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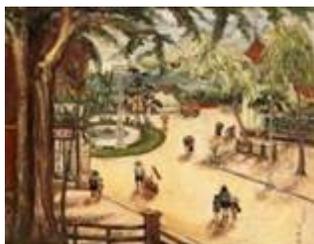
CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER MASTERPIECES OF CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART THIS FALL IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong - Christie's fall sales of *Chinese 20th Century Art* will take place on November 30th and December 1st at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Following the success of Christie's inaugural *Evening Sale of Chinese 20th Century Art* in the Spring, Christie's will once again offer a sale of superlative works in the dramatic setting of an Evening Sale, with a larger Day Sale the following day.

At the opening of the 20th century, the clash between old and new in China brought forward an era of exceptional change. European powers introduced advanced industry and technology to China, producing an unprecedented impact on its traditional modes of thought and greatly expanding the scope and vision of the art of the time. Chinese artists of the 20th century ingeniously combined traditional Chinese artistic techniques with Western aesthetics, resulting in artwork entirely unique to China. Interest in Chinese 20th century art has grown in recent years, as collectors on a global scale further develop an understanding of the history and context of the art created during this fascinating time.

CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART EVENING SALE

Sunday, November 30, 7:45pm



Leading the *Chinese 20th Century Art Evening Sale* is ***The Central Fountain in Chiayi***, a seminal work by **Chen Cheng-Po** (1895-1947), an artist whose work is among the most sought-after today. A graduate of the Western Painting Studies Department of the Tokyo School of Fine Arts in 1929, Chen received a very orthodox academic training during a time when works by artists of the

Impressionist school were regularly being shown in Japan. The diversity of ideas and techniques that Chen encountered during this period gave him an outlook he described as “based in Asia, but embracing the world,” and spurred him to search for a creative vocabulary with a regional feel.

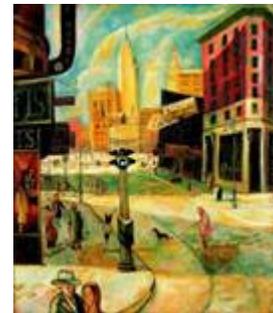
The Central Fountain in Chiayi (illustrated above, estimate: HK\$15,000,000 –

25,000,000/US\$1,923,000 – 3,205,000), painted in 1933, is highly representative of Chen's work and strongly echoes the historical era of its creation. In this work, which depicts one of the scenic landmarks in the artist's hometown of Chiayi, the artist expresses feelings about the physical features of the city, as well as its people and culture, with a depth and vividness not found in his other works with a Chiayi theme. Projecting a sense of the down-to-earth, optimistic, and cheerful character of Chiayi's people, along with appealing details of their lives, the scene exudes a rich sense of narrative and drama. The composition, arrangement, and artistic techniques that Chen employs beautifully blend the Western tradition of realism with the lyrical artistic approach of the East. The work reflects the transformations of Chinese art during this era, one in which the meeting of Eastern and Western cultures began to impact the 5,000 year tradition of Chinese painting and calligraphy. Chen Cheng-Po's creativity embraced old and new, tradition and modernity, as well as native and foreign influences. His deep reflection and realizations of artistic developments made him an artist of great significance in his own era, as well as an artist who left tremendous historical contributions.

Hommage à Tou-Fou by **Zao Wou-Ki** (b. 1920) (illustrated right, estimate upon request) is a work that marks the epitome of the fusion of Eastern and Western artistic traditions, merging the expressive forms of Oriental paintings with abstract techniques from the West. Here, Zao takes the rich cultural essence of ancient oracle bone inscriptions, the earliest Chinese writing scripts dating to the Shang Dynasty (1300 BC – 1046 BC), and uses abstraction to reinterpret their meaning – a concept that shook the art world during the 1950's. Of the three comparable works that Zao completed in 1955 and 1956, *Hommage à Tou-Fou* is especially powerful in its integration of the three traditional Chinese cultural elements of poetry, calligraphy and painting into a single image. Zao's evocative work with its union of progressive techniques and traditional inspiration serves as a major milestone in the development of Chinese modern art during the 20th century.



Of note from **Yun Gee** (1906-1963) is *Old Broadway in Winter* (illustrated right, estimate: HK\$5,500,000 – 7,500,000/US\$705,100 – 961,500), a work that captures the skyscrapers and streets of Broadway in the 1930s in a realistic and figurative style. Yun believed that the development of art came from the observation of the contemporary spirit and that since, as he once commented, he “was living in a modern industrial society instead of meditating about nature on a mountaintop,” his art must also reflect the gist and spirit of his time. Rich and varied in its colours, and realistic in its depiction, this work also embodies a poetic nature. The Empire State Building and several other skyscrapers in the distance, through skillful brushstrokes, display a warmth that gives life to the whole city, in stark contrast to the traditional cool and mechanical interpretation of these industrial



icons and modernization scenes. The originality in the planning of the composition and colours gives the entire work a dramatic and vibrant feel.



The techniques and the spirit of traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy deeply influenced the oil work of **Chu Teh-Chun** (b.1920). In *Eaux Profondes No. 63* (illustrated left, estimate: HK\$5,000,000 – 7,000,000 / US\$641,000 – 897,400) Chu fills the canvas with profound single-tone black-ink lines, a noticeable departure from other works in his oeuvre. With a quick and forceful vigour, the black strokes in this work penetrate the cool, serene palette, producing captivating contrasts between dynamic and static expressions that result in a visual tension on the canvas.

Potted Chrysanthemums is one of **Sanyu's** (1901-1966) still-life flower-themed works executed in the 1940s (illustrated right, estimate: HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000 / US\$384,600-641,000). With its coal black and purplish blue background, this work exudes an infinite depth that arouses a feeling of tranquility and mystery. Its dark background and exceptionally large scale make *Potted Chrysanthemums* an extremely rare work from the artist. Sanyu played an exceptional role in the advancement of modern Chinese oil painting in part by creating positive and negative spaces through the blending of light and shadow, a pioneering achievement that broke with the traditional depiction of space in Chinese art.



CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART DAY SALE
Monday, December 1, 10am

The *Chinese 20th Century Art Day Sale* on December 1 will offer a strong selection of works that takes collectors through the history of this vibrant period for Chinese art. The sale will include over 110 works from artists such as **Zao Wou-Ki, Yun Gee, Ju Ming, Sanyu, Chu Teh-Chun, Wu Guanzhong, Chen Yifei**, and others.



Leading the sale is *White Birch* by **Wu Guanzhong** (b. 1919) (illustrated left, estimate: HK\$4,000,000 – 5,000,000 / US\$512,800 – 641,000), a work representative of his distinctive painting style heavily influenced by Chinese scholars and calligraphers. Despite using thick oil paints, Wu successfully creates a sense of transparency reminiscent of ink wash painting, a technique rooted in traditional Chinese painting.

****High-resolution images of highlights from this sale can be downloaded here:**
<http://cshk.myftp.org/2008%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Fall%20Auctions/Chinese%2020th%20Century%20Art/>

Auctions:*Chinese 20th Century Art Evening Sale**Chinese 20th Century Art Day Sale*

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

November 30, 7:45 pm

December 1, 10am

Viewing and Tours**SHANGHAI**, *Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai***TAIYUAN (SHANXI)**, *World Trade Hotel***BEIJING**, *Park Hyatt Beijing***TAIPEI**, *Fubon Life Assurance Building***HONG KONG**, *Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre*

November 2-3

November 6-7

November 10-11

November 22-23

November 27 –November 30

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium*