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Contes d'Orient



Contes d'Orient
 FINE CHINESE ANTIQUES

Arts & Crafts of CHINA :

Bamboo



Bamboo is omnipresent in Chinese society. It is a material that evokes a multiplicity of emotion and meaning in the Chinese culture and has remained the most popular and respected subject for artists for hundreds of years.

In poetry, bamboo has become a moving metaphor for endurance and virtue: its qualities always admirable, its form, when likened to a man, a symbol of aspiration.

Reference :
 <Arts & Crafts of China> by Scott Minick & Jiao Ping

Product highlights

Furniture



Mid-Qing
 Pair of Rose Chairs,
 Chinese Walnut
 61 x 47
 100cm overall height

It isn't known exactly when the term 'rose chair' first appeared in Chinese carpentry, nor why such a name was given to this type of linear-style, low-back armchairs.

Rose chairs were considered to have a delicate form and were items of refinement. The craftsman used strong geometric lines to create an impact through the power of void spaces.

Types of Wood: Hongmu



A dark brown wood, sometimes known as black wood, Hongmu is one of the most common hardwoods. It was used extensively for furniture from the mid-Qing dynasty, as supplies of huanghuali began to dwindle.

Hongmu can be difficult to distinguish from huanghuali and can resemble Zitan.

Product highlights

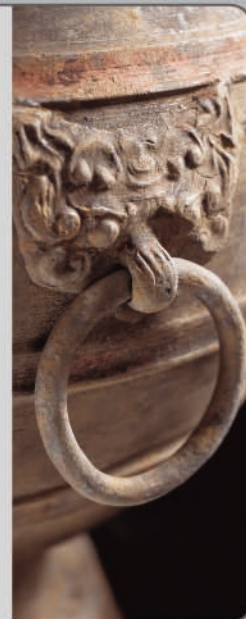
Terracotta



Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 A.D.)
52 cm in height

A finely painted grey pottery vase with the decoration of taotie mask holding a ring on each side of the body.

Western Han is classified by historians a period of rest and rejuvation. The empire enjoyed peace and prosperity, and thus, was able to accumulate much wealth. Accordingly, the strong economy of this period is reflected in their abundant and elaborate burial. One of the characteristic features of Western Han tomb site is the great number and various types of jars and container vessels storing grains and food for the spirit. This particular one is considered unusual because of its size and its perfect form.



Stone



Song Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.)
Grey stone carved panels L.37cm x H. 97cm x D. 9cm

A pair of carved panels featuring the auspicious animals.

The technique used for these panels is a combination of projected high relief and reduced high relief. Song dynasty is a period of refinement for art and literature. Scholar taste started to permeate to different crafts and artforms. The quality of material and standard of craftsmanship began to be a focus in addition to composition and expression. These panels are good examples of stone carvings from Northern China.



Bronze



Warring States period (475 - 221 B.C.)
A pair of bronze door knockers

This picture shows a pair of door knockers done in gilt bronze with inlaid of silver and gold. The Taotie (mythical face) has a figure of wuren.

The pair is preserved in good condition. The technique of gilt bronze with inlaid was said to have reached its zenith during the Warring States period.



News from Contes d'Orient

We've been busy over the autumn period with a number of dealers and friends visiting from both Europe and the USA, including our partners from gallery 'Ming Mai' in Santa Monica. Interest in Chinese antiques remains high as the results of the Sotheby's and Christie's autumn auctions prove. Our exhibition entitled '**A Muse on the Poetic Beauty of the Floral Tradition**' was a success and the catalogue has been very well received. Careful acquisitions have allowed us to extend our collections in top-quality terracotta and stone pieces whilst our own furniture workshop in Guangdong province remains as busy as ever. We're already planning for the new year, with preparations for the International Asian Art Fair in New York (March 22-28th) coming along nicely. We look forward to seeing you all there and here in Hong Kong.



<http://www.contesdorient.com>

Answers From The Expert

HOW IS THE FURNITURE PRESERVED?

The restoration and refinishing process is arguably the most important aspect in dealing with Chinese antique furniture. Proper restoration of a piece can preserve it for future generations and can mean the difference of thousands of dollars in its value.

When sourcing furniture in China, we sometimes came across pieces that have been properly maintained and thus require very little or no restoration at all. These pristine pieces are extremely rare and are very expensive. Most of the furniture we locate has been in use by its previous owners for well over one hundred years without any regular maintenance or restoration.

Our preservation process includes:

- Dismantling the piece
- Cleaning to save as much of the original surface as possible
- Tightening the joints and reassembling the piece
- Waxing and lacquering (if necessary)

If a piece is restored without using the proper tools and techniques, the patina of the wood can be destroyed. Patina is the natural texture and graininess of the wood that is only brought out through years of use and natural aging.

Complete restoration is possible without any damage to the wood because there weren't any nails or pins used in the original construction (artisans of old used different methods such as tongue and groove or mortise and tenon joinery). However, without the proper knowledge, tools and techniques, a piece can be badly damaged and even destroyed.

Submit your questions to our expert c/o info@contesdorient.com. We will do our best to answer them in future issues of Gallery News.



Special Event

Party on Contes d'Orient

Following on from the success of the 'stones and textiles' exhibition in September, **Contes d'Orient** is delighted to announce the next Exhibition. In collaboration with 5 other top-drawer dealers, **Contes d'Orient** presents 'Rendez-vous With Art', 6 dealers under one roof, to be held at **Contes d'Orient** 52 Hollywood Road. In addition to our wonderful Chinese antiques there will be fine wines, exquisite jewellery and delightful glass sculptures. Invitations have already been posted – if for some reason you are not on our mailing list for parties and exhibitions, and would like to come along to the opening night on **Thursday 7th December**, please let us know. Contact rianna@contesdorient.com or phone 2815 9422.



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HONG KONG

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warehouse & showroom

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CHINA

Restoration workshop in Zhong Shan, Guangdong Province.

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