

Dealers and auctioneers ready for action

Exhibitions and sales lined up for the 14th edition of the annual celebration of Asian art in New York

by Gabriel Berner

Spring in the Big Apple marks the return of *Asia Week New York* (AWNY), the annual week-long celebration of Asian art in the city's metropolitan area.

The event, now in its 14th year, takes place from March 16-24 and encompasses auction houses and specialist dealers alongside exhibitions in museums, lectures and special events.

For sale through some two dozen auctions and specialist gallery shows held live and online is a broad mix of artworks across multiple disciplines, from ancient to contemporary and including Chinese, Indian, south-east Asian, Himalayan, Japanese and Korean works of art.

Alongside 26 participating dealers, six auction houses are taking part: Christie's, Sotheby's, Bonhams, Doyle, Heritage Auctions and Lark Mason Associates at iGavel.

Eye-catching auctions

Noteworthy sales include the select group of Chinese monochromatic porcelains from the Cadle family at Sotheby's and three auctions – two at Christie's and one at Bonhams – featuring the collection of AWNY founding member and dealer James Lally whose Chinese art gallery in New York, JJ Lally & Co, closed in 2021.

Over the next six pages we preview these sales and give a flavour of what else will be on offer in the auction rooms and dealers' galleries.

More information and up-to-date listings can be found on the AWNY website below. ■

► asiaweekny.com



Above: a Yongzheng mark and period robin's egg-glazed censer, from Celestial Colors. The Cadle Family Collection of Chinese Monochromes at Sotheby's, estimated at **\$400,000-600,000**.

The so-called 'robin's egg' glaze was created as a reinterpretation of the famous Jun glazes of the Song and was developed at Jingdezhen under the direction of the official Tang Ying, who is known to have studied in detail the finest imperial porcelains of the Song dynasty. Although the production of the glaze continued until the end of the Qing dynasty, the finest pieces were created in the Yongzheng and Qianlong periods.



Left: a Yongzheng mark and period flambé-glazed Jun-type jar, one of only three examples known of its type, is guided at **\$300,000-500,000** at Sotheby's headline sale Celestial Colors. The Cadle Family Collection of Chinese Monochromes on March 21.

Reproductions of the Song Jun glaze was revived on a large scale by the Yongzheng Emperor, who was particularly partial to Song wares and commissioned copies of Jun wares from the imperial workshops in Jingdezhen.

Right: Maqbool Fida Husain's (1913-2011) large-scale work *Bulls* (1961) will be offered in Sotheby's Modern & Contemporary South Asian Art sale on March 20 estimated at **\$1m-1.5m**.

The 3ft 3in (99cm) oil on canvas was used as the cover image of Harry N Abrams' 1971 monograph on the Indian artist and has appeared at auction only once before, at Christie's New York in 2003. Husain considered the painting to be an important work in his oeuvre, and at the Christie's auction, sitting next to the current owner, he requested that he keep bidding until he said to stop.

Against an estimate of \$18,000-24,000, the painting sold for \$107,550. This was a world record price at the time for Husain and represented only the third painting by an Indian artist to cross the \$100,000 mark at auction.



Reach for the sky with a celestial single-owner collection

Headlining the AWNY programme at Sotheby's is the 23-lot single-owner auction Celestial Colors. The Cadle Family Collection of Chinese Monochromes. Taking place on March 21, this offers a selection of monochromatic porcelains commissioned for the emperors of China's Northern Song, Ming and Qing dynasties and includes examples of the best-known Chinese glazes.

Amassed mostly in the 1980s and advised by JJ Lally & Co, the group includes pieces with provenance to well-known collectors such as Edward T Chow, TY Chao and Henry Knight.

Among the stars is a Yongzheng mark and period flambé-glazed Jun ware jar modelled with florets. One of only three examples known of its type, it is estimated at \$300,000-500,000.

The sale also includes a Yongzheng mark and

period 'robin's egg' glazed censer, guided at \$400,000-600,000.

The firm's AWNY schedule will also include Modern & Contemporary South Asian Art on March 20, led by Maqbool Fida Husain's 1961 work *Bulls* priced at \$1m-1.5m.

Indian and Himalayan Art, including Masterpieces from the Nyingjei Lam Collection follows on March 21 and Important Chinese Art on March 22. The latter features an archaic jade ceremonial axe from the celebrated Guennol collection, huanghuali furniture from the personal collection of the late Sir Joseph Hotung and over 60 Kangxi porcelains from London dealer Marchant.

Sotheby's online auction, China 5000 years, runs throughout AWNY starting on March 16-28.

► sothebys.com



Array of traditional robes on offer

Three online sales make up the AWPY programme presented by Lark Mason Associates via the iGavel Auctions platform. Featuring prominently in Property of an American Collector Part II, running from March 14-30, are Asian textiles including traditional court robes.

The single-owner collection comprises some 65 Chinese silk robes including two formal *chaofus* and a first-rank imperial consort long *gua*, Daoist robes, Tibetan priest robes and several twelve-symbol *jifus* of various ranks.

Also offered on the iGavel platform, running from March 2-21, is Asian Works of Art from the

Collection of the Dayton Art Institute comprising 110 lots encompassing Chinese amber and jade as well as a large collection of auction catalogues from the mid 20th century through to the early 21st century.

Completing the trio, Chinese and other Asian Works of Art will run from March 28-April 18 and includes a Chinese pale celadon jade ewer valued at \$40,000-60,000 and a 20th century 100 Chinese famille rose deer vase estimated at \$5000-8000.

► [igavelauctions.com](https://www.igavelauctions.com)

► [larkmasonassociates.com](https://www.larkmasonassociates.com)



Left: this 18th century Chinese imperial brown embroidered silk semi-formal dragon robe *jifu* is estimated at **\$30,000-50,000** in Property of an American Collector Part II at Lark Mason Associates, held via the iGavel Auctions platform from March 14-30.



Left: this 17th or 18th century gold-heightened Tibetan painting of Milarepa – a yogi considered one of the great folk heroes of Tibetan culture – is estimated at **\$200,000-300,000** in Christie's 'Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art' on March 22. Milarepa is said to have composed thousands of Buddhist songs and poems and is often portrayed with his hand cupped to his ear in song, as he is here.



Left: this 3ft 6in (1.08m) high Ming dynasty huanghuali folding chair is among only a limited number of surviving examples dating to 17th century. It is admired for its impressive proportions and the dynamic sweep of the rounded crest rail, constructed in three parts rather than the more commonly seen five-part rails.

Folding horseshoe-back armchairs functioned as a symbol of status and rank and were used by the Imperial family and wealthy and powerful individuals.

This example leads Christie's Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art on March 23-24 guided at **\$2m-3m**.

Five plus three equals eight auctions both live and online

Below: this small 5in (13cm) high Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) Guan ware vase is of a form known in Chinese as a *dan ping* or *danshi ping*, literally meaning gallbladder vase. The texture and crackle of its bluish toned glaze is believed to have been created to deliberately emulate jade. Previously owned by the renowned Swedish collector Carl Kempe (1884-1967), it is estimated at **\$700,000-900,000** in Christie's sale of works from JJ Lally & Co on March 23.



Christie's celebrates AWPY with eight auctions: five live and three online. Live sales will begin on March 21 with Japanese and Korean Art featuring ancient armour, Buddhist works and lacquer objects among other items.

Highlights include an early impression of Hokusai's (1760-1849) *Great Wave* – the first in his series of Mount Fuji views – valued at \$500,000-700,000, and a Joseon Dynasty (18th century) white porcelain moon jar estimated at \$1m-2m.

Two live sales take place on March 22. Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art is headlined by a 17th or 18th century gold-heightened Tibetan painting of Milarepa estimated at \$200,000-300,000, while South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art, is led by a monumental oil on canvas painted in 2004 by Manjit Bawa (1941-2008) guided at \$1m-\$1.5m.

Longstanding business

Scheduled for March 23 is the firm's dedicated auction of works from Chinese art dealer JJ Lally & Co.

The New York gallery was established by James Lally in 1986 and ran for 35 years before his

retirement in 2021. The 138-lot sale encompasses Chinese ceramics and works of art from the Shang through the Qing dynasties and includes a Kangxi period (1662-1722) clair-de-lune-glazed 'hundred rib' guan jar, guided at \$400,000-600,000, and Guan bottle vase, Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), estimated at \$700,000-900,000.

The centrepiece of Christie's AWPY programme is Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art offered across two days on March 23-24.

Several private collections of ceramics and early Chinese works of art will be offered as well as a selection of classical Chinese furniture.

Among the stand-out items is a 17th century folding huanghuali chair, estimated at \$2m-3m, and an early Western Zhou dynasty (11th-10th century BC) bronze ritual wine vessel or jue guided at \$250,000-350,000.

The three online sales incorporate JJ Lally & Co – The Library, running from March 15-30, South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art Online from March 15-28 and Arts of Asia Online from March 15-29.

► [christies.com](https://www.christies.com)

JJ Lally & Co lots span 5000 years of Chinese history

Bonhams will offer two single-owner collections as part of its programme for AWNY: JJ Lally & Co: Fine Chinese Works of Art and The Mary and Cheney Cowles Collection of Classical Chinese Furniture.

The former comprises 68 lots from Chinese art gallery JJ Lally & Co including ancient jades, silver, bronzes, and ceramics spanning 5000 years, from pre-historic China through the Qing dynasty.

Among the highlights is a Song dynasty (12th-13th century) chased silver 'literary gathering' pictorial tray, estimated at \$30,000-50,000, and a Sui dynasty (581-618) glazed white stoneware jar and cover, offered with an identical estimate.

Three Ming dynasty (16th-17th century) huanghuali chairs star in the 20-lot sale of classical Chinese furniture from the collection of Seattle couple Mary and Cheney Cowles, founders of the Crane Gallery. The pick of the trio is a *Wan Nian* yokeback armchair offered at

Right: the only known complete set of portrait bronzes depicting the five 'founding fathers' of the Sakya Order of Tibetan Buddhism, estimated at **\$500,000-700,000** in Indian Himalayan & Southeast Asian Art' at Bonhams on March 21.

\$250,000-400,000.

Both single-owner auctions take place on March 20 and are offered alongside Chinese Works of Art and Paintings on March 20- 21, Fine Chinese Snuff Bottles from American Collections and Indian, Himalayan & Southeast Asian Art on March 21, and Fine Japanese and Korean Works of Art' on March 22.

The star lot of Bonhams' Asia Week sales is a c.1200 thangka of Buddha from Tibet with an 'available on request' estimate in its Indian Himalayan & Southeast Asian Art sale on March 21.

The scroll painting depicts the founder of Buddhism enthroned under a rainbow aureole surrounded



by a host of celestial attendants.

The same sale also features the only known complete set of portrait bronzes depicting the five 'founding fathers' of the Sakya Order of Tibetan Buddhism, estimated at \$500,000 -700,000.

Bonhams will also present the online sale Arts of India, Southeast Asia and the Himalayas running from March 14-24.

[bonhams.com](https://www.bonhams.com)



Above: this Song dynasty (12th-13th century) chased silver 'literary gathering' pictorial tray, featuring in its decoration a pair of literati sitting face-to-face raising a toast, is estimated at **\$30,000-50,000** in JJ Lally & Co: Fine Chinese Works of Art at Bonhams on March 20.



Right: this Ming dynasty (16th-17th century) huanghuali 'Wan Nian' yokeback armchair has a unique central panel carved with symbols that combine to mean 'may you live for ten thousand years' and alludes to a probable imperial provenance. It is estimated at **\$250,000-400,000** in The Mary and Cheney Cowles Collection of Classical Chinese Furniture at Bonhams on March 20.

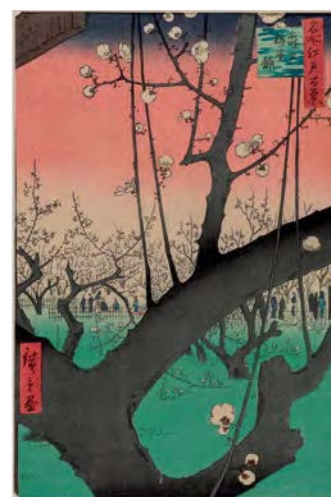
The plum garden that inspired van Gogh

For AWNY, Heritage Auctions will offer a collection of Japanese woodblock prints, cloisonné, Chinese textiles, Tibetan bronzes, jades and other items in its Asian Art Signature Auction on March 21.

Among the highlights is Utagawa Hiroshige's (1797-1858) colourful woodblock print *The Plum Garden at Kameido*. The work famously inspired Vincent van Gogh who was an avid collector of Japanese ukiyo-e prints and reproduced this composition in his 1887 oil on canvas *Flowering Plum Orchard*, now in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

Other highlights include a Japanese cloisonné vase by Namikawa Yasuyuki (1845-1927), estimated at \$7000-10,000 and a Tibetan gilt bronze figure of Mahasiddha, guided at \$60,000-80,000.

[ha.com](https://www.ha.com)



Above: *The Plum Garden at Kameido* by Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858), a 14 x 9in (36 x 24cm) ukiyo-e woodblock on paper with three seals, for sale at Heritage Auctions on March 21 estimated at **\$5000-7000**.



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Gallery shows unite Big Apple residents and visitors

Around 26 specialist dealers are taking part in the 2023 edition of *Asia Week New York* (AWNY) from March 16-24.

They offer a broad range of Asian art from ancient to Contemporary, incorporating paintings, ceramics, works of art, textiles, jewellery, sculpture and more from China,

India, south-east Asia, the Himalayas, Japan and Korea.

The group is a mix of resident dealers in their own premises and guest exhibitors taking gallery space for the event or holding exhibitions online.

Those travelling to the Big Apple include dealers based in England,

India, Italy and Japan, as well as other parts of north America.

Among them, Japanese gallery **Shibunkaku** makes its AWNY debut with *The Colours of the Post-war Japanese Abstract Arts*, a collaborative show with New York dealer **Joan B Mirviss** at the East 78th Street gallery.

Pictured here is a taste of what will be on offer from six of the exhibitions being staged by participants this spring.

Note that admission at many of the galleries is by prior appointment – see the AWNY website below for more information.

asiaweekny.com

Japanese art at the end of the Edo period

Right: Hokusai's *South Wind, Clear Dawn*, a 10¼ x 15in (26 x 38cm) colour woodblock print, c.1831-33, from the 36 views of Mount Fuji series. The mountain was venerated as a female deity and members were encouraged to ascend its slopes and enter its caves to engage in religious austerities, so that when they exited, they would be spiritually reborn and purified. The print is priced in the 'mid-six figures' at **Sebastian Izzard LLC**.



Sebastian Izzard LLC celebrates 25 years with an exhibition of 19th century Japanese paintings and prints during AWNY from March 17-24 on East 76th Street.

Concentrating on the last 60 years of the Edo period between 1800-60, the show includes painted and printed maps, landscapes and studies of the natural world.

A panoramic view of Edo by the samurai artist Kuwagata Keisai (1764-1824) sets the scene followed by a selection of maps, landscapes, and illustrations of poetry by Hokusai (1760-1849), including his woodblock print of *Mount Fuji South Wind, Clear Dawn*.

There are also paintings by Hokusai's followers Maki Bokusen (1775-1824), and Teisai Hokuba (1771-1844), and landscapes by his rival Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858), including first editions of his famous snowscape *Evening Snow at Kanbara* and moonlit scene *Seba*. Hiroshige's bird and flower prints also feature with *Geese in Flight Under the Harvest Moon* among the stand-out works.

Hokusai goes with the flow

One of the main highlights in **The Art of Japan's** AWNY exhibition, *Fine Japanese Prints: 300 Years of Japanese Prints, Ukiyo-e – Modern* at The Mark Hotel on 77th Street from March 16-19, is *Water Wheel at Onden* – one of the 36 views of Mount Fuji series of woodblock prints by Hokusai (1760-1849).

During the Edo period, Onden was a quiet farm village near the Shibuya River, seen in the print beyond the mill. Today, the area is known as Harajuku, the bustling hotspot for fashion-forward young people.

Right: Hokusai's *Waterwheel at Onden*, c.1830-31. The 10 x 15in (26 x 38cm) woodblock print is priced at **\$58,500** at **The Art of Japan**.



Right: *Yoshitsune and Benkei on Gojo Bridge*, c.1839-40, a 15 x 20in (38 x 51cm) colour woodblock diptych by Kuniyoshi for sale at **\$14,000** in *Prints and Drawings by Utagawa Kuniyoshi* (1798-1861), *Master of Graphic Storytelling* at **Egenolf Gallery**.



Kuniyoshi masters woodblock prints

As its AWNY offering, **Egenolf Gallery** presents *Prints and Drawings by Utagawa Kuniyoshi* (1798-1861), *Master of Graphic Storytelling* exploring the Japanese woodblock prints of Kuniyoshi, one of the last great exponents of ukiyo-e.

The show, on view from March 18-19 at the Conrad New York Midtown on West 54th street and online, includes this colour woodblock diptych *Yoshitsune and Benkei on Gojo Bridge*.

Kuniyoshi is renowned for his warrior prints depicting the battles of legendary samurai heroes, and this scene, one of the best-known stories in Japanese folklore, was one of his favourites.

The exhibition also includes several unique preparatory ink drawings by Kuniyoshi as well as a selection of Japanese prints by other ukiyo-e and shinhanga artists dating from 18th-20th centuries.



Catching Hindu and Muslim court traditions

For its 13th annual AWWNY exhibition, dealership **Oliver Forge and Brendan Lynch** will offer 44 paintings reflecting the Hindu and Muslim court traditions of India at premises on East 80th Street from March 16-24.

Among the stand-out folios in the show *Court Painting from India* is *Vasant Ragini*, an illustration from a *ragamala* series dating to c.1755. Surrounded by 10 young courtly ladies in a garden landscape, this romantic depiction of the nawab, the young ruler of Bengal in eastern India, celebrates the Hindu spring festival of Holi.

Also for sale is a folio taken from the memoirs of Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad Babur Mughal Empire, known as the *Baburnama*. Depicting Babur hunting rhinoceros at Bigram near present day Peshawar (Pakistan), the folio comes from the so-called 'South Kensington' Baburnama, which was broken up in 1913.

It was the first illustrated manuscript translated into Persian in 1589 and is ascribed to two of the most famous Mughal artists of the period, Lal and Sarwan, who worked on many famous imperial manuscripts.

Left: *Vasant Ragini*, part of an illustration from a *ragamala* series dating to c.1755 and originating from Murshidabad in Bengal, India. Made with opaque pigments with gold on paper, the 9½ x 6in (24 x 15cm) work is priced at **\$95,000** in *Court Painting from India* at **Oliver Forge and Brendan Lynch**.



And so to bedcover

Among the stand-out textiles in *Recent Acquisitions* offered by **Thomas Murray** during AWWNY is this 18th century *palampore* (bedcover) decorated with mythical lions, large hamsa geese, purple and red elephants and Mughal-style flowers.

Inspired in part by 17th century Dutch botanicals, no other examples illustrating this iconography are known today.

Murray's exhibition will be available to view online and in New York by appointment.



Above: detail of an 18th century Indian *palampore* with mythical animals and mughal flowers made from cotton for the Indonesian market. It measures 3ft 4in x 7ft 10in (1.02 x 2.39m) and is priced in the 'mid \$30,000s'.

Channel enlightening energies

During AWWNY, New York dealer **Kapoor Galleries** presents *Divine Gestures: Channels of Enlightenment*, an exhibition of sculptural works at East 67th street from March 16-24.

The show will bring together sculpture from India, Nepal, Tibet and ancient Gandhara and examine their religious iconography and craftsmanship.

A stand-out item is the imposing 11th century sandstone sculpture of Shiva as Nataraja, shown performing the *Tandava*: the cosmic dance which both creates and destroys the universe.

Right: this 11th century Indian sandstone sculpture of Shiva as Nataraja from Rajasthan, 3ft 2in (97cm) high, is priced at **\$80,000** from the show *Divine Gestures: Channels of Enlightenment* at **Kapoor Galleries**.



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