

# ART + AUCTION

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**Art Zen-tral** To prepare the space for her first-ever gallery, opening this month on New York's Madison Avenue, Japanese art specialist Joan Mirviss had it blessed by a Buddhist monk. The July ceremony, complete with incense,



sake, bowing and chanting, left, was a gift from Mirviss's friend Fran Rubel Kuzui, best known as the director of the 1992 film *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Kuzui had befriended the

monk when she and her Japanese husband rented property near his temple, in Nikko, Japan. "I'm not religious," says Mirviss, "but [since the blessing] things have gone more smoothly with the contractor, and I've made a few sales."