

WHEN ONG KIM SENG BOUGHT AN ONG KIM SENG

At the Robert Khan & Co Pte Ltd inaugural Fine Arts and Antiques (FA&A) auction held in October last year, world-acclaimed watercolorist Ong Kim Seng surprised everyone by bidding successfully for his own painting, "Old Shophouse (c.1984)".

"When I saw the painting again after so many years, it opened a floodgate of memories and emotions, (it was) like a reunion with an old relative, and I had to buy it back," enthused a delighted Ong after his successful bid.



Old Shophouse by Ong Kim Seng

This episode is one of the highlights of the inaugural FA&A auction, which presented and sold fine paintings by famous local and regional painters like Ong Kim Seng, Lee Boon Wang, Khoo Sui Ho and Huang Yang Hui. For antiques, buyers were treated to a collection of ornate 19th century European mantle and wall clocks by master craftsmen Gustav Becker, Japy Freres and Jean Vicenti as well as beautifully-restored 19th and early 20th century baby grand pianos of makes by Steck, Eavestaff, Chappell, T M Vincent & Kaps.

FA&A Appraisals

The core area of our FA&A activity is value appraisals for the purposes of sale, insurance and insurance claims, and dispute resolution.

We were delighted to encounter a beautiful 100-year-old *hualimu* 花梨木 rosewood 10-seat round dining table with intricate mother-of-pearl inlay. The set includes 10 dining chairs, also in immaculate condition. Another interesting antique piece is a black



Ong Kim Seng (extreme right) at the Robert Khan Inaugural FA&A auction

rosewood screen fitted with mirror (c. 1875 to 1911). Such screens were popular in the homes of rich Chinese merchants in South-east Asia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Our latest addition is a Chinese scroll (c.1955)

by Huang Zhou 黄胄 (1925-1997), famous for his lively and artistic renderings of donkeys. The scroll, depicting a herdsman leading seven donkeys back to the fold, was presented by the late Dato' Loke Wan Tho to a former New Zealand High Commissioner.



In the area of insurance claims, we were approached by an expatriate who discovered that one of a pair of his antique lamp stands had been damaged during his house move. We were of the opinion that the item was damaged beyond repair and ascertained its total loss in value.

Currently, we are appointed as expert witness in a dispute resolution matter whereby a porcelain vase and a teapot which were damaged form the subject of the dispute in Court.

New Sale Facility

Robert Khan & Co Pte Ltd is pleased to announce that we are in the midst of completing a high-security facility for our clients to display their antiques and fine art collection for sale. Our team of experts will assist in the appraisal, as well as marketing and sale of these items to our network of local and overseas clients. Thus far, even before the target date of completion in the second week of December 2006, clients have already started to place their collection of paintings, high-quality carpets, tapestries and collectibles with us. Clients who are interested to place their collection for sale are invited to call on any of our team members at 6333 5668 for enquiries and assistance.

Latest update

Ong Kim Seng will be holding a one-man exhibition at the Guangzhou International Art Fair from 6 - 11 December 2006. He is represented by a Shanghai gallery who is actively promoting his works in China. Do support him if you are in Guangzhou during that period. ◀