EDITORIAL

FOR MY FIRST Editorial it is appropriate to start by warmly thanking all our readers, contributors and advertisers for their considerable support and interest in *Arts of Asia* magazine. The September–October 2013 issue is dedicated to my parents Mrs Tuyet Nguyet and Mr Stephen Markbreiter, the founders of *Arts of Asia*, for their enormous contribution to the Asian art community for over four decades. I wish them both a fulfilling retirement and happiness for many more years.

This is a very exciting time for me personally. I want to assure subscribers that my enthusiastic and energetic team will continue to work tirelessly to publish informative articles in every issue. At the same time, your suggestions and feedback will also be highly valued. We therefore hope that readers will enjoy the special Korean features in this edition, written with our appreciation by senior curators at the Gyeongju National Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. From November 4th, 2013 to February 23rd, 2014, the exhibition “Silla: Korea’s Golden Kingdom” will be on view at the Met in New York—the show will both intrigue and delight.

I am proud to announce that we have expanded our team of Contributing Editors as listed on the Contents page. Dedicated *Arts of Asia* readers will know the names of these distinguished museum curators and international specialists in the fields of Chinese, Japanese and Korean, Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, Islamic, Indian and Tribal art. Their active participation and scholarly contributions will enhance the knowledge of serious collectors as well as anyone who is passionate about the arts of Asia.

It will also be a pleasure welcoming visitors at our elegant new headquarters at 16B Tesbury Centre, 28 Queen’s Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong. We look forward to exchanging ideas and information to develop more Asian art activities. By creating positive dialogue we can raise the level of understanding and awareness for Asian art around the world.

Born in Hong Kong, I am fascinated by early photographic records of the former British colony. John Thomson (1837–1921) was the most important photographer working in China in the 19th century. Between 1868 and 1872, he travelled across China and Formosa (now Taiwan) recording people and places. I thought it would be symbolic to illustrate my Thomson collotype, circa 1870, 11.5 × 9.8 cm, entitled “A Street in Hong Kong”. Jonathan Watts of Watts Fine Art gave me a pleasant surprise when he identified its location as Queen’s Road East. He also provided the following comments from John Thomson: “In the street shown in the picture residents will readily recognize the semi-Chinese, semi-European roadway which leads to Wanchi (sic), Wong-nai chong, or Happy Valley.” The adjoining colour photograph (taken just outside our office building) presents Queen’s Road East 140 years later, but this part of modern Wanchai continues to reflect Hong Kong’s image as a melting pot of diversity, with its thriving mix of communities and vibrant urban fabric.

The newly established Asian Art in Brussels (AAB) closed its doors on June 9th, 2013 after a successful week. Coinciding with the BAAF (Brussels Ancient Art Fair) and BRUNEAFA (Brussels Non-European Art Fair), it brought to Brussels some of the most renowned Asian art galleries from Europe, America and the Far East. Under the name “Art Connoisseurs”, a two-day programme of free lectures by prestigious scholars on a variety of Asian art subjects encouraged visitors to stay for two or three days which created a lively buzz at galleries and lecture venues.

The board of AAB and its President Carlo Cristi had the pleasure of inviting art historians, including Dr Pratapaditya Pal (the eminent Indian art scholar), to give well-attended talks. Each lecture day concluded with a cocktail party on the stunning roof terrace of the Museum for Music Instruments where visitors rubbed shoulders with scholars, collectors, dealers and other experts. We congratulate all those involved in organising this first edition, and wish the event continued success. Brussels has become a major centre for Asian art—Carlo Cristi (email: carlocristi@tin.it) will be delighted to provide more information.

I would like to alert readers about a wonderful exhibition of Chinese Song dynasty ceramics together with Modern Abstract Western paintings by famous British and Dutch artists from the collection of Dr Rolf Van Hulten, who subscribes to *Arts of Asia*. Some eighty Modern paintings and drawings from the 1950s and 1960s are displayed with twenty-three Song pieces. In the catalogue, early Chinese art specialist David Priestley wrote the Preface while Chinese and Japanese art consultant Feng-Chun Ma identifies connections between the Modern paintings and Song ceramics. The exhibition runs from September 7th to November 24th, 2013 at Museum Belvédère (www.museumbelvedere.nl), Oranje Nassaulaan 12, Heerenveen, The Netherlands.
Fine Art Asia 2013, Asia’s leading international fine art fair, will be held from 4th to 7th October at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, with a Private Preview and Vernissage on 3rd October. In a ground-breaking partnership, Fine Art Asia sponsored and presented the first-ever Hong Kong Pavilion at Masterpiece London 2013 (see Correspondence on page 8). For the Hong Kong Pavilion, Alisan Fine Arts exhibited works by Fang Zhaoling, Lui Shou-kwan and Man Fung-yi—featuring Fang’s dynamic Chinese landscape paintings, Lui’s famous abstract “Zen painting” and Man’s glamorous Chinese clothing sculptures. We look forward to seeing the European Pavilion which will be sponsored and presented by Masterpiece London at Fine Art Asia 2013.

Alftield Gallery in Hong Kong is showcasing a collection of exquisite antique Chinese lacquer furniture from 4th to 20th October. The process of crafting lacquer on furniture involves many painstaking steps and it is an art form in itself. The lacquer surface also provides an ideal background for artists’ expressions with painting, inlays and carving. The embellished red lacquer four-post canopy bed is a fine 19th century example of lacquer pieces from Fujian.

Orientations Gallery and Oriental Treasure Box are returning to the Nippon Gallery of the Nippon Club of New York, from October 24th to November 2nd, 2013. Their second collaborative exhibition will be entitled “Traditions in Japanese Craftsmanship: Designs and Techniques from the Edo Period through Present Day”. The first show in March this year was described by many attendees as the most exciting of Asia Week, with works by Imperial Court Artists and Living National Treasures. Several long-time members of the Nippon Club commented that the show was among the finest ever to appear at the Nippon Gallery (145 West 57th Street). The exhibition again is distinguished by having the official support of the Consulate General of Japan in New York.

Over the course of the past sixteen years, Asian Art in London (AAL) has become one of the most prestigious and talked about events on the international art calendar. For 2013, AAL brings together more than fifty leading Asian art dealers and major auction houses and offers visitors the opportunity to buy examples of some of the finest Asian works of art available on the market. These include art works from the Near to Far East via the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, ranging in date from antiquity to contemporary.

Large numbers of overseas visitors will travel to London from 31st October to 9th November, attracted by the opportunity to view and buy outstanding Asian art works. There are gallery exhibitions, major auctions, seminars, exclusive evening receptions and a Gala Party at the Victoria and Albert Museum. For information visit www.asianartinlondon.com.

I believe that Eskenazi’s annual autumn exhibition will be of particular interest to our global readers. Eskenazi Ltd will present an exhibition of sixteen pieces of Jun ware at 10 Clifford Street, London, from October 31st to November 22nd, 2013. This is the first exhibition at Eskenazi Ltd to focus on a single ware and the range of shapes and beauty of the glaze will enable visitors to appreciate why these pieces have always been so prized. Looking forward to seeing you in London.