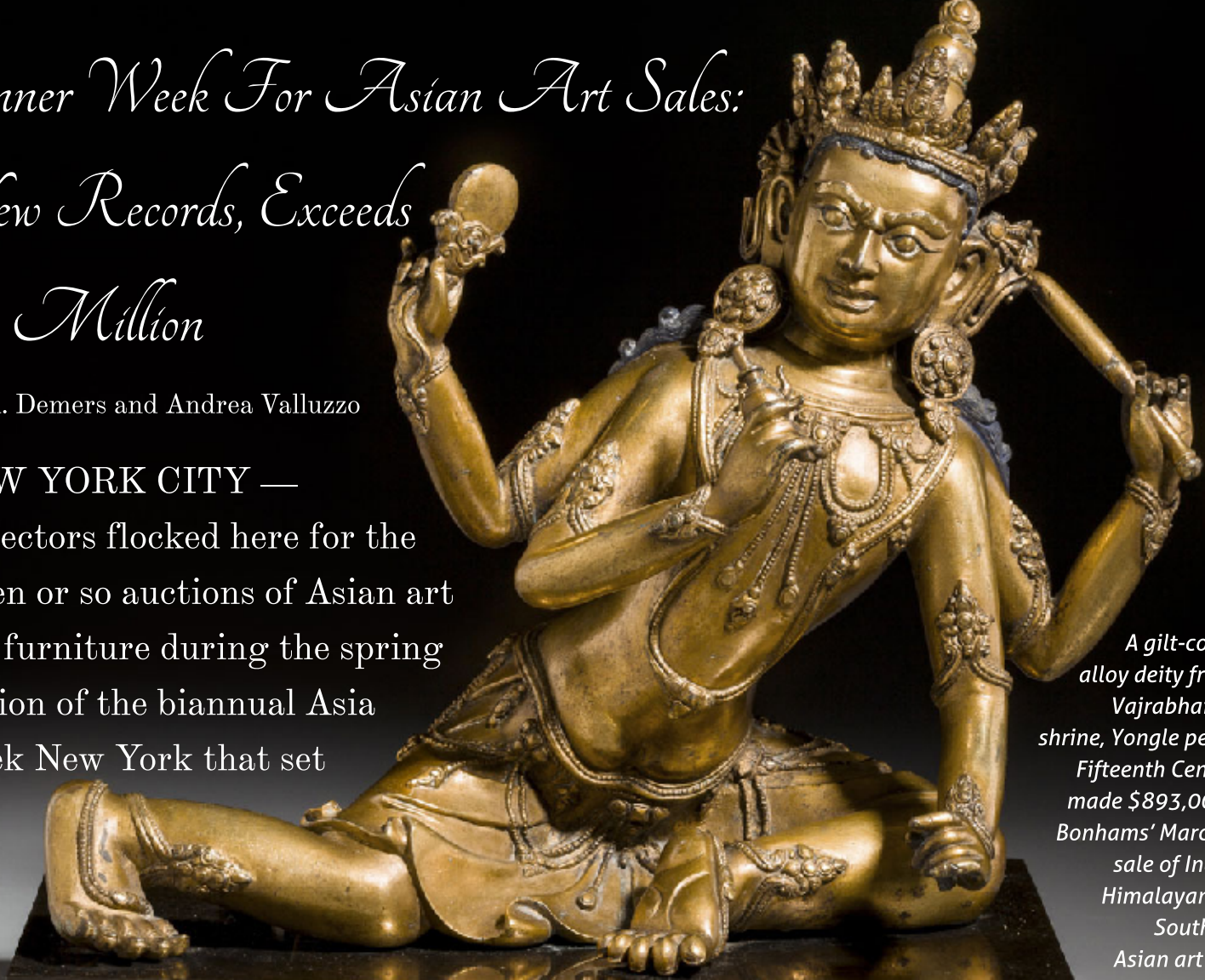


*Banner Week For Asian Art Sales:
New Records, Exceeds
\$253 Million*

By W.A. Demers and Andrea Valluzzo

NEW YORK CITY —
Collectors flocked here for the
dozen or so auctions of Asian art
and furniture during the spring
edition of the biannual Asia
Week New York that set

*A gilt-copper alloy deity from a
Vajrabhairava shrine, Yongle period,
Fifteenth Century,
made \$893,000 at
Bonhams' March 16
sale of Indian,
Himalayan and
Southeast
Asian art sale.*



new auction records and brought in more than \$253 million in sales March 15–21.

▼ Among the masterworks from the collection of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth that crossed the auction block at Christie's was a set of four huanghuali Chinese Ming dynasty horseshoe back armchairs (two shown) selling to an Asian private buyer in the audience for \$9,685,000. The chairs broke the previous record set at Christie's New York in March 2013 for a massive huanghuali pedestal table at \$9,083,750.



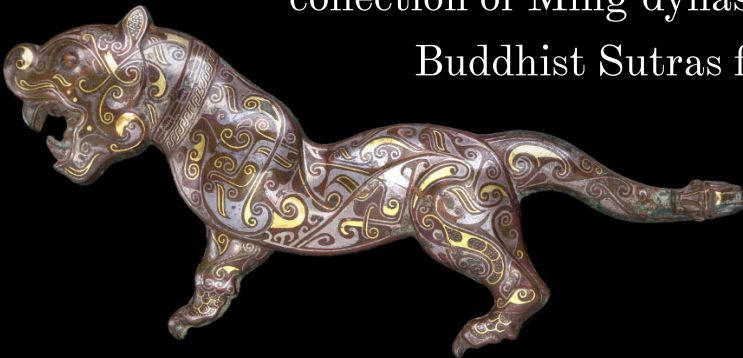
A rare carved Ding "Peony" bowl, Northern Song dynasty, offered in a single-owner sale at Sotheby's achieved \$3.37 million. ▲

Well-known estates led the week, such as the five-session auction of the "King of Ming" Robert H. Ellsworth at Christie's that fetched \$131 million, and antiquarian Peter K. Warren at Doyle New York, while Bonhams and Sotheby's also kept up a

▼ A huanghuali kang table, Eighteenth Century, attained \$341,000 at Bonhams' Chinese Art from the Scholar's Studio sale March 16.



breathless pace running auctions almost every day. The top sale of the week was a contemporary Chinese scroll painting by H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III that soared to \$16.5 million, breaking the artist's auction record, at Gianguan Auctions March 22 while Sotheby's sold a 600-year-old collection of Ming dynasty Buddhist Sutras for



▲ Bringing \$245,000 was this rare gold and silver-inlaid bronze daigou (garment hook), Eastern Zhou–Warring States period, from Bonhams' eight-lot sale, "Eight Treasures from a Private American Collection" March 16.

Sotheby's offered ► Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian art, where this gilt-copper alloy figure of Chakrasamvara and Vajravarahi, Tibet, Fifteenth Century, fetched \$1.57 million, three times the \$400/600,000 estimate.



◀ This pale celadon jade seal with inscription "Huang Tang Shou Ming Zhi Bao," probably Ming dynasty and also from the Sarnoff collection, shattered all presale expectations at Sotheby's when frenzied bidding drove the price to \$1,642,000 against an estimate of \$20/30,000.





Robert Ellsworth's favorite painting by Shi Lu achieved \$3.5 million at Christie's.

\$14,026,000, many times over its \$100/150,000 estimate, with more than a dozen bidders chasing the lot. Bonhams' top lot of the week was a Fifteenth Century gilt copper alloy deity from a Vajrabhairava shrine that more than doubled high estimate at \$893,000, while the Warren estate at Doyle New York was led by a Ming dynasty gilt-bronze Buddhist figure seated on



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提薩婆訶

At Sotheby's Chinese paintings auction, a 600-year-old collection of Ming dynasty Buddhist Sutras sold for a remarkable \$14,026,000, many multiples of the \$100/150,000 estimate.

the back of a Qilin that soared over its \$6/8,000 estimate to achieve \$233,000. ([Continued on page 45 inside the E-edition](#))

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“Ink Lotus” by H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III went off at more than \$16.5 million at Gianguan Auctions March 22. An American collector outbid several Chinese buyers in the room for the work, which breaks the artist’s record at auction.



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