



NEW YORK

Asian Art Market Shifts Focus

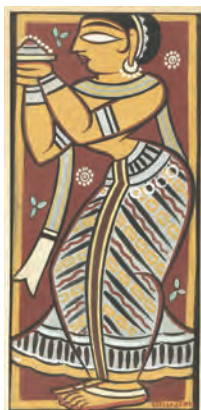
Expect fireworks at the spring **Asia Week** auctions—typically more robust than the fall's—as **Bonhams**, **Christie's**, **Doyle**, and **Sotheby's** roll out a full spectrum of offerings March 18–22, ranging from early Tibetan objects all the way up to contemporary South Asian artworks by the likes of **Subodh Gupta**.

One of the most pronounced recent trends has been the influx of Chinese buyers chasing Himalayan, Nepalese, and Ghandaran art, “because of its connections with the roots of Buddhism,” notes **Edward Wilkinson**, Bonhams’s senior specialist and consultant for the house’s nascent Southeast Asian, Indian, and Himalayan art department. The head of Indian and Southeast Asian art at Sotheby’s New York, **Anuradha Ghosh-Mazumdar**, concurs. “Himalayan art is currently the hottest area in our collecting category,” she says. But no matter the category, a tidy, well-documented provenance is key.



BONHAMS Among its three sales this week, the house will offer the 13th-century Nepalese gilt copper alloy figure of Vasudhara (est. \$60–80,000), above, in its Indian, Himalayan, and Southeast Asian art auction on the 18th. “It’s the type of object that is at the center of the Chinese-dominated market at the moment,” Wilkinson says. The sale also includes examples of Indian painting straight up through 20th-century practitioner **Jamini Roy**, whose *Maiden Making an Offering* (est. \$7,000–9,000) is shown at right.

CHRISTIE'S Eight sales, including three single-owner collections, fill the Christie’s slate. On March 21 the house offers a carved white jade *ruyi* scepter of the Qianlong/Jiaqing period, 1736–1820 (est. \$400–600,000), from the renowned **Lizzadro** collection. That same day, the house presents a baker’s dozen of *huanghuali* wood furniture pieces from an American consignor, estimated to fetch between \$2.8 million and \$4.5 million total, and snuff bottles from **Hildegard Schonfeld**, such as the late 18th-century Imperial green



and pink tourmaline one shown above (est. \$40–60,000.) An expected star of the Japanese and Korean art sale on March 20 is **Park Sookeun’s** undated *Seated Figures* (\$400–500,000) in mixed media on board.



SOTHEBY'S On March 19 the house will hold its first evening sale of Indian art, from writer **Amrita Jhaveri’s Amaya Collection** of 20th- and 21st-century masters like **Tyeb Mehta**, **M.F. Husain**, and **S.H. Raza**. Highlighting the demand for Tibetan art,

Sotheby’s will offer a 16th-century painting (est. \$300–500,000) probably from the **Ngor Monastery** in its Indian and Southeast Asian art sale on March 20. Other examples from the widely dispersed series are in the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art** and New York’s **Metropolitan Museum of Art**. At the two-day Chinese ceramics and works of art sale on March 19–20, the imperial Khotan jade seal shown below, produced in honor of the Qianlong emperor’s 70th birthday (est. \$1–1.5 million), is a leading light. —EILEEN KINSELLA



London dealer **Sue Ollemans** will show this 18th-century Navaratna necklace at **Valentina Gallery** during **Asia Week**; **Sotheby’s** will offer **Wu Hufan’s** fan painting *Bamboo* after **Zhao Mengfu** (est. \$30–50,000), far left, on March 21.

GALLERY WALK

Five years after its inception, the citywide **Asia Week** extravaganza will be bigger than ever this spring: A 25 percent bump in participants brings the total to 43 galleries, with several exhibitors arriving from abroad. Displaying a variety of painting, sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry from across the Asian continent, most shows open to the public between March 15 and 23.

J.J. Lally & Company
> 41 East 57th Street

From the collection of **Ronald W. Longsdorf** come more than 50 Song Dynasty ceramics that exemplify a variety of kilns throughout China.

Carlo Cristi
> Exhibiting at 1016 Madison Avenue, 4th floor

The Indian and Himalayan specialist travels from **Daverio, Italy**, with a cache of central Asian textiles.

Scholten Japanese Art
> 145 West 58th Street, Suite 6D
 The midtown gallery anchors a show of floating world ukiyo-e prints with a six-panel screen devoted to the female dancer **Izumo no Okuni**, thought to be the originator of Kabuki theater, despite the genre’s later being restricted to males.

Walter Arader
> 29 East 72nd Street
 Arader gives the spotlight to a large gilt-bronze figure of the Bonpo deity **Kunzang Ahkor**, one of the most significant works of art by practitioners of the Bon religion in western Nepal ever discovered.

Carlton Rochell
> 121 East 71st Street
 Rochell’s featured exhibition comprises a comprehensive sample of paintings and sculptures from India, Tibet, Nepal, and Cambodia from the 2nd to 18th centuries.

Lesley Kehoe Galleries
> Exhibiting at Maio Motoko & Unryuan Kitamura Tatsuo, 41 East 57th Street
 The Melbourne-based dealer makes her Asia Week debut with “Deconstructing Tradition: Contemporary Japan.”

Nicholas Grindley Works of Art
> Exhibiting at Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox, 17 East 76th Street
 The London dealer displays Chinese scholars’ objects, lately a hot ticket in the salesroom.

—SHANE FERRO