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ASIAN ART MUSEUM

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**SOTHEBY'S SPONSORS "MING AND OTHER THINGS," AN APPRAISAL EVENT  
TO FIND THE NEXT PRICELESS PIECE OF ART**

See if Heirlooms from Your Attic and Basement Rival Treasures from the Asian Art Museum's  
summer exhibition *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*

*Sunday, June 22, 2008, 11 am – 5 pm*  
Hilton San Francisco Financial District  
750 Kearny Street

San Francisco, CA, May 28, 2008: On Sunday, June 22, world-renowned auction house Sotheby's invites the general public to bring Asian works of art to **Ming and Other Things**, a benefit appraisal day in celebration of the Asian Art Museum's *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*. On view June 27 through September 21, the groundbreaking exhibition features more than 240 rare artworks — many of them recently discovered and on view for the first time — showcasing the artistic achievements of the Chinese dynasty most renowned for its refined aesthetic. Sotheby's **Ming and Other Things** event provides the public with the opportunity to discover what treasures may be hidden away in their basements and attics. Sotheby's Asian Arts specialists will appraise Asian artworks from 11 am to 5 pm, in the grand ballroom of Hilton San Francisco Financial District, the official hotel sponsor of *Power & Glory*. The appraisal fee is \$5 per artwork with 100% of the proceeds to benefit the Asian Art Museum. Only cash or check can be accepted. The public is encouraged to arrive early. Appraisals are available to the first 500 attendees. For more information, please visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or [sothebys.com](http://sothebys.com).

"**Ming and Other Things** offers the chance to discover whether an Asian art family heirloom or object of interest is truly a treasure or purely sentimental," said Mee-Seen Loong, Sotheby's Senior Specialist in Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art. "While the discovery of an unknown treasure is rare, it certainly has occurred at events similar to **Ming and Other Things**. The

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service Sotheby's provides allows the owners of family treasures to know if their artworks have value outside their families and in the context of the art world."

Sotheby's appraisers participating in the **Ming and Other Things** event include Anu Ghosh-Mazumdar, South East Asian art specialist, Alexandra Wang, Chinese contemporary art specialist, Christina Prescott-Walker, porcelain specialist, Mee-Seen Loong, Chinese art specialist, Sachiko Hori, Japanese art specialist and Phillip Jelley, generalist. Lark Mason, a former Senior Vice President with Sotheby's who is familiar to many viewers through his appearances on the Antiques Roadshow, will also be present. Appraisals for **Ming and Other Things** are limited to artworks of Asian origin. All valuations will be verbal, not written, and available to the first 500 attendees. All artworks must be portable and must remain with attendees at all times. Neither the Asian Art Museum nor Sotheby's nor the Hilton Hotels shall be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of objects or other property of attendees.

This summer, the Asian Art Museum's special exhibition, *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*, is likely to heighten public interest in the subject of classic Chinese art. For centuries, Ming porcelain vases have been regarded as the epitome of priceless beauty. *Power & Glory* demonstrates why not just vases but Ming art of many types has earned such acclaim. On view from June 27–September 21, 2008, this major groundbreaking exhibition explores the grandeur and opulence of one of the most important dynasties in Chinese history. *Power & Glory* also marks the Asian Art Museum's first collaboration with three of China's most prestigious institutions — The Palace Museum (Forbidden City) in Beijing, the Nanjing Municipal Museum, and the Shanghai Museum. Some of the most precious artworks from the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) from these museums, along with some of the finest items from this period owned by the Asian Art Museum, make up *Power & Glory*, the first exhibition in the U. S. to focus on the full range of Ming court arts.

### **Appraisal Guidelines**

- Appraisals for **Ming and Other Things** are limited to artworks of Asian origin.
- All valuations will be verbal, not written, and available to the first 500 attendees.
- All artworks must be **hand-carried** and must remain with attendees at all times. No furniture, area rugs, or other large items can be accommodated.
- Attendees may bring more than one item for appraisal.

- The appraisal fee is \$5 per artwork with 100% of the proceeds to benefit the Asian Art Museum.
- Only cash or check will be accepted.
- Parking options include: valet parking at the front of the hotel, the hotel parking garage (entrance on Washington Street), Portsmouth Square (entrance on Kearny Street), and other private lots within walking distance. Street parking may also be available (meters are free on Sundays.)
- Neither the Asian Art Museum nor Sotheby's nor the Hilton Hotels shall be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of objects or other property of attendees.

### **About Sotheby's**

Sotheby's is a global company that engages in art auction, private sales and art-related financing activities. The Company operates in 40 countries, with principal salesrooms located in New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris. The Company also regularly conducts auctions in nine other salesrooms around the world. Sotheby's is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BID. In addition to Sotheby's sponsorship of **Ming and Other Things** appraisal day, Sotheby's Mastercard is proud to be a sponsor of the *Power & Glory* exhibition.

### **About the Hilton San Francisco Financial District**

The Hilton San Francisco Financial District sits at the crossroads of the city's most exciting, historic, and culturally-diverse districts. Surrounded by the Financial District, the 'Wall Street of the West,' North Beach, named one of America's top neighborhoods, and the largest Chinatown outside of Asia, the hotel places guests in the center of the action. This landmark hotel soars 27 stories over the "City by the Bay," offering stunning panoramic views of the skyline and San Francisco Bay. More information on the hotel can be found at <http://www.sanfranciscohiltonhotel.com/index.cfm>.

The Hilton San Francisco Financial District is the official hotel sponsor for *Power & Glory: Court Arts of China's Ming Dynasty*. Information on exhibition packages can be found at <http://www.asianart.org/hoursandadmission.htm#hotelpackage>.

### **Power & Glory Exhibition Organization**

*Power & Glory* was organized by the Asian Art Museum in collaboration with the Palace Museum, the Nanjing Municipal Museum, and the Shanghai Museum. *Power & Glory* was developed by a grant from the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation. The museum is grateful for additional support provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Starr Foundation, the Bei Shan Tang Foundation, Sotheby's MasterCard, and United Airlines. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity

from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Media sponsors: CBS Outdoor, KQED Public Broadcasting, NBC11, San Francisco Magazine, KTSF 26, Sing Tao Daily, AsianWeek, World Journal, and Where Magazine. Official hotel: Hilton San Francisco Financial District. The exhibition will travel to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (October 26–January 11, 2009) and St. Louis Museum of Art (February 22–May 17, 2009).

**About the Asian Art Museum**

The Asian Art Museum is a public institution whose mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture. Holding more than 17,000 Asian art treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, the museum is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. Once located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the museum now resides at its new, expanded facility at Civic Center Plaza. An architectural gem featuring a dynamic blend of beaux arts and modern design elements, the museum's new home is the result of a dramatic transformation of San Francisco's former main library building by renowned architect Gae Aulenti (designer of Paris's Musée d'Orsay) into a showcase for the museum's acclaimed collection and exhibitions.

- **Information:** (415) 581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org).
- **Location:** 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- **Hours:** The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, with extended hours until 9:00 pm every Thursday.
- **Admission:** \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for youth 13–17, and free for children under 12. Thursday evenings after 5 pm admission is just \$5 for all visitors except those under 12 and members, who are always free. **Target First Free Sundays:** The museum offers FREE admission to all on the **first Sunday** of every month, courtesy of Target.
- **Access:** The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access, please call (415) 581-3598; TDD: (415) 861-2035.