information

Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai
111 Pudong Road (S), Pudong, Shanghai 200120, China
Telephone +86 (21) 2082 9888 Facsimile +86 (21) 2082 9000
http://www.mandarinoriental.com/shanghai/

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
PUDONG
SHANGHAI

RARE ANTIQUE CHINESE TREASURE CHOSEN AS THE SIGNATURE FAN FOR MANDARIN ORIENTAL PUDONG, SHANGHAI

A century-old Mandarin fan discovered in Hong Kong has been selected to become the signature fan for the soon-to-open Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai. The stunning fan, intricately hand-painted and embellished with precious materials, will take pride of place in the lobby of the landmark hotel on the Pudong waterfront.

Mandarin Oriental's widely recognised 11-blade fan logo is a profoundly meaningful symbol of the Group's oriental culture. In addition to being the registered trademark logo for the luxury hotel group, all Mandarin Oriental hotels are encouraged to find their own hallmark fan to represent the unique expression of their property. Each hotel's fan is sensitively linked to the place in which it resides, and is a visual representation of the cultural soul of each location.

Rather than commission a new fan, Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai has selected a fan that is steeped in history, referencing Shanghai's own unique heritage as a trading port that connects East and West. It is believed that the antique fan was made in Canton for a collector in Europe during the 19th Century.

Mandarin fans are considered the most precious of Chinese antique fans and were highly prized by overseas collectors. Also called '100 faces' fans, they depicted Mandarins and Chinese nobility in palaces and garden settings. Almost double the size of a regular fan, the Shanghai fan features black lacquered bones, finely etched in gold and inlaid with ivory.

-more-

Both the front and reverse of the paper leaf fan are richly painted in gouache, a water-based painting medium that is built up over many layers giving it a three dimensional quality and allowing for extremely fine detailing and exotic embellishments.

The front of the fan depicts a classic courtyard garden scene, while the reverse features three large vignettes and four small framed animal portraits surrounded by flower images and colourful borders. Despite the age of the fan, it was discovered in pristine condition and the original colours remain intense and vibrant.

More than 100 tiny figures are represented in the scenes depicted on the fan. These representations are shown fanning themselves with their own small fans, sipping tea, riding horses and socializing. Each of the tiny faces are made from applied ivory and painted with expressive features. The characters wear robes of pure silk. Italian design influences are evident in the black and white marble floor tiles depicted in the otherwise traditional Chinese palace scene.

Depicting the allure of world travel and cultural treasures, the Mandarin fan is returning to its country of origin after a 100-year journey. Looking out across the Pudong riverfront, Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai references the East-West sea-borne trade route that helped Shanghai to develop as a major metropolis over more than a century. This beautiful Mandarin fan combines the essence of Oriental soul with the magic of Shanghai, and is a fascinating antique for travellers to enjoy on each visit.

-end-

For further information, please contact:

Angela Cai (cangela@mohg.com)
Director of Communications
Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai
Tel: +86 21 2082 9887

www.mandarinoriental.com/shanghai/