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MONUMENTAL TOMB SCULPTURES MAKE RARE APPEARANCE ON OPEN MARKET

While he is accustomed to receiving unusual and unexpected offers, a recent call from the owner of an extremely rare collection caused particular excitement for Hugh Bulmer, Vice President of Maynards Fine Art & Antiques auction house.

“When I first got the call, I knew I had to see this for myself.” said Bulmer. “These are phenomenal sculptures.” The collection, called the Hitoshi Hoshi Collection after its current owner, is comprised of fourteen monumental marble and granite carvings from the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) and Korean Lee Dynasty (1392-1910 AD). Originally collected by the late Mr. Kaichiro Nezu of Yamanashi, Tokyo, these rare tomb carvings are now available for private sale on the open market.

Mr. Bulmer, Maynards’ resident Asian antiquities expert, immediately flew down to New Mexico to view the pieces at their current home in the Albuquerque Aquarium. Upon seeing the collection, Bulmer was impressed by the monumental scale of the carvings. The marble censer alone stood over 13ft high, flanked by two pairs of magnificently carved 9ft columns, and immediately gave a sense of elegant proportion that no photograph could fully convey.

The rare pieces are in excellent condition and offer museums and collectors alike a unique opportunity to purchase them either individually, or as a whole, on the open market. Monumental pieces of this era and size are rarely seen other than *in situ* at Ming tomb sites in Beijing, or similar Lee Dynasty locations in Korea.

Mr. Bulmer notes that the condition of the carvings is particularly good despite surviving centuries, international transportation, and multiple wars. “The weathering seen on similar Beijing tomb pieces is not seen on this collection and there is little structural damage of any note to mar the overall appearance.”

“These carvings are both remarkably beautiful and culturally significant,” he noted. “I’m glad of the opportunity to work with them. It will be a rewarding project to find them a suitable new home.”

About Maynards Fine Art & Antiques

Maynards Fine Art and Antiques experts are known for their broad expertise and meticulous attention to detail. In addition to comprehensive auction services, Maynards regularly facilitates private sales where our decades of knowledge assist in finding new and rewarding homes for significant art works. The department recently moved to a new Vancouver location, featuring an 8,500 sq. foot auction gallery showroom. Detailed information about upcoming auctions, preview dates and schedules, and the auction process itself is available at www.maynards.com.

Questions about the Hitoshi Hoshi Collection may be directed to Hugh Bulmer at hugh@maynards.com or 604.675.2228.

About Kaichiro Nezu

An avid collector of Asian antiques, Nezu amassed a large and important collection around which he founded his now-famous namesake museum in the Minato district of Tokyo. While the museum concentrated on the national treasures of Japan, the Nezu family maintained their own private collections which included the carvings housed at the cemetery below Mount Fuji and their Qianlong clock collection which was recently sold in Hong Kong for \$35,000,000.