



The East Corner Company, Inc
Chinese Antiques and Fine Arts

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3RD ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION AND SALE

East Corner is celebrating its 3rd Anniversary at its Carmine Street gallery. The artistically painted space focuses on Chinese furniture, jade, ceramics and scholar's objects. Each object is displayed along with a detailed description. Visitors planning a quick stop are often treated to detailed conversations about history and art with the gallery's Art Advisor Mr. Zhenhua Jiang and other helpful staff.

To commemorate its 3rd Anniversary, East Corner will host a reception at its gallery on June 14, 2003. Following the reception, the much anticipated anniversary sale is scheduled for **June 14 ~ June 30, 2003**, offering discounts up to 30%. The discounted objects include furniture, jade, porcelain, bronze, painting and scholar's rock. Some of these objects are featured here. For detail information please visit our gallery, or our newly launched website: www.eastcornercompany.com



Bronze mirror with the design of double-swans (a marital motif) and cloud / Lingzhi patterns (symbols of an everlasting happy life), Song dynasty, 960-1279
4.75" Diam.



Shuangerlu, bronze censer with two handles in dragon form and the body decorated with Taotie (a mythical ferocious animal) faces - a motif often seen on the bronze ware of Shang dynasty (16th - 11th century BC), overall design also made after Gui - one of important types of Shang dynasty bronze, early Qing dynasty, 17th / early 18th century
2.75" H, 3" Diam. (mouth)

PIECE OF THE MONTH



A Very Rare and Unusual Low Long Bench

With recessed and splayed legs, and plain designed aprons, double stretcher holding a small stylized panel between the side legs, with fine beading lines on the legs, top panel sides and the stretchers, 18th century, early Qing dynasty, Jiangsu province

Hardwood (probably Nanmu)
Size: 65.5" W x 18" D x 20" H

CLASSICAL CHINESE FURNITURE MAKING – WOODS #1

Huanghuali - The Chinese term huanghuali literally means "yellow flowering pear" wood. It is a member of the rosewood family and is botanically classified as *Dalbergia odorifera*. In premodern times the wood was known as huali or hualu. The modifier huang (yellowish-brown) was added in the early twentieth century to describe old huali wood whose surfaces had mellowed to a yellowish tone due to long exposure to light. The sweet fragrance of huali distinguishes it from the similar appearing but pungent-odored hongmu. The finest huanghuali has a translucent shimmering surface with abstractly figured patterns that delight the eye--those appearing like ghost faces were highly prized. The color can range from reddish-brown to golden-yellow. Historical references point to Hainan Island as the main source of huali. However, variations in the color, figure, and density suggest similar species sourced throughout North Vietnam, Guangxi, Indochina and the other isles of the South China Sea.



Ming-style Cosmetic Box
Huanghuali wood
12.5" W, 8.5" D, 12.5" H



Brush pot, Huanghuali wood
16th / 17th century
5.5" Diam., 5.5" H

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINESE TRADITIONAL AUSPICIOUS PATTERNS #1



Fish

With the elegance behind clumsy, the beauty in plainness and the characteristic decorative style, Chinese traditional auspicious patterns have been very popular in folk decorative arts for thousands of years and have brought spiritual delight to people in their hope for better life. Widely used, they play an important role in carving, embroidery, painting, etc. Their rich connotation, fine ideal and unique forms become the symbol of Chinese ancient culture.



Stone carved fish pendant
Shang Dynasty, 16th - 11th century BC
4 1/5" L, 15/16" max. D

Fish is often interpreted as "surplus" and "abundant" in China, because of its identical pronunciation to "surplus (yu)". At the end of each year (lunar year), while each family welcomes the New Year by decorating the house with lanterns and colored streamers, fish is always the main course for the celebration dinner. Additionally, the fish ought to be big and prepared whole, with the tail and head, symbolizing a full and happy life in the New Year.

Fish is also a symbol of good fortune. The ancient Chinese had the tradition of painting fish motif on pottery. Many fine and decorative jade pieces take the shape of fish. Fish is considered a good creature because it is one of the most important nutrition sources for the human beings. Chinese also regard fish as the symbol of freedom and happiness as it swims freely and playfully in the water. This type of symbolism was reflected abundantly in various philosophies in the Warring States (475 BC – 221 BC). Taoism is one such example. While ordinary people like the image of fish has a lot to do with its tasty flavor and lovely appearance, the scholars like the fish because it reflects certain states of mind. When the scholars have a fortunate official career, they think themselves as fish that swimming freely in the water or jumping to the dragon domain (dragon is regarded as the most respectable creature). On the other hand, when the scholars are less fortunate and would like to disappear from the public and travel around, they consider themselves the fish missing the water.



Fish pendant
Celadon nephrite, Ming
dynasty, 14th/15th century
2 3/4" L, 1 3/4" W

During the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties, fish became a popular decorative motif. Many paintings and sculptures depicted the fish images. When it came the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, fish images were more common than ever, exemplified by many jade pendants / ornaments with fish motifs.



Pendant of two fishes
White nephrite,
19th century
2 1/8" L **Sold**

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Please visit our gallery or website for additional information