



Going Once...

BONHAMS readies its gavel for the 2012 Autumn Auctions



Clockwise From Top Left

A Lange & Söhne watch from the modern horological collection; pieces from the Paul Braga Collection of Snuff Bottles; Lin Fengmian's *Autumn Valley*; a diamond and emerald necklace from the Van Cleef & Arpels collection; a vintage Leica Luxus 1 camera

“Bang!” the gavel sounds. “Sold!” the auctioneer cries out in unison. And out comes another Chinese painting at the Bonhams Autumn Auctions. The silent murmurings of discussion on the item, the shuffling of a roomful of bodies, and the sure raising of the paddle when a bid is placed – can you feel the excitement? That energy returns to the city this autumn, from November 20 to 24 at the Island Ballroom of the Island Shangri-La Hotel.

Ten sales will span the five-day event, including single-owner collections of extravagant Chinese art and fine jewellery, as well as a bottle of extremely rare single malt whisky with proceeds going to the Operation Smile China Medical Mission charity. As the only auction house in Hong Kong to offer rare single malt whisky and rare vintage cognac for sale, Bonhams is one of the auctioneers around the world to receive a bottle of 55-year-old Glenfiddich Janet Roberts Reserve, estimated between HK\$360,000 to HK\$420,000, being sold for charity.

Four enticing single-owner collections will also be available for bidding, including the Paul Braga Collection of Snuff Bottles. The collection provides a glimpse into old Hong Kong, with 170 bottles impressive in their scope of materials, including jade, glass, porcelain and agate. In addition, the Harold E Stack Collection spans spinach jade, white jade, Mughal jade and Imperial-quality jadeite.

From the Private North American Collection of Scholar's Objects, 50 works of art are under the hammer, and eight Van Cleef & Arpels gemstones and jewels come courtesy of a private collection. One of the key highlights in the auction will be the diamond and emerald necklace from the Van Cleef & Arpels collection, worth an estimated HK\$7,750,000 to HK\$11,630,000. Other sales include 250 lots of Leica cameras and accessories, marking the first auction sale of its kind.

Sure to be a show-stopper, one contemporary masterpiece up for bid is Chen Yifei's *Reclining Woman with Fan*, worth an estimated HK\$5 million to HK\$7 million. Paddles are poised. “Going once, going twice... sold!” ■