



SHARON FITZSIMMONS
CHINESE ANTIQUE FURNITURE



Sale Price £6,750 (was £7,500) - Large Painted Cabinet Depicting Preparations for an Opera

SHANXI PROVINCE, C19TH

DIMENSIONS: W:118 D:53 H:191 (cm)

REFERENCE: C277

£6,750

A grand decorative cabinet with intriguing painting illustrating preparations for an opera. The remarkable historical tableau unfolds in front of our eyes and therefore is a rare heirloom full of symbolism.

The lacquered door surfaces are used as a canvas to paint a narrative scene portraying the exciting and interesting ceremonial lifestyle of Chinese officials and villagers prior to an opera. Villagers arrive with gifts for Chinese officials. A wonderful elephant to the lower right makes a grand entrance

Opera performances were of cultural significance in Shanxi in the late Qing Dynasty of which this cabinet is dated. As knowledge was a basis for one's position, the painted scrolls and books are symbolic of education and high office. Wealthy merchants, particularly in Shanxi, also sought to aspire to the status of the scholar, suggesting this cabinet could also have been commissioned by a merchant or a scholar. Careful examination of the carvings at the bottom of the cabinet reveal fortuitous dragons and the idealised character for double happiness

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