

JAN KRUGIER GALLERY  
AND  
CHRISTIAN DEYDIER  

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ORIENTAL BRONZES LTD.



— TIMELESS CHINA —

FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 11, 1998

JAN KRUGIER GALLERY  
41 EAST 57 TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022



**FRONT COVER**

**Unique archaic bronze candelabra depicting a xian** (*figure of human appearance holding three sconces, and wearing an outfit of feathers*)  
Late Eastern Zhou, early Western Han

Height : 36 cm  
E.Wahl-Rostagni collection

**Large sancai glazed earthenware horse**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 79 cm  
J.T Tai collection, New York

"Timeless China" is a new approach in the presentation of works of art. As both a contrast and, at the same time, a complement to the contemporary paintings of Zao Wou-ki presented by Jan Krugier Gallery Christian Deydier is exhibiting a group of pieces from several periods extending from the Shang Dynasty ( 1600 to 1111 B.C ) to the Liao Dynasty ( 916 - 1125 A.D ).

With its brilliant civilization, China was and remains the cradle par excellence of great artistic and spiritual creation. Her bronze artisans, the leaders in their fields, cast the most beautiful ritual bronzes of antiquity. The candelabra in the exhibition which was cast in the form of an immortal is the perfect example of this pure technique and an intense mysticism. Confident of its wisdom and civilization, the Middle Kingdom was, throughout its history, a world brimming with exchanges. On the silk road, the West and the Far East met. It was a route of commerce where long caravans of camels and horses laden down with packs of Chinese silks, spices, alcohol, precious furs, gold and silverware, the first printed books, etc... made their way across mountains and the treacherous Taklamakan desert (which in Turki means "go in and you will not come out").

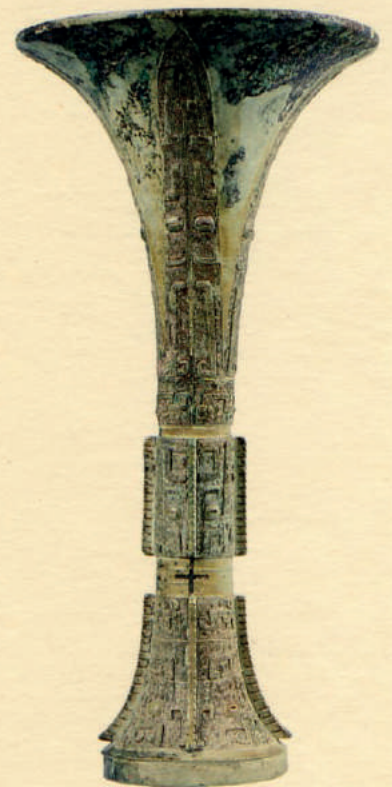
It was a philosophical and intellectual route trod by believers in various creeds Buddhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Nestorianism and Islam. It was the route by which performers and storytellers came into China bringing spectacles and new forms of entertainment and forming universal ties with Chinese artists.

The pieces presented in "Timeless China" by Christian Deydier illustrate the Chinese sense of the aesthetic which the West is now discovering and that our modern eyes, marvelling and fascinated, cannot help but contemplate.



**Inlaid archaic bronze vessel niaoxinghe**  
Early Warring States period, 475-221 BC

Height : 27 cm



**Archaic bronze vessel gu**  
Shang dynasty,  
13 - 12 BC

Height : 32 cm



**Earthenware large groom**

Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 72 cm

Christian Deydier especially owes his fame to his work on archaic Chinese bronzes and gold and silverware. He is also the author of a number of works that are regarded as references in their fields: *Les Jiaguwen, Essai Bibliographique et Synthèse des Etudes* (Paris, 1976), *les Bronzes Chinois* (Fribourg 1980-in French, English and German editions), *Les Bronzes Archaïques Chinois/Archaic Chinese Bronzes, Tome I, Xia and Shang* (Bi-Lingual Edition, Paris, 1995). At present, in conjunction with the eminent Chinese scholar and archeologist, Professor Han Wei, Christian Deydier is preparing a pioneering majors work on Chinese gold and silverware.

Christian Deydier has recently been honored by the French government with the following decoration :

- Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.
- Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur.



More connoisseur than dealer, Christian Deydier is a specialist in ancient Chinese script, archaic bronzes and Chinese gold and silverware. He has a diploma in Chinese language and civilization from the University of Paris VII and Tai Ta University in Taipei, Taiwan. At the age of 26, he published a thesis on "Jiaguwen" the earliest form of Chinese writing carved on bones and tortoise shells during the Shang Dynasty (12th Century B.C).

After having spent several years as a recognized Chinese antiquities expert in Paris, M. Christian Deydier moved to London in 1983. In 1987, he opened a gallery "Oriental Bronzes" in that city and in 1997 he opened a French branch in Paris.



**Sancai glazed earthenware boy holding a wine skin**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 20,8 cm





**Amber glazed earthenware Bactrian camels**  
Sui dynasty,  
early Tang dynasty,  
7th century

Height : 32,9 cm



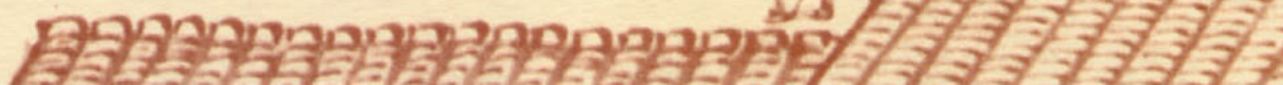
**Sancai earthenware falconer**  
Tang dynasty,

Height : 37 cm



**Sancai earthenware drummer on a horse**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 38 cm



ware  
8-907



**Paire of sancai glazed earthenware Silk Road storytellers**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 20,8 cm





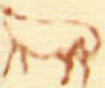
**Earthenware eunuch**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

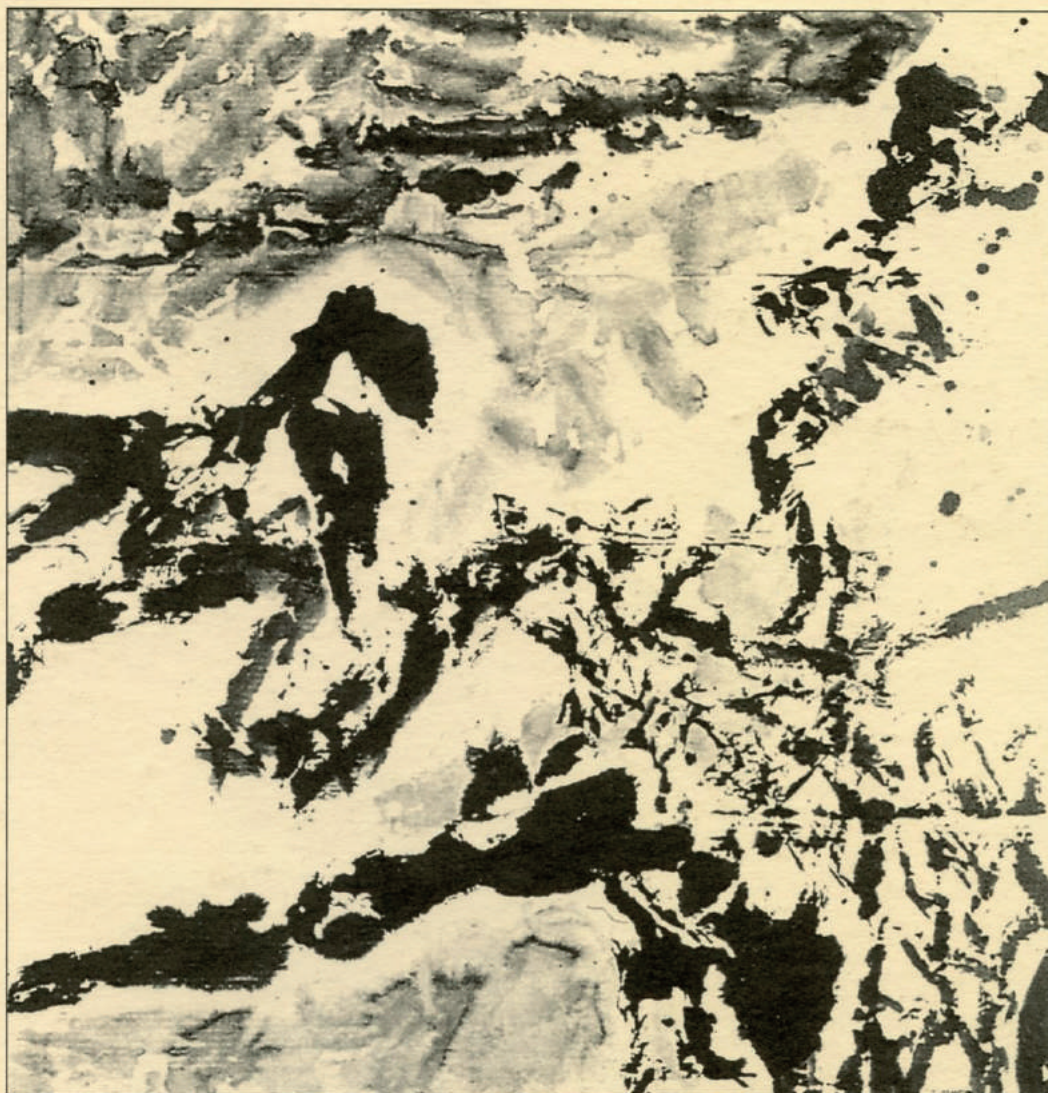
Height : 46 cm



**Earthenware Fat lady**  
Tang dynasty, 618-907

Height : 46,5 cm





Zao Wou-ki

Ink on Paper

1995

## JAN KRUGIER GALLERY

41 EAST 57TH STREET, NY, 10022 TEL: (212) 755-7288 FAX : (212) 980-6079

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**CHRISTIAN DEYDIER**  
**ORIENTAL BRONZES LTD.**

UNITED KINGDOM

24a, RYLAND ROAD  
LONDON NW5 3EH  
TEL : 44-411.727 613  
FAX : 44-171.267 5309

FRANCE

21, RUE DU BAC  
75007 PARIS  
TEL : 33-1.40 20 97 34  
FAX : 33-1.40 20 97 39