

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 25 FEBRUARY 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCES ASIAN ART WEEK

featuring
The Collection of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth
MARCH 15-21



New York – Christie's Asian Art Week in New York will feature an unprecedented series of sales, lectures and public events led by the Collection of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth, the distinguished American scholar, dealer and collector whose groundbreaking work transformed the study and appreciation of Asian art around the world. The week will present property from several private collections of Indian and Southeast Asian works of art, Chinese paintings, and most notably from *The Collection of Julia and John Curtis*, a sale of important 17th century Chinese porcelains. In addition to the sales, Christie's will have on view *Modern + Contemporary: Masterpieces from the Subcontinent*, a special presentation of South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art - to be sold for Private Sale.

亞洲藝術週

15 March 2015	<i>Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, Session 1</i>
16 March 2015	<i>An Era Of Inspiration: 17th Century Chinese Porcelains From The Collection Of Julia And John Curtis</i> <i>Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, Session 2</i>
17 March 2015	<i>Fine Chinese Paintings</i>
17-21 March 2015	<i>The Collection of Robert Hatfield Ellsworth</i>
18 March 2015	<i>Indian, Himalayan And Southeast Asian Works Of Art</i>
11-21 March 2015	PRIVATE SALE EXHIBITION <i>Modern + Contemporary: Masterpieces from the Subcontinent</i>

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE SALE INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.](#)

FINE CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART 15-16 March

Christie's sale of *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* will be held over the course of two days, and will feature over 300 lots that span over 3,000 years and a myriad collecting categories, including jade carvings, archaic bronzes, early pottery and figures, gilt-bronze figures, textiles, and snuff bottles.

Highlighting the sale is a massive and highly important gilt-bronze figure of Vajrabhairava Ekavira, from the Ming dynasty, 15th century (estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000). This impressively cast and monumental figure is among the largest and most significant works of Tibeto-Chinese sculpture to appear on the market in several years. The extraordinary size and level of detail suggests it was produced in the imperial workshops of Beijing in the 15th century, a period of wide-reaching cultural exchange and religious efflorescence within Ming China. Other outstanding works include an exquisite and exceptionally rare *Geyao* water pot, Southern Song-Yuan dynasty (1127-1279) (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000), the highlight of the early ceramics portion of the sale.

Additional works include a magnificent and extremely rare large cloisonné enamel 'dragon' jar and cover, 15th-16th century (estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000), a pair of magnificent large bronze figures of *luohan*, Ming dynasty, 15th century (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000); a magnificent pair of painted pottery figures of Earth Spirits, *zhenmushou*, Tang dynasty (AD 618-907)(estimate: \$350,000-450,000); and a superb selection of textiles from the collection of Myrna and Sam Myers, which is highlighted by rare imperial untailed gold brocaded silk twill court overcoat, *gua*, Kangxi period, late 17th century (estimate: \$250,000-350,000).



A MASSIVE AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT GILT-BRONZE FIGURE OF VAJRABHAIRAVA EKAVIRA
MING DYNASTY, 15TH CENTURY
Estimate: \$4,000,000-6,000,000



A VERY RARE GEYAO WATER POT
SOUTHERN SONG-YUAN DYNASTY (1127-1368)
Estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000



A RARE IMPERIAL UNTAILED GOLD BROCADED SILK TWILL COURT OVERCOAT, GUA
KANGXI PERIOD, LATE 17TH CENTURY
Estimate: \$250,000-350,000



A MAGNIFICENT AND EXTREMELY RARE CLOISONNÉ ENAMEL 'DRAGON' JAR AND COVER
MING DYNASTY, 15TH/16TH CENTURY
Estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000

AN ERA OF INSPIRATION: 17th-CENTURY CHINESE PORCELAINS FROM THE COLLECTION OF JULIA AND JOHN CURTIS

16 March

Christie's is pleased to present an important private collection of superb Chinese porcelain. *An Era of Inspiration: 17th-Century Chinese Porcelains from the Collection of Julia and John Curtis* will feature 95 lots, each vividly showcasing the talent and creativity of the 17th-century porcelain artisans. The exhibition, symposium and sale of this carefully assembled and meticulously researched collection will provide collectors and scholars the unique opportunity to engage with the brilliantly decorated porcelains produced in this short period of time.

[For more details on the collection and symposium, please click here.](#)



A SUPERB LARGE BLUE AND WHITE BRUSH POT
CHONGZHEN PERIOD, CIRCA 1640
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

FINE CHINESE PAINTINGS 17 March



YU FEI'AN (1889-1959)
BUTTERFLY AND PLUM BLOSSOM
Estimate: \$50,000- 80,000

Christie's sale of *Fine Chinese Paintings* will take place on 17 March and features 143 traditional and modern works. Leading the sale is Zhang Daqian's *The Three Peaks of Mount Hua, Landscape in the style of Shitao* (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). This painting by the versatile and prolific artist created a complex imagery of Mount Hua with cultural references in his poem inscribed at the top. The cover lot of this sale is Yu Fei'an's *Butterfly and Plum Blossom* (estimate: \$50,000-80,000). A refined picture painted when the artist was 64- at the peak of his maturity and skill.



LIU KUO-SONG (LIU GUOSUNG, B. 1932)
COLLAGE OF ABSTRACT LANDSCAPES
Estimate: \$50,000-70,000

Additional highlights include *Plum Blossom*, a painting by Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908) (estimate: \$10,000-15,000), consigned by a family who served the royal court. While the Empress's calligraphy and blossoms are elegant and controlled, the contorted branches reach upward with unexpected energy, creating a unique composition. This sale also features *Collage of Abstract Landscapes* by Liu Kuo-sung (Liu Guosong, b. 1932), the 'father of Chinese modern ink.' Painted in 1988, the artist explores the interaction of ink or color, water, and paper- a contemporary work, yet traditional and representative of the natural world (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).

THE COLLECTION OF ROBERT HATFIELD ELLSWORTH 17-21 March



Christie's presents a landmark five-day auction series devoted to the collection of the celebrated American scholar, dealer and collector Robert Hatfield Ellsworth, running March 17 to 21 at Christie's flagship New York galleries at Rockefeller Center. After successful tours to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, and London last autumn, Christie's is unveiling Mr. Ellsworth's collection of over 1,400 lots that will be sold without reserve via an extended, eight-day public exhibition leading up to the start of the auction series. This extraordinary collection, widely considered to be one of the

most important private collection of Asian Art ever to come to market, is expected to realize in excess of US\$35 million.

[For more information on this collection, please click here.](#)

INDIAN, HIMALAYAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN WORKS OF ART 18 March

Christie's sale of Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Works of Art will take place on 18 March and offer 61 exquisite paintings and sculpture from India, Tibet, Nepal, and Southeast Asia.

Among the sale highlights is an exceptionally cast bronze figure of Vajrabhairava and Shakti, Tibet, 18th century (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), this work is among the finest sculptural figures of its kind; a rare and highly important 13th century painting of Amogapasha Lokeshvara, (estimate: \$600,000-800,000), the embodiment of compassion; and a large and important stone figure of a Buddha, Northeastern India, Pala Period, 10th century (estimate: \$600,000-800,000), rare for its type, size and quality, exemplifying the gentle finesse of Pala stone sculpture.



A BRONZE FIGURE OF VAJRABHAIRAVA AND SHAKTI
TIBET, 18TH CENTURY
ESTIMATE: \$500,000-700,000



A RARE AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT PAINTING OF
AMOGAPASHA LOKESHVARA
TIBET, 13TH CENTURY
ESTIMATE: \$600,000-800,000



A LARGE AND IMPORTANT STONE FIGURE OF A
BUDDHA, NORTHEASTERN INDIA, PALA PERIOD,
10TH CENTURY
ESTIMATE: \$600,000-800,000

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

MODERN + CONTEMPORARY: MASTERPIECES FROM THE SUBCONTINENT

11-21 March



SYED HAIDER RAZA (B. 1922)
Village with Church
oil on canvas
Painted in 1958

Christie's announces a private selling exhibition **Modern + Contemporary: Masterpieces from the Subcontinent** to be held March 11-21, coinciding with the series of auctions during Asian Art Week. The exhibition features modern works by Vasudeo S. Gaitonde, Maqbool Fida Husain, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, Tyeb Mehta and Syed Haider Raza, and explores the unfolding story of modern art in Post-independence India from the early 1950s through the 1970s, when modernism comes into its own and crystallizes its identity. The exhibition's dialogue on the lasting influence on modern Indian art is complemented by contemporary works from Alwar Balasubramaniam and Zarina, who are both highly regarded in museum and collector circles alike for their extremely well-conceived and produced pieces.

PRESS CONTACT: Sung-Hee Kim | +1 212 636 2680 | shkim@christies.com
Sara Fox | +1 212 636 2680 | sfox@christies.com

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.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

###

Images available on request

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:



亞洲藝術週