

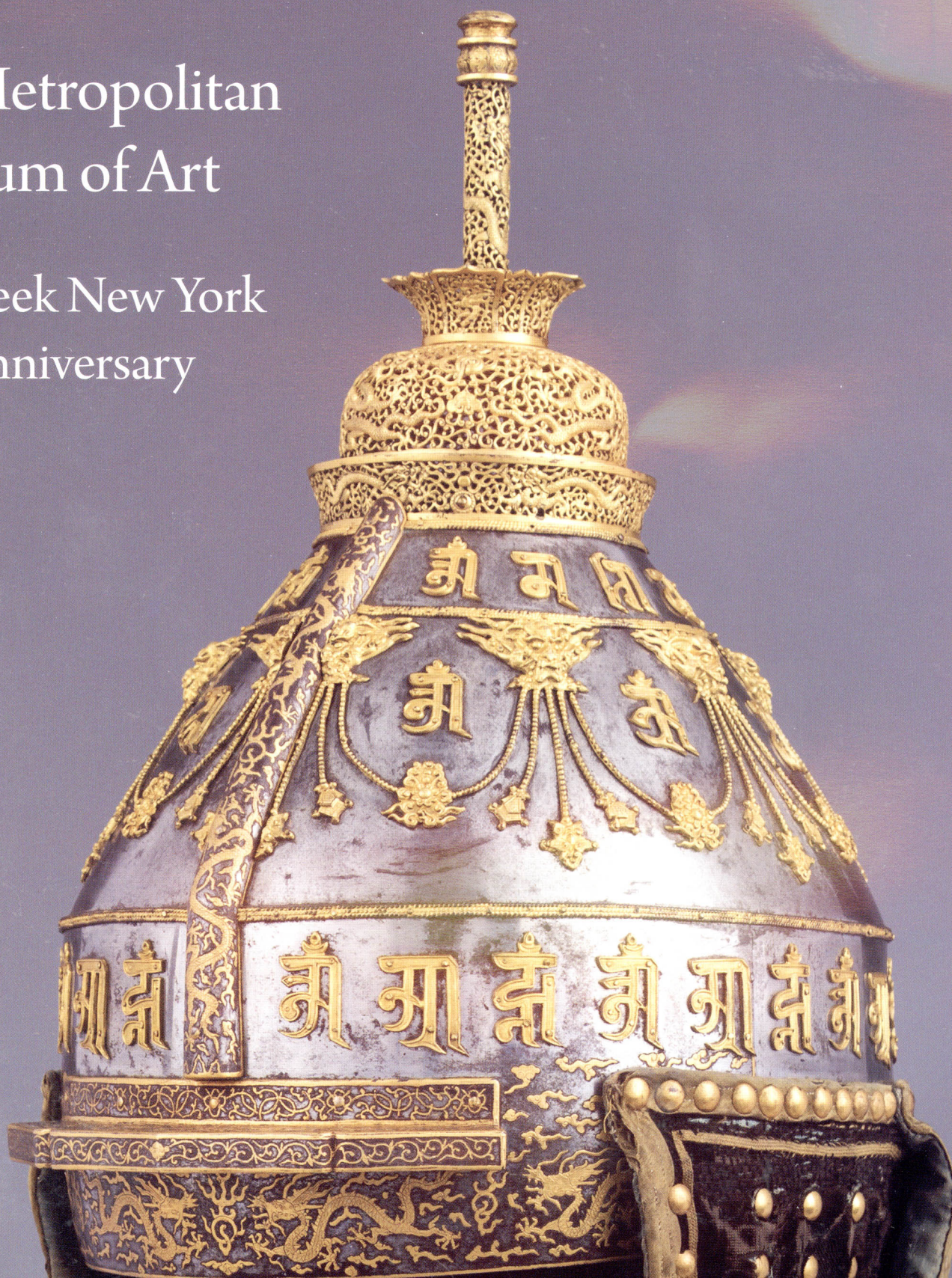
MARCH-APRIL 2019

HK\$120.00 (local) US\$20.00 (overseas)

# Arts of Asia

The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art

Asia Week New York  
10th Anniversary







Wen Fong and Douglas Dillon, May 2000. Photo: Don Pollard/The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Wen Fong with Oscar Tang, C.C. Wang and Mike Hearn, May 2000. Photo: Don Pollard/The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Jizhou pottery vase, Song dynasty, height 21.6 cm. J.J. Lally & Co.



Zeng Xiaojun, *Poetic Pattern of Song Ware II*, 2018, ink and colour on paper, 206 x 206 cm. INK Studio

# EDITORIAL

FOR THIS March-April 2019 issue, I am delighted to publish an exceptional edition focusing on The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Asia Week New York, Mike Hearn, Douglas Dillon Chairman, Department of Asian Art at The Met, has assembled ten wonderful articles covering recent acquisitions as well as discoveries from The Met's permanent collection. In addition to features on superb works in the Department of Asian Art, two articles showcase little-known Asian works in the respective holdings of the Department of Musical Instruments and the Department of Arms and Armor. Many of the objects published in this issue will be on view in Spring 2019, so I hope this will whet the appetite of our readers accordingly. It is a great honour and privilege to collaborate again with The Met, and I would very much like to thank each of the distinguished curators and specialists for their efforts and personal contribution to making this such a special issue of *Arts of Asia*.

I asked Mike Hearn for his thoughts on the future of Asian art at The Met and he kindly provided the following comment: "Wen Fong's passing last October marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in The Met's history. During his 29-year career at the museum, from 1971 to 2000, Wen worked with patrons, collectors, trustees and colleagues to create one of the world's most comprehensive displays of Asian art. Our commitment today is to build on that foundation. As the ten articles in this issue attest, The Met remains fully committed to collecting and presenting the diverse arts of Asia."

From March 5th to June 16th we will host a major international loan exhibition, 'The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated', while our permanent galleries feature important recent acquisitions that have catalysed our reinstallation of the arts of Sri Lanka and Chola India. In addition to the active programme of rotating displays, exhibitions and acquisitions in the Department of Asian Art, one may encounter Asian artworks in many of The Met's curatorial areas, including the Ancient Near East, Islamic art, Arms and Armor, Musical Instruments, Photography, and Modern Art. The indispensable work of The Met's conservation and scientific research departments is also highlighted here. With all of these artistic and human resources, we remain committed to establishing The Met as a world leader in the display of Asian cultures, presenting works of the highest quality in the most thoughtful and

thought-provoking contexts possible. In a world where cross-cultural understanding is more important than ever, we can do no less."

To celebrate its exciting milestone tenth anniversary, the Asia Week New York Association will honour a number of key individuals in recognition of their respective contributions in advancing the arts of Asia in North America. "This distinguished group of honorees represents a cross section of prominent collectors, museum professionals and Asian art dealers", advised Christina Prescott-Walker, chairman of Asia Week New York, adding: "The common denominator that unites them is their passion for Asian art in all its manifestations, and we thought it would be fitting to recognise their contributions to the field." The recipients are Diane and Arthur Abbey, Dr Julia and John Curtis, Maxwell K. "Mike" Hearn, Elizabeth B. "Lillie" and Edward C. "Ned" Johnson III, James Lally, Soyoung Lee, Stephen Little, Joan B. Mirviss, Amy G. Poster, and Shelley and Donald Rubin.

The activities in New York City during Asia Week promise to be even more vibrant than in recent years, with more visitors anticipated from abroad than ever before. Collectors and art lovers will have the opportunity to attend gallery exhibitions presented by leading Asian art dealers from America, China, England, Germany, Italy, Japan and Switzerland. Stimulating events will also be held at the leading auction houses, as well as at museums and cultural institutions. I am greatly looking forward to a wonderful week in New York, and provide the following information about some gallery shows that will hopefully be of interest to those readers planning to attend.

From March 13th to 29th, 2019, J.J. Lally & Co. is presenting an exhibition of "Chinese Art: The Szekeres Collection", an eclectic collection of ancient Chinese ceramics, sculpture, metalwork and jade. The collection was formed by Janos Szekeres (1914-1998), one of the inventors of the photocopying process, who then secured a patent and introduced the liquid ink photocopier to the American market.

INK Studio, the Beijing-based gallery, marks its official debut programme at Asia Week New York with "The Four Accomplishments in Ink", a gathering of four great ink artists who are themselves noted connoisseurs and collectors of art. This special exhibition, featuring paintings by Liu Dan, the Master of the Water, Pine and Stone Retreat, Xu Lei and Zeng Xiaojun, will also be on show at J.J. Lally & Co.

Kaikodo's upcoming exhibition, titled "Migration", will be of interest to both Asian art aficionados and nature lovers. Representative of the show is *Plovers in Grass*, a 13th century Chinese painting on silk. The exhibition also includes Chinese ceramics, jades and metalwork, and a rare and important





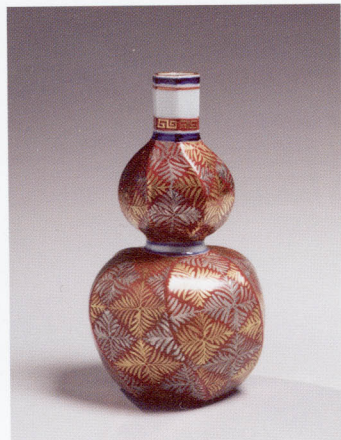
Anonymous Chinese (13th century), *Flowers in Grass*, hanging scroll, ink and colour on silk, 31 x 44.5 cm. Kaikodo



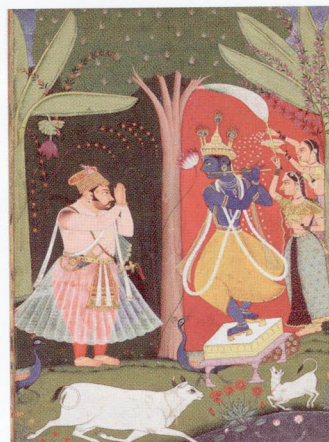
Sculpture of silver, gold and bronze waves with a rock crystal, the jewel of Ryujin (Dragon King of the Sea), by Yukihiro of Tokyo, circa 1900. Cloisonné enamel box with peacock feather design by Kawade Shibataro for the Ando studio of Nagoya, circa 1910. Orientations Gallery and Oriental Treasure Box



Kosuge Kogetsu, *Flower Basket*, 1966, madake bamboo, rattan, height 45.7 cm. TAI Modern



Tomimoto Kenkichi, gourd-shaped vase, after 1952, glazed porcelain, height 15.2 cm. Joan B Mirviss Ltd



*Fluting Krishna*, Kota, circa 1680, opaque pigments and gold on paper, 30.8 x 21.1 cm. Francesca Galloway



Chestnut-glazed pottery horse, Tang dynasty, height 83 cm. Littleton & Hennessy Asian Art

Vietnamese white bowl, with moulded dragon design, dating to the 15th century.

Beautiful Japanese works of art are being presented by Orientations Gallery and Oriental Treasure Box at the elegant Nippon Gallery at Nippon Club Tower. This year's event, titled "Fabulous Forms and Imagery: Legendary Japanese Artworks", celebrates their eighth collaborative vetted exhibition. Rare examples by Imperial Court Artists and Living National Treasures will also be on view. "Legendary Japanese Artworks" refer both to these master artists and the splendid techniques displayed in their creations. The themes and forms of the artworks also reflect inspiring legends and symbolism of folklore, history and the religious traditions of Shinto and Buddhism. An illustrative lecture by Hollis Goodall, Curator of Japanese Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will complement the exhibition at 3 pm on Monday, March 18th. This lecture is likely to be one of the highlights of Asia Week and possibly standing room only, so readers are advised to arrive early.

TAI Modern is exhibiting important historic and contemporary works of Japanese bamboo art. Margo Thoma, gallery director, said: "I am thrilled to be able to bring these works to Asia Week. The knowledgeable and enthusiastic collectors we see there are the perfect audience for our bamboo artists, both historic and contemporary." Kosuge Kogetsu's 1966 *Flower Basket*, one of only two pieces submitted by Kosuge to the Nitten art exhibition in Japan, will be exhibited for the first time in the West.

Joan B Mirviss Ltd, with the invaluable assistance of Shibuya Kurodatoen Co., Ltd, Japan's leading modern ceramic dealer, is honoured to present "Vessel Explored / Vessel Transformed —Tomimoto Kenkichi and his Enduring Legacy". Joan Mirviss explained: "Tomimoto is revered as the father of his field. He was the most significant figure in the world of 20th century Japanese ceramics and his impact continues through his gifted and inspired former pupils and their talented students, many of whom are now professors of ceramics."

Francesca Galloway, leading dealer in the field of Indian painting, is exhibiting in a new venue: a beautiful gallery space on 1018 Madison Avenue. She is delighted to present a group of outstanding Rajasthani paintings together with a few exceptional Pahari works, all from the Ludwig Habighorst collection, which will be accompanied by a publication researched and written by J.P. Losty. One of the highlights from the collection is an important and dynamic double-sided folio made for a royal album in Jaipur.

"Treasures of China's Past" is the title of Littleton & Hennessy Asian Art's exhibition of important works of art from private collections dating from the Northern Wei to the Qing dynasty, including an impressive chestnut-glazed pottery horse. Richard Littleton and James Hennessy celebrated twenty-two years in business in 2018, and are now pleased to welcome Mark Slaats as a partner. Mark has worked passionately at the firm as a director for over ten years. I would personally like to congratulate Mark and wish the company continued success.