

Asia Week New York Rings Up \$130 Million In Total Sales



Guests at the Asia Week New York reception co-hosted by the Asian department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Asia Week New York. —Annie Watt photo

NEW YORK CITY — Asia Week New York — the ten-day Asian art extravaganza that concluded on March 19 achieved \$130 million in total sales.

From the minute the 45 international galleries of Asia Week New York opened their doors on March 10, a whirlwind of activities swept the city. The annual event was celebrated with a magnificent reception co-hosted with the Asian department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art on March 14 when Thomas P. Campbell, the director of the Met, Mike Hearn, chair of the Asian art department, and Lark Mason, chairman of Asia Week New York, welcomed more than 650 collectors, curators and Asian art specialists. The event ignited excitement that burned for the entire week, and the Asian art world buzzed with exhibitions and auctions that were thronged with international buyers from mainland China, Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea, Europe and the United States.

“Despite concerns of the Chinese economy affecting Asia Week New York, the galleries saw steady traffic throughout the week, and the four major auction houses, including Bonhams, Christie’s, Doyle and Sotheby’s, saw sales that were robust,” said Mason.

Mason reported that museum curators from all corners of the United States and the globe flooded Asia Week New York, including the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, The Art Institute of Chicago, Saint Louis Art Museum, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Brooklyn Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Newark Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, San Antonio Art Museum, Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University, Harvard University Art Museums and Indianapolis Art Museum.

Also included were Yale University Art Gallery, The Phillips Collection, Mead Art Museum at Amherst College, the Museum of the City of New York, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Philadelphia Museum, Detroit Institute of Art, Kimbell Art Museum, Worcester Art Museum, University of Michigan Museum, Cleveland Museum, Crow Collection in Dallas, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Princeton Art Museum, Jordan Schnitzer Art Museum, Norton Museum of Art, Asia Society Museum, Ackland Art Museum, China Institute, Toledo Museum, The Korea Society Gallery, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smart Museum and

from abroad the British Museum of Art, Royal Ontario Museum and the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore.

Accolades came in from just about every quarter, as evidenced by the comments by the participating galleries. Chinese specialist Eric Zetterquist of his eponymous Zetterquist Galleries in New York commented, “We have had a very active Asia Week this year, with nonstop traffic throughout the ten days. I am particularly delighted to find that pessimism about the impact of the Chinese economy is completely unwarranted. We saw many Chinese collectors and dealers, who were active buyers. As with most years, I enjoyed visits with museum curators from all over the country, many of whom brought interested patrons. Sales were robust with still more to come, and several new clients are among the purchasers.”

“Asia Week New York 2016 was another strong year at



Bakula, Tibet, circa Eighteenth Century, 37 by 24 inches. Courtesy of Kapoor Galleries.

Kapoor Galleries, with many museum curators, collectors and enthusiasts showing up throughout the ten-day event,” said Suneet Kapoor. “A sale of note was a very fine thangka of Arhat Bakula, a very large and powerful work, with beautiful detail on his robe and the various elements throughout, dating back to the Eighteenth Century.”

“We are delighted to report high attendance at our exhibition,” said James Lally of J.J. Lally & Co., another Chinese specialist, who reported that 80 percent of his exhibition was sold before the end of Asia



Joan Mirviss at her gallery during the week of open house exhibitions. —W.A. Demers photo

said Joan Mirviss of her eponymous New York gallery Joan B. Mirviss Ltd. “I couldn’t be more pleased with the fervent reception of ‘A Palette for Genius: Japanese Water Jars for the Tea Ceremony.’ This was the first exhibition purely dedicated to showcasing the mizusashi, or water jar, even in Japan, and it was very gratifying to see how everyone responded to it.”

For additional information, www.asiaweeknewyork.com.



From left: Lark Mason, chairman of Asia Week New York, Thomas P. Campbell, director of the Metropolitan Museum, and Mike Hearn, chair of the Asian art department. —Annie Watt photo



Richard Waldman of the Art of Japan, Issaquah, Wash., compares with a client two first state prints by Hiroshige at a trunk show at the Mark Hotel. —W.A. Demers photo



A neolithic jade openwork hooked cloud-form pendant, Hongshan Culture, circa 3500–2000 BCE, length 4¾ inches. Courtesy J.J. Lally & Co.

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