



SAMPLING
ASIA'S
VARIED
RICHES AT
BOHEMIAN
NATIONAL
HALL

Review and Photos By Laura Beach

NEW YORK CITY — You know it is the Asia Art Fair because it sets up on three floors: 3, 5 and...3-plus? As Paul Anavian, the fair's president and director explains, the number "4," which sounds like the Chinese word for death, is considered unlucky in many east Asian cultures. Hence the numerology.

At the Bohemian National Hall between March 13 and 17, the Asia

Previous Page; Detail of a scroll painting at Robyn Buntin of Honolulu, Hawaii.

► *Dharma Art, Costa Mesa, Calif.*





◀ *Carved and gilded figure of Vairocana, late Sixteenth or Seventeenth Century, 65 1/2 inches tall, collection of Dr Helga Wall-Apelt. James D. Julia Inc, Fairfield, Maine.*

Art Fair is like dim sum. It offers, in small portions, a tempting range of collecting specialties, ancient to modern, Mediterranean to Cambodian, Tibetan, Chinese and Japanese. Anyone who has followed the Asian art market for more than a nanosecond knows that it is both robust and evolving

quickly. The Asia Art Fair is part of New York's larger Asia Week festivities, which this year looked to surpass \$200 million in gross sales.

Asia Art Fair evolved out of two earlier, now-defunct presentations: Anna and Brian Haughton's ultra high-end International Asian Art



Japanese art specialist Gilistra of Turin, Italy, featured two four-panel Showa screens by Okomura Koichi (1904-1974), a Kyoto artist. A Showa lacquer cabinet and large box were still under wraps.



Detail, hunter and rhinoceros, from a circa 1700 French silk and wool chinoiserie needlepoint textile. Composed of panels from a bed hanging, the textile measuring 9 by 8 feet came out of a collection in Argentina, Atlanta dealer Jon Eric Riis said.

Fair, which folded in 2008, and the larger, more populist Arts of Pacific Asia, produced by Caskey-Lees. The

latter began in California and, for a time, had editions on both coasts.

Many of Asia Art Fair's 28 exhibitors

London dealer Nicholas Pitcher is keen on Chinese bronzes. Here, an inscribed bronze Fanghu and cover dating to the Han dynasty.

are Caskey-Lees alumni. Some also did the Haughton show. Seeing them again in this bijoux setting on Manhattan's Upper East Side, two and a half blocks from Sotheby's, is a pleasure. The fair follows the pop-up shop format developed in this setting with the American Art Fair and the New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, both of which capitalize on the preponderance of buyers in town for some of the biggest auctions of the year. ([Continued on Page 42 in the E-edition](#))

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