

IN PERSPECTIVE

## Pan-Asian Fusion

FOR NINE days this month (March 15–23), New York will be the center of the world for enthusiasts of Asian art of all periods as Asia Week New York stages its sixth annual edition. The multifaceted event is a congeries of 43 dealer shows, sales at five auction houses and lectures and exhibitions at 17



museums and cultural institutions. Asia Week opens on the night of the 15th with a reception at the Guggenheim Museum, and there's a gala benefit dinner and dance at the Pierre Hotel on Monday the 18th, hosted by the Asia Society and featuring society stalwart Peter Duchin and his orchestra.

According to Henry Howard-Sneyd, chairman of Asia



Week New York and vice-chairman for Asian art, Americas, at Sotheby's, this year's Asia Week has the largest number of galleries to date, and 25 percent more dealers were invited to participate than last year. Among the offerings are: a Rajasthan portrait painting heightened with gold and silver leaf from 1823, brought by Indian specialist Prahlad Bubbar of London; a pair of Japanese silver-mounted cloisonné presentation vases, at the booth of Flying Cranes of New York; a gold crown with oak leaves and flowers from the Greek settlements in 2nd-century B.C. Bactria (now Afghanistan), with Dalton Somaré of Milan, Italy; and an eight-panel folding screen from early 20th-century Korea, offered by the Kang Collection of New York. Other New York dealers in attendance include, from New York: Chinese specialist JJ Lally & Co., who will have a special show of Song ceramics; Joan B. Mirviss, a Japanese specialist which will be featuring modern Japanese ceramics masters; Kaikodo LLC, which will have a selection of paintings from China, Japan and Korea; Nayef Homsy, who is mounting "Gods and Monsters," an exhibition of recent acquisitions; and the Chinese Porcelain Company will show contemporary Chinese ink paintings.

Topics of the Asia Week lectures include cultural exchange between the ancient Roman and Indic worlds, at the Met on March 15; "Museums in the 21st Century: New Realities," at the Asia Society on March 17; an artist talk by Gulam Muhammad Sheikh at the Rubin



Museum on March 18; and late 18th-century Chinese imperial cartography at the China Institute, on March 21. Sotheby's, Christie's, Bonhams, Doyle and iGavel will all have Asian art auctions throughout the week.

In addition, Asian art events take place during Asia Week that are not officially sponsored by Asia Week. The Japanese Art Dealers Association, a New York-based consortium, will hold a collaborative exhibition at the Ukrainian Institute of America on East 79th Street, featuring over 100 Japanese screens,



ceramics, hanging scrolls, sculptures, prints and pieces of lacquer ware. There will be a mini-exhibition of works from the Momoyama period in the late 16th century, including a whole suit of armor once

worn by a leader in Japan's civil wars of the era. Four of the five members of JADA—Erik Thomsen (also a member of Asia Week), Koichi Yanagi, Mika Gallery and Sebastian Izzard—will all hold exhibitions at their galleries during the week; member Leighton R. Longhi will show only at the Ukrainian Institute, and seven other associated dealers affiliated with JADA will also be showing in New York.

Also concurrent with Asia Week New York is a sale of Chinese ceramics and other Asian



works of art held by the Beverly Hills auctioneer I.M. Chait at the Fuller Building on 57th Street on March 20. Lots will include jades from an important New York City collection, contemporary carved netsuke, Ming porcelains and a Yuan dynasty (14th-century) blue and white jar (estimate on request).

On March 16 and 17, the Pier Antiques Show will offer yet another opportunity to see and buy Asian art. Dealers there include Nicholas Pitcher Oriental Art Ltd. of London, a ceramics specialist; Robert Brandt, also of London, who will bring a scroll by the 20th-century Japanese artist Onda Tokuju; and TOJ Gallery of Annapolis, Md., which will exhibit Japanese tea bowls. —A&A STAFF

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