



**SHARON FITZSIMMONS**  
CHINESE ANTIQUE FURNITURE



## SOLD - Opera Chest

SHANXI PROVINCE LATE C19TH/ EARLY C20TH

**DIMENSIONS:** W:88 D:55 H:60 (cm)

**REFERENCE:** C348C

How wonderful to have a Chinese antique painted storage chest, known as an opera chest as has often been said that these types of chests stored props and costumes for the travelling opera companies in Shanxi province.

With regards to provenance, this noted chest is in the classic construction and design of similar chests from the C19th Shanxi Province in northern China. This chest has the traditional painting layout with scene surrounded by flowers and still has the original metal ware for this type of chest. The painting has been sympathetically restored over time.

This style of chest from Shanxi Province has been called opera chest due to a majority of this style of chest to have opera scene decorations, however, the chest may not necessarily been used in the storing of opera materials. There is an interesting background story to these chests.

Their construction is from paulownia wood and often these trees were planted in celebration of a daughter's birth and symbol of good health and prosperity and later when the daughter would be getting married furniture would be made from the mature tree and included in her dowry as symbol of happy marriage and this furniture could be a decorated chest with an opera scene.

This intriguing and practical chest can be used as a decorative and functional storage chest with its table like surface for books, photos and decorative items.

