



DAY 2 - TWO-DAY AUCTION - Fine Chinese Art / 中國藝術集珍 / Buddhism & Hinduism (CA0322-2)

Fri, 11th Mar 2022

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 28 February to 9 March 2022. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment.

Lot 535

Starting price: €4000

Estimate: €8000

A RARE AND IMPORTANT PAINTING OF THE ARHAT BAKULA, 17TH-18TH CENTURY 十七至十八世紀重要囉怛羅尊者像

China. Ink and watercolors on silk. The Meditating Luohan seated on a fine and richly bejeweled throne, a halo behind his head, surrounded by clouds, leaves, and craggy rockwork. A mongoose in his arms spews wish-fulfilling jewels which drop into a vessel containing conch shells, held up by a demonic figure, below a transparent lotus cup with further jewels and a rock. Descending from above is Maitreya riding a tiger.

Provenance: UK market, by repute from an old English estate.

Condition: Fair condition with old wear, soiling, creasing, few tears, small losses and minor touchups. With a silk brocade frame and mounted as a hanging scroll.

Dimensions: Image size 110.5 x 68.2 cm, Size incl. mounting 211 x 85.7 cm

Bakula, known as Jinguzo Luohan (Meditating Luohan)

in Chinese, is the fifth arhat and often depicted with a mongoose spewing wish-fulfilling jewels, which is also commonly held by Jambhala, the Buddhist God of Fortune and Wealth.

The arhat paintings of the early Ming dynasty owe much to the secular tradition of landscape literati painting in China, and break from the earlier Tibetan compositional practice of Buddhist paintings, in which deities and other important figures are set within a regimented and prescribed hierarchy. In most of the arhat painting sets, the main figures are set within lush landscapes, surrounded by craggy mountains, curving pine boughs, and flowing streams. In the tradition of Chinese literati paintings, nature and country life were seen as an escape from the intrigues of the court, a place where scholars could find the peace needed to write poetry, perform music, and develop ideas. It is no coincidence that the arhats of these early painting sets, figures who represented wisdom and enlightenment, were placed within the tranquil confines of a natural landscape.

The Qing dynasty witnessed a revitalization of the cultural contacts between Tibet and imperial China, and the Manchu ruling class officially patronized Tibetan-style

Buddhism in the capital of Beijing. This period also witnessed an explosion in the production of Buddhist art, particularly during the reign of the Qianlong Emperor (r. 1735-1796), thanks to innovations such as the printing press (for producing thangkas) and industrial molds (for producing sculptures). Stylistically, **painting sets of the Sixteen Great Arhats from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries continued to follow the early Ming style**, with arhats set in Chinese-style landscapes.

Auction result comparison: Compare a closely related painting of the Buddhist patron Hvashang, referred to as **the patron of arhats**, also dated 17th-18th century, attributed to "Tibet or China", at Christie's New York in Indian, Himalayan & Southeast Asian Works of Art on 17 March 2021, lot 453, **sold for USD 750,000**.

十七至十八世紀重要囉怛羅尊者像

中國。立軸，絹本水墨設色。尊者盤腿坐在一個鑲滿寶石的華麗寶座上，身後有一圈光背，周圍圍繞著雲彩、樹葉和崎嶇的岩石。一隻貓鼬臥在他的懷裡，不停地吐出如意寶珠，落入尊者的左手，然後落入一個放置在地上的盤中，與一些佛教之寶海螺一起。一個惡魔人物舉著這個盤子。尊者左側有一岩石，上面有一個透明的蓮花杯，裡面也盛著很多珠寶和一塊山岩。空中的雲彩中可見騎虎彌勒佛。

來源：英國古玩市場，據說來自英國私人老收藏。

品相：狀況良好，有舊時磨損、水漬、摺痕、小缺損和輕微修飾。絲織錦框。

尺寸：畫面110.5 x 68.2厘米，總211 x 85.7厘米

拍賣結果比較：比較一件相近的西藏或中國的十七世紀摩訶衍像，見紐約佳士得 Indian, Himalayan & Southeast Asian Works of Art 2021年3月17日 lot 453, **售價USD 750,000**。