Kahn launched his project for the visual documentation of the world, the Archives de la Planète. Approximately 3,500 stereoscopic plates (images in black and white, or in colour, which allow for the reproduction of relief) and 2,000 metres of film. About 1 hour and 30 minutes of running film time have been preserved from their journey.

● Travelling Through Images runs until 13 November, 2022, Musée Albert Kahn, Boulogne-Billancourt, albert-kahn.hauts-de-seine.fr

Temple of Heaven, Peking, 1913, Stéphane Passet, autochrome, 9 x 12 cm

View of Mount Fuji from the lake, Yoshida, Japan, 1926-1927, Roger Dumas, autochrome, 9 x 12 cm

Printemps Asiatique EVENTS IN JUNE

A full programme of events has been organised to accompany Printemps Asiatique, from 8 to 16 June, 2022.

Events may change, so please check the website for up to date information nearer the time.
printemps-asiatique-paris.com

A series of conferences organised with the Asia Society France are dedicated to strengthening the ties between Asia, France, and other countries of the European Union. The meetings will focus mainly on Asian collections held in Asia and the US. There will also be guided tours organised by the Association Française des Amis de l'Orient to include museum and other collections around Paris.

Louvre
9 June at 2 pm
Jean-Baptiste Clais: Traces of Asia in the Louvre collections,
louvre.fr

Musée Guimet
9 June at 2 pm
Pierre Loti in China (with the Society of Friends of the Guimet Museum)
guimet.fr

Musée Quai Branly
10 June at 2 pm
Christine Barthe: Retrospective of Vietnamese artist Dinh Q Lê
quaibranly.fr

Musée Guimet
11 June at 10:30 am
Vincent Lefevre: The Bow and the Sword, a talk on the current exhibition dedicated to the Samurai
11 June 11 at 2 pm
Pierre Baptiste: The Khmer collections

Musée Cernuschi (with the Society of Friends of the Cernuschi Museum)
12 June at 10:30 am
Anne Fort: The drawings and engravings of the students of the Gia-Dinh school
12 June at 2 pm
Manuela Moscatiello: Henri Cernuschi, French collector of 19th century Asian arts
cernuschi.paris.fr

Musée des Arts Décoratifs
13 June at 2 pm
Brigitte Nicolas: At the varnish cabaret, or the art of drinking coffee according to the Compagnies des Indes
14 June, 2 to 4 pm
Laurent Colson: Chinese furniture of the 18th century
15 June, 2 to 4 pm
Alain Truong: Vietnamese ceramics
madparis.fr

Société des Missions Etrangères de Paris
16 June at 2 pm
The adventures of French missionaries in Asia

Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient
16 June at 5 pm
An exploration of Asian-art collections preserved in Los Angeles, Boston, and New York
efeo.fr

Four sales for Marteau collection

On June 14 in Paris Bonhams will hold the first of four sales from the collection of Claude de Marteau which will be on view during the *Printemps Asiatique* (further sales from the collection will be staged in Paris and Hong Kong in 2022 and 2023).

The collection, which has an estimated value of more than €10m, was assembled over several decades by the late dealer and collector Claude de Marteau. It spans works created over a period of 1500 years in the Hindu and Buddhist cultures that once flourished in India, Nepal, Tibet and China.

Highlights include a 4ft 10in (1.47m) high Gandharan grey schist carved statue of Buddha dated to the 3rd-4th century which is estimated at €500,000-700,000 and this small 5¾in (14.5cm) high 12th century brass figure of Kapaladhara Hevarja embracing his consort Nairatma. It comes from north-east India and is from the Pala period. The small, portable size suggests it was intended for private devotional use.

It is estimated at **€120,000-160,000**.

bonhams.com

Religious treasures from esteemed Belgian Collector to star in Paris sale

By: Sebastien Raybaud
10 Jan, 2022 | 19:00

A A A

2547 Views

During this Spring season, a range of Buddhist and Hindu treasures will feature in *The Claude de Marteau Collection Sale* at Bonhams Paris.

Belgian art collector Raoul-Brabant sculpture will be the leading lot, which is estimated between €500,000 and 700,000 euros (around US$541,000 and 758,000 dollars). De Marteau, a reputable Belgian art dealer and collector passing away in the 20th century, possessed a wide collection created over a period of 1,500 years across from across Asia.

The auction is part of two sales – the first part will take place on 14 June in Paris, while the second part will be held on Spring in October 2022.

Claude de Marteau

Buddha Offering Protection sculpture (6th-7th century, Gupta, India | The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

As a young man, de Marteau stumbled upon Hindu and Buddhist art – which was to become his history passion while he was on an extended trip through the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. A collector accumulated throughout 50 years, he became a distinguished dealer of Tibetan, Nepalese, Indian and Southeast Asian art.

In 1985, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York acquired an ancient Indian *Buddha Offering Protection* sculpture from de Marteau. The sculpture was also illustrated in a catalogue of Indian and Nepalese art, the most iconic pieces in the Museum. Prominent art collector, John D. Rockefeller III, also obtained a sculpture from de Marteau – a famous *Shiva as Lord of Dance* sculpture. It was later donated to the Asia Society, New York Collection.

In 1973, an exceptional ancient Greco-Buddhist stele with five figures appeared in the Oriental Art magazine, where enthusiastic scholarly debate surrounding the chronology and interpretations of Gandharan iconography was sparked. In the report, 2010, this artwork fetched US$6.6 million dollars at Christie's New York – which set an auction record for a Gandharan artwork.

Shiva as Lord of the Dance sculpture (circa 970 CE), India | Asia Society, New York

Gray Schist Relief Trend of Buddha Satyanusmi with Bodhisattvas (circa 3rd-4th century CE), Gandhara | Christie's New York, 2010 | Sold US$6,650,000

Lot 26 | Schist Figure of Buddha | Gandhara

Created during 3rd-4th century CE
Height: 147.5 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €500,000 – 700,000

According to numerous publications on Gandharan art, de Marteau was known for his expertise in Gandhara sculpture. His connoisseurship is epitomised by this almost life-size Buddha sculpture, which exists for its naturalism, grace and contemplative attitude.

Located in modern-day Eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan, the ancient region of Gandhara was home to a vibrant, cosmopolitan civilisation – situated at the crossroads of international trade networks linking South and Central Asia, China and the Mediterranean.

This present Buddha sculpture blends Buddhist iconography and Greco-Roman aesthetic tradition of naturalism. Realistically depicted with a contrapposto stance, where the figure's right knee lightly bends, and more weight is placed on his left leg – imitating movement which was the stone carver's creation, conveys the Buddha's supple physique – suggested under the elaborate drapery of the monastic robe.

In addition to this, physiological features are added to distinguish an enlightened being. A circular dot in the middle of his brow represents how the Buddha emits a ray of light to illuminate distant worlds. Wavy hair and a cranial protuberance are depicted to symbolise a variety of magical powers. Another distinguished sign of his enlightened consciousness is the large lobe backing his head and shoulders.

Lot 53 | 5th Dalai Lama Sculpture of Sakyamuni Buddha | Nepal

Created during 13th-14th century
Height: 31.5 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, Brussels, 1970s

Estimate: €300,000 – 500,000

This Buddha sculpture is one of a handful of large bronzes attributed to the 5th Dalai Lama Sonam Gyatso – a territory comprised parts of Nepal and Tibet between the 12th and 14th centuries. The juxtaposition of the Buddha's warm demeanour and his robust physique with a bronze sculpture conveying tender, yet supreme authority.

Chief among traits that can identify a work from the Khasa-Malla Kingdom is the representation of the joints of each finger – displayed in this sculpture's right hand, lowered in the gesture of calling the Earth to witness. The rice-grain pattern – an inset turquoise circular dot found at the forehead has a teardrop shape, and the way his eyebrows and at the nose bridge – are features found among Khasa Malla sculptures.

Alongside these traits, numerous features of this present sculpture also show inspiration from these Nepalese and Tibetan regions – including thick beards running along the rides's rice-grain hairline, floral medallions tucked behind the Buddha's ears, his beaded nose, and the fishtail sash draped over his left shoulder.

Lot 119 | Copper Alloy Figure of Maitreya | India

Created during circa 7th century CE
Height: 19.8 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €150,000 – 240,000

One of de Marteau's prized possessions for more than 40 years, this ancient figure displays many characteristics from the Sarat Valley – located in modern-day Pakistan, and in the cultural boundaries of the ancient Gandharan Buddhist civilisation.

Dating to 2nd century CE, this sculpture also flourished despite various invasions in later periods. A school of Buddhist sculpture emerged with unique elements – where the Swat bronzes' cosmopolitan aesthetic is reflected in this present sculpture.

While much of the Gandharan taste for Greco-Roman realism is lost, the Buddha's expression is composed and pleated drapery can attribute back to some of Gandhara's finest sculptures. Although the sculpture's craftsman was inspired this bronze probably also drew extensively from the Gupta Empire (4th-6th century CE) – considered the Golden Age of Indian art. Portrayed with a fleshy countenance, it is also depicted with features including a large beaded necklace, bare chest, slender waist, lightweight lower garment, floral medallion armbands and broad unfurling lotus petals.

Other highlight lots:

Lot 25 | Schist Head of Buddha | Gandhara

Created during 3rd-4th century CE
Height: 48 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €150,000 – 200,000

Lot 30 | Copper Alloy Figure of Kapalabandha Hevajra | India

Created during 12th century
Height: 14.7 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €120,000 – 160,000

Lot 52 | Gilt Copper Alloy Trend of Padmasambhava and his consorts, Mandarava and Yeshe Tsogyal | Tibet

Created during circa 17th century
Height: 24 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €100,000 – 150,000

Lot 22 | Schist Atlas Figure in the form of Hercules | Gandhara

Created during 2nd-3rd century CE
Height: 51 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €80,000 – 120,000

Lot 41 | Gilt Copper Alloy Figure of a Lama | Tibet

Created during 15th century
Height: 22 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, 1970s

Estimate: €80,000 – 120,000

Lot 1 | Sandstone Stele of Ganesha | India

Created during circa 10th century
Height: 71.5 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, by 1967

Estimate: €60,000 – 80,000

Lot 15 | Sandstone Stele of Surya | India

Created during circa 10th century
Height: 76.2 cm
Provenance:

- 19th Claude de Marteau, New York, by 1967
- Richard B. Gump, San Francisco
- Sotheby's, New York, 6 October 1995, Lot 290

Estimate: €60,000 – 80,000

Auction Details:

Auction House: Bonhams Paris
Sale: The Claude de Marteau Collection, Part I
Date and Time: 14 June 2022 | 2pm (Paris local time)
Number of lots: 54

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Guimet Museum acquires 20th century Gods, Indian and Gandhara sculptures from Martelaro partners US$3.6m

By Sebastien Raybaud
Thursday, 28 May 2026

On 14 June, The Claude de Martelaro Collection, a private collection of Indian and Gandhara sculpture, will release two features that prominent Belgian art dealer Jacques Martelaro commissioned, consisting of a range of Buddhist and Hindu sculpture.

Martelaro died aged 64 years old, and which accumulated a sale total of nearly US$3.6m, with the proceeds from the sale of the collection being used as an award Grecco Grecco Buddhist works from the Gandharan region – part of modern day Pakistan and Afghanistan, in the end, it is thought, the 1st Century.

During this auction, a stele created around the 2nd Century, of Gandra, the Indian elephant-headed god, was harmonised at Sotheby's Paris for €1,000,000 (US$1,160,000) and Gandhara Buddhist relief, created, the distinguished Guimet Museum announced its partnership with and added the piece into its Collection.

Gandra, 1st / 2 Sandstone Stele of Gandra / India
Created during 1st Century
Height: 22 cm
Provenance
• With Claude de Martelaro, New York, 1980 – 1990
Estimate: 600,000 – 800,000
Hammer Price: 600,000
Sold: €1,000,000 (US$1,160,000)

The auctioneer Catherine Vanier, stated that, in the Gandhara Buddhist relief, the lotus, the hammer was dropped at 600,000 euros, with the fees, it was stated that she pre-empted this present 50 years ago, the lotus, the hammer.

Under French law, the right of pre-emption allows the state to purchase a work of art at the auction price, or a higher bidder of a purchase. It means that the winning bidder – adding to sotet's hammer.

Chosen de Martelaro

Gold Buddha Gilded Bronze / Tibet / Nepal / Indian sculpture 20th-21st century CGL Indian, The Gandhara Buddha Head, Gandhara Relief Right Shins as Lord of the Dance Shiva Nataraja, Tibetan Buddhist Bronze Kalachakra, Nepal Tibet Gray Schist Relief Trail of Buddhist Sculpture Gandhara Buddhist Relief 4th century CGL, Gandhara's Children's Head Gandhara Buddhist Relief Gandhara relief

As a young man, de Martelaro, stumbled upon the Indian sculpture, and he ended up to become his lifelong passion while he was studying Indian art at the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. A collection of Indian sculpture, for many years, he made, and established the Museum of Tibetan, Nepalese, Indian and Southeast Asia.

In 1985, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Indian Art Gallery, Indian Buddha Gilded Bronze Indian sculpture 20th-21st Century CGL, Sandhara's Children's Head Gandhara Buddhist Relief Gandhara relief.

Gandhara relief.

Lot 89 | Buddha Gilded Bronze / Tibet / Nepal / Indian sculpture 20th-21st Century CGL
Created during 3rd-4th century CE
Height: 22 cm
Provenance
• With Claude de Martelaro, Brussels, 1970s
Estimate: 600,000 – 800,000
Hammer Price: 600,000
Sold: €1,000,000 (US$1,160,000)

The bidding started at €200,000 euros and ended at €1,000,000 euros. The winning bid dropped at €200,000 euros. The winning bid was sold for a hammer price of a total number €100. It the end, it

Lot 90 | Head of Buddha / Gandhara / Gandhara
Created during 3rd-4th century CE
Height: 22 cm
Provenance
• With Claude de Martelaro, Brussels, 1970s
Estimate: €100,000 – 200,000
Hammer Price: €100,000
Sold: €200,000 (US$232,000)

The bidding commenced at €100,000 euros. After more than 20 bids, the hammer was dropped at €200,000 euros. The winning bid was sold for a hammer price of €200,000 euros. After more than 15

When a Buddha sells for more than half a million euros

Buddha Bodhisattva from the Jin dynasty (1115 – 1234 BC) in wood from the Rousset Sale estimated between 1 and 1.5 million euros. BONHAMS/FABRICE GOUSSET.
Consisting of sculptures and objects from India, Tibet, Nepal and China, the two collections presented for sale by Bonhams, one in June, the other in October, have some similarities. They were collected by Western enthusiasts, but with very different approaches.

The first collection, the first part of which – out of four – was sold on June 14, 2022, belonged to Claude de Marteau, a true old-fashioned adventurer. *"Left from Brussels, he wanted to reach the United States, got stuck in Morocco, went the other way and set out to cross Asia by hitchhiking,* laughs Edward Wilkinson, department manager of Bonhams. *He then went back and forth between Brussels and Asia for about ten years, from 1956 to 1965."*

In the trunk of his Cadillac, the adventurer brought back sculptures then totally unknown on the Western market: a relief panel, in schist, representing Buddha entering Rajagriha around the IIe century, sold for 78,495 euros, or a sandstone Ganesh stele from the 10th^{e} century, pre-empted by the Guimet Museum for 75,975 euros. The sale totaled nearly 3.5 million euros in total, an amount to which the gray schist Buddha from Gandhara contributed significantly, soaring to 567,375 euros.

Do not saturate the market

This region located at the crossroads of exchanges between China, India and the West has undergone multiple influences, which can be found on this statue steeped in classical Greek culture. It was one of Claude de Marteau's specialties. The study of this collection, in the hands of Bonhams since 2016, has allowed research, in particular on the workshops and monasteries from which the sculptures come: *"The attributions are always complex, because of oral traditions and Chinese repression, especially at the time of the Cultural Revolution"*underlines the expert. *"If Claude de Marteau had a very great aesthetic sense, acquired alone since there is no trace of the existence of a mentor in this field, he did not always know everything about his works"*, he adds.

Any other atmosphere in the family owning the second collection, auctioned on October 25 and 26: the Rousset. Heir Mike Winter-Rousset carefully keeps archives dating back to the origins of this collection, in the 1920s. No adventurer on this side, but an insurer, Robert Rousset, who, after visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing, launches into the trade of ancient Asian art. He then bought the gallery of the Compagnie de la Chine et des Indes, which has remained in the family until today.

Collection: Bonhams, Paris (June 2022)

Bonhams on HAR (https://www.himalayanart.org/search/set.cfm?setID=4158)

The Claude de Marteau Collection: Part 1

The Claude de Marteau Collection is a unique assemblage of art gathered over decades by the late dealer and collector. It spans works created over a period of 1,500 years in the Hindu and Buddhist cultures that once flourished in India, Nepal, Tibet and China. (See press release (https://www.bonhams.com/press_release/32660/)).

Article:
Introducing the Claude de Marteau Collection. May 31, 2022. (HAR on Patreon (https://www.patreon.com/Himalayanart))

Video:
HAR Curator's Selection (HAR on Patreon (https://www.patreon.com/Himalayanart))

Teacher (Lama)
(unidentified, male, monastic)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4801)

Hevajra (Buddhist Deity)
(Hevajra Tantra)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4803)

Padmasambhava
(Main Form)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4810)

Mahakala (Buddhist Protector)
Chaturbhuja (Four-hands)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4817)

Vajrapani (Bodhisattva & Buddhist Deity)
Krodha (Wrathful)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4832)

Vajrapani (Bodhisattva & Buddhist Deity)
Mahachakra
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4834)

Manjushri (Bodhisattva & Buddhist Deity)
Bodhisattva
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4835)

Avalokiteshvara (Bodhisattva & Buddhist Deity)
Padmapani (Lotus Holder)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4836)

Shri Devi (Buddhist Protector)
Magzor Gyalmo
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4837)

Naga Sculpture
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4839)

Vajradhara Buddha
(solitary)
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4840)

Manjushri (Bodhisattva & Buddhist Deity)
Arapachana
(https://www.himalayanart.org/items/4841)

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3 (https://www.himalayanart.org/search/set.cfm?setID=6901&page=3)

→ (https://www.himalayanart.org/search/set.cfm?setID=6901&page=2)

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