

CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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A MAGNIFICENT SPLASH INK PAINTING BY ZHANG DAQIAN AND IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTIONS TO LEAD CHRISTIE'S CHINESE PAINTINGS SALE



Lot 1528, ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983), *Living in the Mountains*, Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on silk, 72 x 102.7 cm.,
Dated 1969, Estimate: HK\$16,000,000-22,000,000/ US\$2,100,000-2,800,000

Hong Kong – Christie's presents a series of Chinese painting auctions, ranging from exceptional classical calligraphy and modern paintings to contemporary ink. Two important private collections, Feng Wen Tang and K'ung Hsiang-Hsi, complete the sales. The auctions will take place on 1st and 2nd June 2015 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center and are estimated to realise over HK\$313 million / US\$40 million.

MODERN PAINTINGS

The top highlights in the sale are *Living in the Mountains* by Zhang Daqian, *Pine Soul* by Wu Guanzhong and *Dreaming of Chateau de Montlys* by Fu Baoshi.

In *Living in the Mountains*, Zhang Daqian confidently splashes ink in a bold, carefree yet controlled manner – green, blue, and black ink hues are combined to become an entirety. The interplay between light and darkness on the painting reveals the artist's genius and creativity in his interpretation of the relationships between the sky, the mountains, and their shadows, creating a landscape in which the viewers can live and journey through (Lot 1528).



Lot 1388, WU GUANZHONG (1919-2010), *Pine Soul*,
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 70 x 138 cm.,
Estimate: HK\$8,000,000-10,000,000/ US\$1,100,000-1,300,000

Wu Guanzhong long admired the majestic two thousand year-old pine trees on the Tai Mountains, known as the Fifth-Rank Pine. When he first climbed the Tai Mountains in the 1980s, the artist sketched the pine tree from numerous angles in an attempt to capture its spirit. “I tried to capture the soul of the pine, to represent its struggles and jaggedness with wild ink lines, with lines in continuous motion freeing its noble soul...” Wu expressed *Pine Soul* depicts the magnificent branches of the pine trees, with an interplay between Wu’s artistic development of abstraction together with his memories from his journeys to the Tai Mountains (Lot 1388).

Dreaming of Chateau de Montlys captures an extraordinary friendship between two men in a time of war. In autumn 1945, at the outset of the Chinese Civil War, Mr. de Dianous, a French diplomat and Sinologist, was living in Chongqing, where he befriended the renowned painter Fu Baoshi. The painting depicts a dream Mr. de Dianous related to the artist: the diplomat, as a young boy, running along the banks of the Rhone River and up to his family home, Chateau de Montlys, surrounded by friends and family. Touched by this idyllic vision, Fu translated the French landscape and scenery into exquisite traditional Chinese brushwork, not only as consolation for a friend’s nostalgia, but also as a poignant elegy to peace at a moment of growing conflict (Lot 1541).

Lot 1541, FU BAOSHI (1904-1965), *Dreaming of Chateau de Montlys*,
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 76.2 x 45.2 cm., Dated 1945,
Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$520,000-770,000



CLASSICAL CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS

Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy features 175 works from the 14th to 19th century. A calligraphic masterpiece by Wang Duo and landscape paintings by Dai Benxiao and Mei Qing are some highlights of the auction.



Lot 1115, DAI BENXIAO (1621 - 1693)
Boating on a Mountain Stream
Hanging scroll, ink on paper,
152.5 x 90.5 cm., Dated 1690
Estimate: HK\$3,500,000-4,500,000/
US\$460,000-580,000



Lot 1116, MEI QING (1623-1697)
Two Immortals on Huangshan
Hanging scroll, ink on paper,
75 x 48 cm., Dated 1695
Estimate: HK\$2,500,000-3,500,000/
US\$330,000-450,000



Lot 1074, WANG DUO (1592-1652)
Calligraphy in Running Script
Hanging scroll, ink on satin,
238 x 53.5 cm., Dated 1642
Estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/
US\$260,000-390,000

Boating on a Mountain Stream by Dai Benxiao and *Two Immortals on Huangshan* by Mei Qing are from a European Private Collection. Dai Benxiao excelled in painting and poetry. His paintings are characterized by the use of simple brushwork and light ink to depict nature, in particular the scenery of Mount Huang, with pines, rocks and seas of clouds. He expressed his sadness for the bygone Ming court through *Boating on a Mountain Stream* (Lot 1115).

Mei Qing was a leading figure of the Huangshan (Mount Huang) School of paintings. Located in Anhui province, Huangshan is famous for its ever-changing views of mountain ranges that vary according to the time and weather. Using simple but refined brushwork, Mei Qing depicted the jagged mountains dotted with old pines protruding through the clouds. By employing a texturing method specifically for the clouds, the artist vividly rendered different cloud formations, pulling the viewer into an opaque wonderland. Painted in 1695 when he was 73, *Two Immortals on Huangshan* is a late work by the artist (Lot 1116).

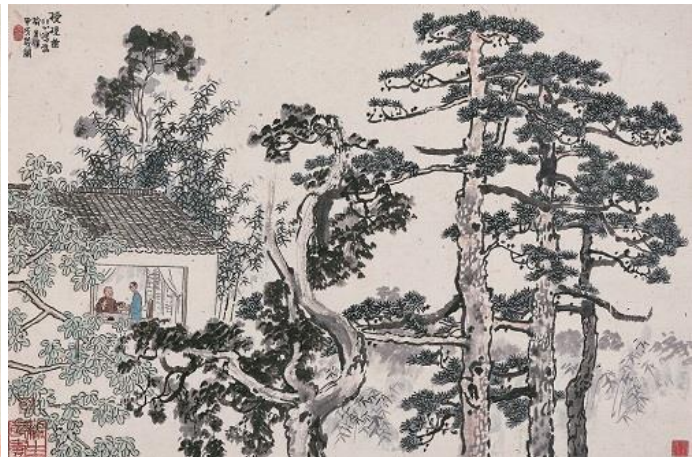
Ming dynasty artist Wang Duo lived in Northern China. The character of the people of Northern China is clearly reflected in his *Calligraphy in Running Script*, with its strong, bold strokes (Lot 1074). This piece of work comes from a mid-20th century Japanese private collection.

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Christie's will present two single owner collection sales, the Feng Wen Tang collection and property from the Family Collection of K'ung Hsiang-Hsi.

Feng Wen Tang Collection

The Feng Wen Tang collection is an unparalleled selection of paintings by Chinese Modern masters Qi Baishi, Fu Baoshi, Xu Beihong and Lu Yanshao to name but a few. In particular, the collection comprises works with a breadth of subject matter by master Qi Baishi, from figure paintings to landscapes, all of the highest quality and with exceptional provenance. Highlights include *The Retired Officer* by Qi Baishi and *Instructions on Inkstone* by Xu Beihong (please refer to a separate press release).



Left: Lot 1239

QI BAISHI (1864-1957), *The Retired Officer*,
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper, 94 x 50 cm.,
Estimate: HK\$4,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$520,000-770,000

Right: Lot 1225

XU BEIHONG (1895-1953), *Instructions on Inkstone*,
Hanging scroll, ink and colour on paper, 35.5 x 53 cm., Dated 1934
Estimate: HK\$600,000-800,000/ US\$78,000-100,000

Family Collection of K'ung Hsiang-Hsi

Christie's is proud to present a magnificent selection of Chinese paintings, jewellery and Chinese works of art from the K'ung family collection. As a highly educated and sophisticated businessman, K'ung enjoyed the resources and the aesthetic sensibilities to appreciate fine works of art. His close connections in China and abroad also provided him with ready access to important artists and collections, allowing the family to assemble one of the most important collections in modern Chinese history. Highlights include *Lotus Pond* by Zhang Daqian (Lot 1497), *Fragrant Lotus* by Xie Zhiliu (Lot 1500) and *Folk Tales* by Ren Xun (Lot 1067) (please refer to a separate press release).



Left: Lot 1497,
ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983), *Lotus Pond*,
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper,
95 x 179.5 cm
Estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,500,000/ US\$200,000-320,000



Right: Lot 1500,
XIE ZHILIU (1910-1997), *Fragrant Lotus*,
Scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper
76.5 x 41 cm., Dated 1944
Estimate: HK\$400,000-600,000/ US\$52,000-77,000



Lot 1067, REN XUN (1835-1893), *Folk Tales*,
A set of twelve hanging scrolls, ink and colour on paper, Each scroll measures 178.5 x 54.5 cm., Dated 1872,
Estimate: HK\$8,000,000-10,000,000/ US\$1,100,000-1,300,000

CONTEMPORARY INK

Further to the success of the inaugural auction in November 2014, Christie's will offer an exciting selection of 50 artworks in its second Chinese contemporary ink auction. Highlights include *Sketch of Hong Kong – Aberdeen* by Lui Shou Kwan, *These Are Still Flowers 1912-2012* by Yang Jiechang and *Snow-Covered Mountains* by Li Huayi.



Lot 903, LUI SHOU KWAN (LÜ SHOUKUN, 1919-1975), *Sketch of Hong Kong - Aberdeen*
Horizontal scroll, Ink and colour on paper, 58.5 x 358.5 cm., Executed in 1963, Estimate: HK\$300,000-400,000/ US\$39,000-52,000

Sketch of Hong Kong – Aberdeen is formerly the property of the Dr. K. S. Lo Collection, a well-known collector in the field of Chinese paintings. Lui Shou Kwan, the most iconic Hong Kong artist of his generation, depicts the scenery of Aberdeen, which was a fishing village at the time and reminds the viewers of the beauty of the old Hong Kong (Lot 903).



In Yang Jiechang's *These are Still Flowers* series, the artist first copied an oil flower painting by the young Adolf Hitler created a century ago, which he then interpreted using intense, mineral pigments of Tang, Song and Ming dynasty Buddhist mural paintings, combined with meticulously fine brush techniques typically associated with bird-and-flower paintings. Distanced from its historical origin, the flower imagery remains an arresting painting, even if painted by Hitler; yet by creating a conceptual rift, the artist presents the viewer with a dilemma of an unsettling dissonance (Lot 909).

Lot 909, YANG JIECHANG (B. 1956), *These Are Still Flowers* 1912-2012,
Scroll, mounted on canvas and framed, Ink and mineral colours on silk, 97 x 70.5 cm., Executed in 2012,
Estimate: HK\$400,000-600,000/ US\$52,000-77,000

Li Huayi's intricate landscape work uses experimental techniques to blend the new and the old, creating a work reminiscent of the monumental Northern Song painting in spirit. Beginning with splashes of ink on paper which create a free-form formation of grotesque mountains and cliffs, a technique most often associated with Zhang Daqian, Li then adds photo-realistic details to depict jagged rocks and looming pines, using the *gongbi* technique and often taking several months over the process. The artist's meticulous approach creates an image at once monumental and intimate, portraying a vast mountainscape, radiating quiet energy, obscured by lofty clouds and bathed in dramatic light (Lot 915).

Lot 915, LI HUAYI (B. 1948), *Snow-covered Mountains*
Scroll, mounted and framed Ink and colour on paper, 136 x 68 cm.,
Estimate: HK\$2,200,000-3,200,000/ US\$290,000-420,000



Image Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9bbdt7vdz2p4new/AADRalR9yjiVV54gwLgiuhBa?dl=0>

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, New Delhi, Mumbai and Dubai.

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