

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sotheby's appoints new director of China

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Jean Qian, Sotheby's managing director, China. Image credit: Sotheby's

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Auction house Sotheby's has named Jean Qian as the new managing director of China, effective immediately.

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Based in Shanghai, Ms. Qian will lead the China team to drive Sotheby's local business expansion as part of the company's global strategy. The move underscores the importance of the market to Sotheby's global strategy.

"I am very pleased to welcome Jean to our Asia leadership team," said Nathan Drahi, managing director of Sotheby's Asia, in a statement. "China is a major strategic focus for Sotheby's, and I look forward to our local development."

Personnel changes

In her new role, Ms. Qian will work closely with Asian and global counterparts to elevate Sotheby's presence in China by spearheading strategic growth initiatives and growing its client base. She will report to Mr. Drahi.

She brings more than 15 years of experience in business development and management across various industries.



Sotheby's reported consolidated sales of \$7.3 billion in 2021, the strongest total in company history. Image credit: Sotheby's

Most recently, she served as vice president of operations for China and APAC at Farfetch.

Ms. Qian joined Farfetch's China operations in 2015 as the first core management team member, where she built the

company's APAC operations from scratch and led a team of 150 staff across Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Prior to Farfetch, Ms. Qian spent more than 10 years in management consulting, guiding multinational companies across technology, media and telecoms, luxury retail and financial services sectors, with experience in cross-border business development in China.

In 2021, Sotheby's saw a record year in Asia, as well as record years for global sales of modern and contemporary art, luxury watches, wine and spirits, design and books and manuscripts, achieving all-time highs for annual auction totals ([see story](#)).

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