



The East Corner Company, Inc
Chinese Antiques and Fine Arts

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DEMYSTIFYING THE AUCTION HOUSE EXPERIENCE #1



Cizhou painted baluster jar
Jin/Yuan dynasty, 13th – 14th
century, 14" H
Acquired from Christie's, New York,
March 2003, lot 225 **Sold**

Each September and March, Sotheby's and Christie's conduct auctions of Chinese art. The dates for September 2003 are the 17th and 18th respectively.

Do you ever wonder how you can participate in auctions conducted by these two renowned auction houses? Over the years, **East Corner** has successfully acquired numerous pieces for our clients and our gallery and like any investment, it requires a strategy.

Auction houses provide complete color catalogues both online and in traditional hard copy. The online version is a great place to begin. We recommend targeting objects that appeal to you in a very personal way. A great price on an object that you don't identify with is not gratifying over the long term. Once you have identified objects, actually inspecting the pieces during the pre-auction viewing is strongly recommended. These viewings typically take place 3-4 days prior to the auction. Bringing an expert in Chinese antiques and fine arts can help you understand current market trends and whether or not a particular piece has a history in the market. This valuable information is used to forecast how the auction might unfold. **East Corner** can assist you in this regard.

If you are not a client, the auction house will require a credit and background check to ensure all sales are final. Be aware your final price is the final bid (or hammer price) plus a buyer's premium plus appropriate sales taxes. The buyer's premium in the US is typically 20%, but less for purchases over \$100,000.

Attending auction in person is important since trends emerge that may change your strategy, although you can always bid via phone or submit a bid before the auction. Even if you are not buying anything, auctions are extremely entertaining and exciting with characters and plot twists. With very few exceptions, all auctions are open to the public and free of charge.

PIECE OF THE MONTH



Large Old Taihu Stone

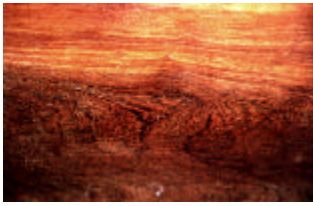
Rocks, having an intertwined relationship with mankind for hundreds of thousands of years, were used by Chinese ancestor for making tools, weapons, buildings and even jewelry. Rocks, being resolute, strong and full of stability, impact our life and culture beyond the limit of time and space.

Chinese scholars have long been strongly educated and influenced by the philosophies of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. They believe that appreciating and being exposed to natural elements is one of the key components to maintain a good health and a pleasant mind. Being harvested from nature, rocks seize the hearts of Chinese scholars with their inspiration, elegance and eternity.

This large old stone was harvested from Taihu (Lake Tai) area, Jiangsu Province. The height is 41" (with base). The brownish yellow color brings out a perfect patina that only nature can create. The base is handmade from rosewood. Displayed either in a living room or in a study, it stands as an attractive statue to bring in natural view and Qi energy.

CLASSICAL CHINESE FURNITURE MAKING – WOODS #3

Jichi - Jichi wood is also known as chicken-wing wood or qizimu. There are two kinds of Jichi wood, an old one and a new one. New Jichi wood is coarse and purplish-black in color some of the grain lines being purple, other black. The grain is not very clear, and because it is rigid, straight and coarse, the wood has a tendency to split. Old Jichi wood is denser and of a purplish-brown color. The grain, especially in straight cuts, forms very good patterns suggesting the feathers near the neck and wings of a bird. After the middle of Qing dynasty few pieces were made from old Jichi wood while the new Jichi wood is still being used today.



Grain pattern of old Jichi wood

Jichi is one of the genera of wood belonging to the Ormosia family. There are over forty species under the genus, over twenty of which are found in China.

The seeds of the Jichi tree are called red beans or love beans, and can be made into jewelry. Thus the wood is also called love wood.



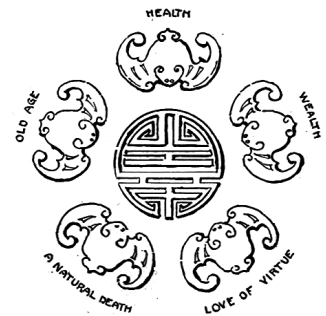
Unusual painting table with detachable latticework footrest (*Hua an*)

Early to mid Qing dynasty, mid 18th /early 19th century
Jichi Wood (Chicken-wind wood)
63" W x 32.3" D x 34" H

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL AUSPICIOUS PATTERNS #3

Bat For thousands of years, mankind had difficulty to categorize bat. It was not until modern times that it became common knowledge that the bat is neither vampire nor knight-errant, but merely a mammal that can fly. Its radar-like ears, instead of its eyes, help it to navigate safely at night. In China, bat therefore went through a long history of either being blamed or being praised for human being's own mis- or good fortune.

A few centuries ago in China, bats experienced a change in overall attitude towards them. The Chinese word for bat is bianfu -- fu being a homophone for happiness, and around the 17th century bats began to feature in auspicious pictures as a symbol of happiness, a trend which soon prevailed. By the middle and late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) auspicious bat motifs had become widely used on architecture, textiles, embroidery, paintings, chinaware, furniture, and brick and stone carvings. Thanks to artistic creation, they are generally given a far more attractive appearance than is true in real life.



Fencai plate with bat, dragon and phoenix motifs, Guangxu (1875-1908) mark and of the period

Bats appear in many auspicious pictures. A depiction of five bats is called the "five blessings" of health, wealth, old age (longevity), natural death and long life. Five bats around the character for longevity in seal style means happiness and longevity, while a picture of numerous bats and peaches signifies a long and happy lifetime. The combination of a bat and a Chinese copper coin, whose central hole is called its "eye," is known as "happiness in sight." The depiction of a bat and a deer connotes forthcoming happiness and a high official rank.



Small plate with coral-red and gilt design of "wu fu gong shou"
Jiaqing Reign (1796-1820) mark and of the period **Sold**

Auspicious bat patterns have a great variety and are still popular today. In any event, these days bats have a much "fairer press," regardless of their status because Chinese people are now cognizant that humankind shares the earth with all forms of life, and that to treat other life forms in a considerate manner is bound to bring blessings to all.

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Please visit our gallery or website for additional information