

A Thangka of Chakrasamvara

Qianlong Period(1736-1795)

Image: 49 x 66 cm



*The Private Collection of Lionel and Danielle Fournier of Himalayan Art, collected in Europe during 1970s-1980s.

*The Private Collection of Hayman Himalayan Art, collected in Paris Christie's Art d'Asie, 2018.





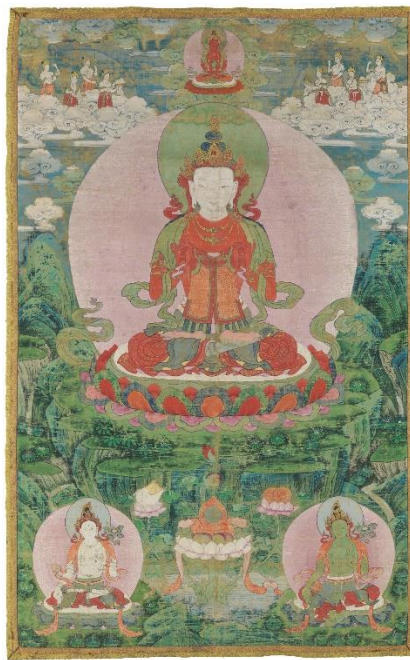
The wrathful deity Chakrasamvara with the twelve-armed, four faces at center, holding aloft a flayed elephant skin in the upper hands and ritual weapons and implements in the other ten hands, in ecstatic union with the consort Vajravarahi within a a flaming halo holding a kartrika in the raised right hand.

This painting is an example of the kind of Tibetan Buddhist art produced in the Manchu Qing imperial court under the Qianlong emperor (reigned 1736–1795). It combines Indian figural models with Chinese landscapes heavy with azurite and malichite. The Chinese blue-green landscape forms have become stylized by Tibetan conventions and populated by buddhas and other sacred figures that are portrayed in a Tibetan manner, such as the red Buddha of Infinite Life (Amitayus) floating at the top of the composition. Especially distinctive is the Chinese auspicious imagery, such as the long-tailed clouds shaped like the ruyi scepter, a rebus for “as you wish” subtly worked into the composition.

And other same style Thangka:



Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.

Picture 1.: A Thangka of Amitabha, China, Chengde, Xumi Fushou Temple, Qianlong Period, 1779-80,

New York, Christie's, Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art, 12 September 2018, Lot 316.

Picture 2.:

A Thangka of Vajraraksha, China, Chengde, Xumi Fushou Temple, Qianlong Period, 1779-80,

New York, Christie's, Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art, 12 September 2018, Lot 315.

Picture 3.:

A Thangka of Ksitigarbha, China, Style of Xumi Fushou Temple, Qianlong Period, Late 18th Century,

New York, Christie's, Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art, 12 September 2018, Lot 320.

Text and images @ Hayman Suen

By Hayman Suen

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