

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | HONG KONG | 7 NOVEMBER 2017 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FU BAOSHI – *THE SONG OF THE PIPA PLAYER*

One of the Most Important Works by the Artist

To Lead Christie's Autumn Sales



FU BAOSHI

The Song of the Pipa Player

Hanging scroll, mounted and framed, ink and colour on paper

Inscribed and signed, with three seals of the artist

113 x 66 cm. (44 ½ x 26 in.)

Dated yiyou year (1945)

PROVENANCE

Formerly in the collection of the family of K'ung Hsiang-Hsi

ESTIMATE ON REQUEST

Hong Kong – On 28th November, *The Song of the Pipa Player* by Fu Baoshi will be offered in a single lot sale in recognition of this exceptional masterpiece, created by one of the foremost artists in the history of Modern Chinese Art.

Ben Kong, International Specialist Head of Chinese Paintings commented: 'Formerly in the illustrious H.H. K'ung collection, *The Song of the Pipa Player* is a culturally significant work, breaking through the traditional notions of Chinese paintings and forging a ground-breaking approach. This composition stands as one of the greatest examples of Fu Baoshi's sublime skill in artistic expression and composition, and demonstrates his enduring legacy in the field of Chinese Modern paintings.'

The Song of the Pipa Player was composed by Tang dynasty poet Bai Juyi in 816 AD as a reflection of his life experiences. Upon hearing the sad tune of the pipa player and the misfortunes of which she spoke, it stirred up his own feelings of despair over his dismissal from his post as governor, and he felt an affinity with her song and her hardships. Fu Baoshi's interpretation of the poem exudes a pensive and melancholic aura, while the gloomy moonlight creates a sense of detachment. Well-modelled figures, each with unique and contrasting demeanours, blend in the overall dramatic tonality of the painting, while the trees underscore Fu's mastery of brushwork and his skilful play of light.

Created in 1945, this painting stands as one of the best figure paintings by Fu Baoshi and one of his finest artistic achievements. This work comes with exceptional provenance, having been held in one of the most important collections of Chinese modern paintings, by collector K'ung Hsiang-Hsi for over 60 years. This painting first came to light in 2010 when it achieved a record-breaking auction result in our saleroom – more significantly, its rare composition is comparable to a definitive work of the same subject matter, created in 1944, currently housed in the collection of the Nanjing Museum.

Notes To Editors

AN ODE TO THE PAST - FU BAOSHI's *THE SONG OF THE PIPA PLAYER* PREVIOUSLY FROM THE COLLECTION OF H. H. K'UNG

Time: 4:30 pm (Lot 8801), immediately after Part 1 in the afternoon session of Fine Chinese Modern Paintings

Date: 28 November 2017

Venue: Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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