

Ralph M. Chait Galleries INC.



WINTER 2024

Winter 2024

Season's Greetings! We are delighted to present our annual Holiday Winter Booklet. It is filled with a great variety of Chinese porcelain and works of art of interesting forms and of great beauty. Many come from private collections, have comparable examples in important private and museum collections, and are very rare in type. Do have a look, and as always, we welcome your inquiries.

The Holiday Season is a wonderful time to visit New York. If your travels are bringing you here, we would be delighted to welcome you at our gallery and show you through. In late January, we will be exhibiting at the Winter Show in New York. It remains one of the premier exhibitions in the US and a wonderful destination event for sure!

Wishing you health, happiness, and prosperity in the New Year!

Steven and Andrew Chait



FRONT COVER

1. Chinese Carved Soapstone Figure of Shoulao, Daoist Immortal of Longevity

CA: 17TH/ EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Finely carved in the full round and of impressive size. The Immortal is posed standing and holding a peach branch. He is dressed in a long robe with finely incised designs. Mounted upon a matching soapstone base with seated deer at his foot. (Peaches and deer are also symbols of longevity).

Figures of this size and quality are rare. Soapstone figures of this period were popular for aristocrat's *Kunstkammers* that showed marvels from around the world. The exoticness of the figure and fineness of carving would have created an appreciative and marveling reception in Europe.

Height: 16 ¼ inches (41 cm.)

Ex: English Collection





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2. Rare Chinese Fahua Glazed Porcelain Monkey Ewer and Cover

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Of realistic form, the body forming the pot, and the removable and poseable head forming the lid. Posed seated upright and holding a peach between his hands that forms the spout. His face is well modelled with an amusing expression. Glazed overall in vibrant turquoise and aubergine, and with dapples of yellow and green.

Height: 6 ½ inches (16.5 cm.)

Ex: European Collection

Similar examples: The Copeland Collection now at the Peabody Essex Museum, and a pair formerly with our gallery and now in a private American Collection. Other related examples of smaller form and with attached heads are in the historic Collection of Augustus the Strong in the Zwinger Museum, Dresden.

3. Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Phoenix Tail Vases

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1700

Each decorated with large figures of Fu Lions (auspicious beasts) in outdoor settings. Boldly painted in bright enamels against a light green ground with flowerheads. This is a rare subject in its large scale in addition to the light green colored ground.

Height: 17 ¼ inches (44 cm.)

Ex: French Collection

Prior: with A. Colin Maillard, Paris and Wannieck Collection, Paris

4. Unusual Chinese Gray Pottery Figure of a Seated Shaggy Dog (possibly an Afghan)

YUAN DYNASTY, 13TH CENTURY

Finely modelled in the full round and posed semi-reclined with head held up and with prominent snout. He wears a collar with floral pendant at the back.

Length: 6 ½ inches (16.5 cm.)

Height: 3 ½ inches (9 cm.)

Ex: Private New York Collection (acquired in 2001)
Prior in an English collection.

5. Chinese Famille Verte Glazed Biscuit Porcelain Scroll Weight

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Of rectangular form, modelled hollow with openwork ends. The body decorated with flowerheads and leaves, painted in vivid colors upon a seeded green ground. The top, with applied branch decoration; and the bottom, with bamboo boldly painted in sepia. A very rare type and unusual form.

Length: 14 ⅞ inches (36 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

An almost identical example is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Robert E. Tod Collection).

6. Very Rare Chinese Blue and White Porcelain "Banjo" Vase

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

Decorated with figural scenes of an official being served wine; gentlemen playing *weiqi*, and a court lady with servants, meeting with a gentleman who holds the tether of a water buffalo. The neck with mountainous landscapes with literati figures and pavilions.

Height: 16 ½ inches (42 cm.)

This form of vase is very rare, particularly in blue and white. We are aware of only two other blue and white examples which were formally in the collection of Edward R. Bacon (Getz, 1919: No. 345, PL. XXXIX) where they are referred to as unique.



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7. Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Plaque Mounted as a Table Screen

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Depicting a scene from a historic tale showing an Emperor presiding over a reconciliation between an official and a general. The decoration is all finely painted in bright enamels.

Height: 22 inches (55.5 cm.)

Ex: Important Private American Collection

8. Set of Two Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Covered Boxes

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

The first decorated with reserves of Precious Things set upon a cracked ice ground strewn with prunus blossoms; the other, with reserves of flowering plants and rockery. All finely painted in deep and vibrant tones.

Height: 6 ½ inches (16.5 cm.)

Almost identical examples: the historic collection of Augustus the Strong at the Zwinger Museum, Dresden; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (Orrock and Salting collections).



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9. Chinese Famille Verte Glazed Porcelain Teapot

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Of bamboo form. Decorated with alternating bands of flowers and quite unusually: multicolored imitation bamboo sections. With correspondingly decorated handle, spout, and finial. All beautifully painted in bright enamels.

Height: 5 ¼ inches (13.5 cm.)

Similar and related examples: Taft Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, London; historic collection of Augustus the Strong at the Zwinger Museum, Dresden; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



10. Chinese Underglaze Blue Porcelain Bottle Vase

KANGXI PERIOD,
CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

The body with finely drawn decoration of flowers above waves in blue upon a blue ground; the neck, with a bird perched on a flowering branch in blue, the flowers in raised slip and underglaze red; the base of the neck with a band in café-au-lait.

Height: 10 ⅞ inches (25.7 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection (1970's)

Almost identical examples may be found in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; the Victoria & Albert Museum (Salting Collection), London; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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11. Chinese Famille Rose Porcelain Bowl and Cover

YONGZHENG/ EARLY QIANLONG PERIOD, MID- 18TH CENTURY

Decorated with a Court Lady and children in a palace interior with Precious Things.

Height: 3 ½ inches (9 cm.)

This is a rare form with this subject that is otherwise more often found on plates from this period. The quality of all of these is very fine in terms of porcelain and decoration.

Similar example: Williamson, *The Book of Famille Rose*, 1927, Pl. XX (Martin Hurst Collection).



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12. Pair of Chinese Porcelain Figures of Foreigners Riding upon Fu Lions
QIANLONG PERIOD, CA: MID-18TH CENTURY

Depicting Asiatic men (probably Sogdian) dressed in colorful robes and distinctive conical striped hats. Each holds a small vase that could serve as a taper holder. A very rare type representing a combination of the exotic and fantastical.

Height: 10 ½ inches (27 cm.)

Figural versions of this type are rare and most always found in much smaller famille verte examples (without holders). A larger version of this type, but in cloisonne, from this same period and formerly with C.T. Loo, was sold at Sotheby's, New York, September 18, 2024, Lot 24.

Ex: Private American Collection

13. Chinese Coral Glazed Porcelain
Slender Baluster Vase

KANGXI MARK, BUT LIKELY
19TH CENTURY

Of beautiful and graceful form.
Decorated overall in an even bright
coral toned glaze.

Height: 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (45 cm.)

Ex Collection: Madame Maurice Solvay

Exhibited: *International Exhibition
of Chinese Art*, London, 1935 (not
illustrated) No. 2562

Very likely the same vase prior in the
collection of Emil Baerwald, Berlin
that was exhibited in the *Berlin Chinese
Art Exhibition: Ausstellung Chinesische
Kunst*, 1929, No. and also illustrated
and described by Schmidt: *Chinesische
Keramik*, Pl. 125 B.

Almost identical examples: Victoria
& Albert Museum, London and the
former Yale Kneeland Collection
(important early 20th century
American collection).





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14. Chinese Famille Jaune Porcelain Moonflask, *Bianhu*

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

Decorated on each side with a dragon chasing a flaming pearl amid flame scrolls centered around a "tulip" head roundel; the sides, with peaches and pendant leaf and bead patterns set on a light green ground.

Height: 9 inches (23 cm.)

This form is first found in Chinese porcelain in the early Ming dynasty and was based upon a "Pilgrim" flask that was adopted into the Chinese decorative lexicon. The combination of Chinese and Middle Eastern decorative motifs, namely the classic dragon decoration and tulip designs is of particular note, as is the rare yellow ground color. Flasks of this type in polychrome decoration are extremely rare in the Kangxi period, and we know of three others with different decoration: one in the Percival David Collection, now in the British Museum, London and two in private American collections.

15. Very Rare Pair of Chinese Export Porcelain Figural Wall Sconces

QIANLONG PERIOD, CA; THIRD QUARTER 18TH CENTURY

Finely modelled in the three-quarter round as a true pair, right and left; the Ladies standing upon dragon carp and holding candleholders in the form of Chinese vases. They are dressed in elaborate long robes that are beautifully decorated with floral designs. Their hair is arranged in high coiffure. The reverse side of each is glazed white with openings on the upper section of the back to allow them to be hung on a wall as sconces. (They can otherwise stand flat on a table or surface).

Heights: 14 ¼ inches (36 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

Similar fine quality figures of Lady candle holders are known from this period, and ones standing on dragon carp are very rare. It is extremely rare to encounter a pair that could serve as wall sconces, and we are unaware of any other published examples. As such, these clearly would have been a very limited and special order at the time.



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16. Pair of Large Chinese Famille Rose Silver Bordered Export Porcelain Plates

YONGZHENG/ EARLY QIANLONG PERIOD, CA: 1730'S

Each decorated with a Court Lady playing the *qin*, seated next to a chest with Precious Antiques and wine vats beside her. The borders, with floral and patterned reserves. All finely and precisely painted; the flanged rim glazed in an oxidized antimony. It is rare to encounter plates with this decoration in this larger size.

Diameter: 12 ½ inches (32 cm.)

Ex: American Collection acquired from our gallery 40 years ago.

17. Pair of Chinese Export Blue and White Porcelain Ewers

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1700

Of beautiful shape, based upon a European form. Each is decorated with a fan shaped reserve of a Lady in a garden, amidst varying flowers designs. All finely painted.

Height: 8 inches (20.2 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection



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18. Unusual Large Chinese Export Porcelain Punchbowl

QIANLONG PERIOD,
CA: MID-18TH CENTURY

Of impressive size. Decorated with six English merchant ships sailing on the open seas, with flags flying. Very finely painted, and the sea of unusual and beautiful variegated blue tone.

Diameter: 16 inches (40.5 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

19. Pair of Chinese Reverse Glass Paintings

CA: LATE 18TH CENTURY

Based directly upon English prints that were taken to China, depicting the famed English actress Elizabeth Hartley. Both depict her in two of her famed dramatic roles: (left) as Andromache, in 'The Distrest Mother;' and (right) as Lady Jane Grey in John Banks' *Lady Jane Grey*.

Hartley was a famed actress in her day and lived a very colorful life.

Of oval form and mounted in gilt gesso frame.

13 ½ x 11 inches framed
(34.5 x 24 cm.)

20. Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Garlic Neck Vases

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1700

Each is decorated with four reserves: two with an array of Precious Antiques, and two with flowering plants. All painted in bright and vibrant enamels. The garlic necks, flower head and tendril designs in rouge de fer. Of unusual slightly larger size and beautiful proportions.

Height: 9 ½ inches (24 cm.)



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21. Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Bowl

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Decorated with rectangular reserves of Precious Antiques set upon a light yellow ground embellished with phoenixes, swirl patterns, and flowers. All very finely painted bright enamels.

Diameter: 7 ¾ inches (19.5 cm.)



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22. Fine Large Chinese Blue and White
Kraak Porcelain Deep Dish
WANLI PERIOD,
LATE 16TH/ EARLY 17TH
CENTURY

Painted with a central reserve of a basket of peonies; the cavetto, with hexafoil reserves of flowers and Sacred Objects; and the flanged rim, with three large Fu Lion heads interspersed with additional reserves of flowers. All finely painted in a combination of blue and white and white on blue.

Ex: European Collection (acquired in the 1980's in France).

Diameter: 20 ¼ inches (51.5 cm.)

Similar examples: Princesshof Museum, Leeuwarden; Casa Museu Dr. Anastacio Goncalves, Lisbon; Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon; and Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul.

This type of Kraakware is among the finest of the type (see: *Rinaldi, Kraak Porcelain, a Moment in the History of Trade*, 1989, pp. 120, 134-6).

23. Chinese Unglazed Pottery Figure of a Mythical
Tricorn Animal

WESTERN JIN DYNASTY, AD 265-317

Finely modeled in the full round in a walking pose, with head down and horns prominent; the tail with a curling flourish at the tip.

Length: 11 ¾ inches (30 cm.)

Height to top of tail: 7 ¼ inches (18.4 cm.)

Ex Collection: Julius Eberhart

Published: Eberhart catalogue, No. 113

TL tested.

Related examples: Metropolitan Museum of Art and Schloss Collection. Another similar example was excavated in Zhengzhou, Henan Province.



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