



Map of heaven

A superb Chinese chart takes centre stage in New York and an artist shows that 'melancholy is underrated'

BEFORE the Great Absolute unfolded itself, the three primal essences, Heaven, Earth and Man, were involved in it. This was termed original chaos, because the intermingled

Robert Young of Battersea specialises in the sort of folk art and furniture dear to the hearts of many American collectors. Among sales were a remarkable pair of English painted dummy boards of a tabby cat and a spaniel (*Fig 3*), of about 1780, which went for an undisclosed price. Other animals with Young included two cast-iron mantel figures of a lion and elephant (*Fig 5*), also English and about 1800, which were beautifully patinated and had traces of gilding. They were priced at £1,150 (\$1,500); and a painted, but weathered gunmaker's trade sign (*Fig 4*), with hand-carved, three-dimensional block letters, sold for £6,000 (\$9,000).

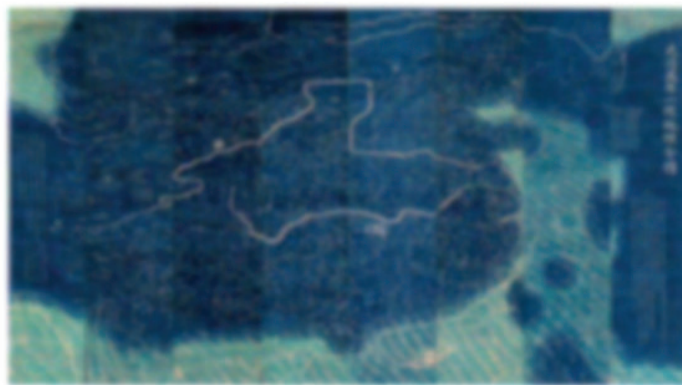
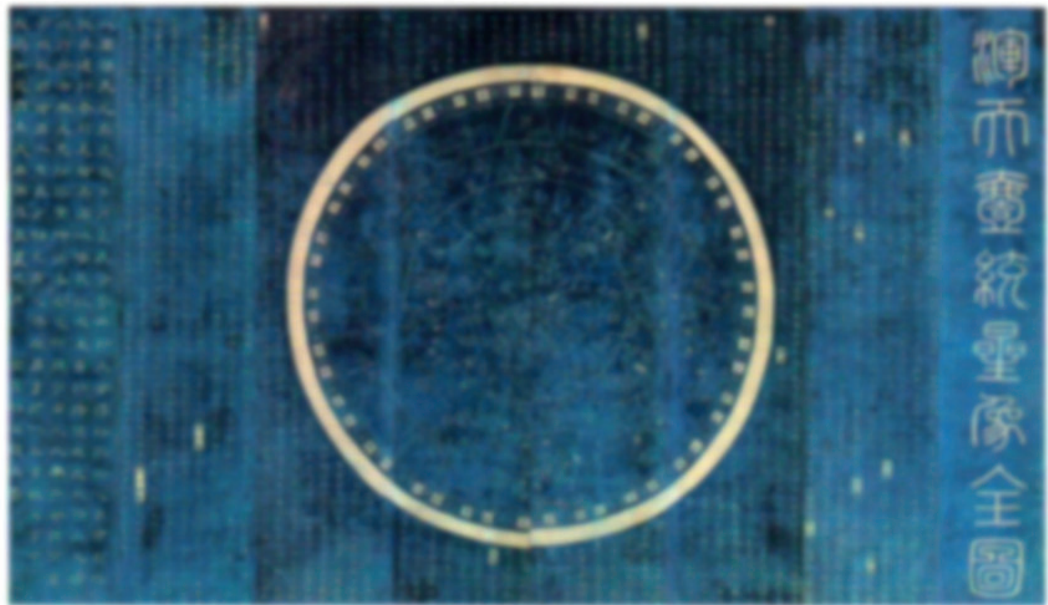


Fig 1 above: Chinese chart of the heavens. Fig 2 left: Terrestrial map. Both Daniel Crouch

at the 'Winter Show in Spring' in New York. The 48½in by 8½in 'star' chart of the heavens (*Fig 1*) was paired with a 52¼in by 87½in terrestrial map (*Fig 2*), based on mid-18th-century research and published in 1811. This showed the Central Kingdom in considerable detail, with the rest of the

world relegated to the fringes. The Atlantic and Mediterranean were there, just, as the Great and Small Western Oceans. The two Chinese rarities were among several very important maps and atlases sold by Mr Crouch.

The Winter Show had not only moved its dates from the usual

January slot to the beginning of April, but also its location, from the Park Avenue Armory, which could not accommodate it at that time, to 660 Madison Avenue, the former flagship store of Barneys New York. Parts of it have been repurposed for cultural uses and exhibitors appear to have found it a satisfactory substitute.

There was a good turnout of London dealers, including Richard Green with Old Masters and Impressionists; Blairman, with sales including a pair of chairs made by Crace from a Pugin design; and Martyn Gregory, fresh from the Christie's sale

Fig 3 below: Animal dummy boards. Fig 4 below right: Trade sign. £6,000. Fig 5 bottom: Cast-iron figures. £1,150. All with Robert Young

