

**Renowned collector Professor Paul Kan donates four precious agarwood pieces to an online charity auction that aims to promote our traditional culture and help preserve our history**

Professor Paul Kan, a renowned collector in Hong Kong, keeps his vast collection of artistic and cultural artefacts on display in his private museum, the Imperial Museum, with the aim of sharing and educating the young generation about heritage and cultural preservation. A highly regarded philanthropist, Professor Kan is donating four precious agarwood pieces to a charity auction that will benefit the preservation of heritage and culture, including the renovation and maintenance of The Helena May, a declared heritage building situated in the heart of Central. The pieces, handpicked by Professor Kan, are currently being sold online through Imperial Auction, a division of the Imperial Museum, from 19 September to 7 October.



Those interested to participate in this charity auction can access Imperial Auction's website, [www.imperial-auction.com](http://www.imperial-auction.com) or call +852 2898 6202 to place their bids. They could also send text messages to +852 9865 5488 via WhatsApp or WeChat for further information. Bidder can start bidding after they have provided their credit card information online. The auction is based on sealed-bid, meaning the bidders could place their bid multiple times during the bidding period but are unable to see the bids of other bidders. The system will notify the bidders if his/her bid is lower than the reserve price or if their bidding price has been surpassed by other bidders. The bidder with the highest offer will be the winner, and HK\$10,000 will be deducted from his/her credit card as deposit. Customer Service will contact the winner for the remaining payment. The winners shall arrange the collection of the item from the Imperial Museum themselves.

The four rare agarwood pieces to be sold in this auction have been certified by renowned agarwood expert Mr. Wang Zhongxin, Senior Connoisseur of the National Museum of China. Agarwood is a rare natural aromatic incense that is renowned as the "King of Incenses". Agarwood has been used in China and other cultures for thousands of years; and it is believed that the name of Hong Kong 香港 ("Incense Harbour" in Chinese) is derived from the historical origins when the planting of agarwood and trading of incense were the major

business activities in this vibrant city. Therefore, the charity auction doubles as an opportunity to share Professor Kan's passion in agarwood with his fellow enthusiasts and a chance to contribute to cultural preservation and charity as well.

Professor Paul Kan is eagerly anticipating good results from the charity auction. "I have always wanted to share my artistic and cultural treasures collected over the years with the masses," remarked Professor Kan. "Imperial Museum, opened in February last year, was established to display these items to the general public. With this charity auction, I would be able to further my sharing with my fellow enthusiasts, promote our culture, as well as benefit our society, which I am proud to organize for good causes."

### **Agarwood pieces donated by Professor Paul Kan to be auctioned**

<p><b>The Auspicious Dragon</b></p> <p>This agarwood piece resembles a dragon head with horns standing out vividly, staring eyes and wide-opened mouth. It symbolises blessings from heaven, fulfilment of wishes and the arrival of good fortune.</p> <p>H18 x W41 cm, approx. 610g</p>	
<p><b>Over the Dragon Portal</b></p> <p>Much like a sleek fish racing through turbulence to the sky, this fine piece of agarwood symbolises good fortune, promotion, great wealth, honour and fame.</p> <p>H62.5 x W11.5 cm, approx. 390g</p>	

### **The Giant's Causeway**

This densely overlapping, tapered, cylindrical structure resembles the Giant's Causeway located northwest of Belfast in Northern Ireland. The causeway was formed by more than 40,000 interlocking hexagonal basalt columns from volcanic eruption. It makes a wonderful spectacle as it stretches over eight kilometres of coastline and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986. "Giant's Causeway" is also the name of a world famous horse which has been a Champion Grade 1 winner in several of Europe's legendary races.

H33.5 x W29.5 cm, approx. 250g



### **Mountain of Treasure**

Shaped like a lofty mountain range, this piece of agarwood demonstrates the magnificent beauty of nature. One can imagine that deep inside the mountain range lie vast treasures of gold, symbolising prosperity, abundance, longevity and good health.

H25 x W12 x D11 cm, approx. 388g



### **Professor Paul Kan CBE, Comm OSSI, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, SBS, JP**

Professor Paul Kan is the Founder and Chair of two information technology companies (Champion Technology Holdings Limited and Kantone Holdings Limited) which are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Professor Kan is also Chair of A Better Tomorrow; Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation; and World Cultural Relics Protection Foundation. He is a fervent supporter of the information technology industry and is currently Chairman of Hong Kong IT Alliance and Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Information Technology Industry Council. As an aficionado and connoisseur of art and culture, Professor Kan is the Patron of International Foundation for Art Research; Member of Arts and Treasures Evaluation Committee, Ministry of Culture, China; and Executive Committee Member of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation. Professor Kan's contribution to the development of technology, arts and culture has received worldwide recognition. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace by the Government of the HKSAR in 2006; awarded Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2006; Commendatore dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana (Comm OSSI) by the Italian Prime Minister Hon. Romano Prodi in 2006; Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by the French Government in 2007; and Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) by the Government of the HKSAR in 2009. In 2011, he was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Hungary in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region. In 2013, Professor Kan was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit for Outstanding Consular Work by the Federation of European Associations of Honorary Consuls (FUECH) and was appointed Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary by the Government of Hungary.

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