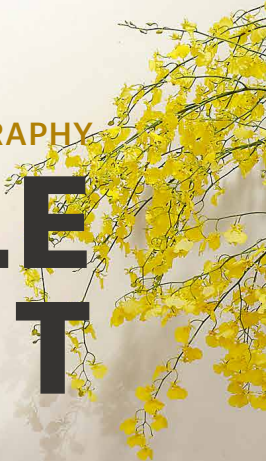




FINE CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY

# POST-SALE REPORT

AUTUMN 2020 ◆ HONG KONG



CHRISTIE'S



# OUTSTANDING RESULTS FROM AUTUMN 2020 CHINESE PAINTINGS AUCTIONS

On 1-2 December, Christie's held two live auctions of Chinese paintings at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Both the Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy sale and the Fine Chinese Modern and Contemporary Ink Paintings sale achieved superb results, demonstrating Christie's strength at offering the most sought-after Chinese paintings to collectors, especially those from celebrated private collections.

Tour in Zhixing Mountains: *Landscape and Calligraphy*  
by Shen Zhou and Wen Zhengming  
文沈行誼：遊支硎山《詩畫合卷》



CHINESE PAINTINGS  
AUTUMN AUCTIONS ACHIEVED

**HK\$315.6 million**

US\$40.9 MILLION

COMBINED SALES  
ACHIEVED

**1.8x**

THE TOTAL LOW ESTIMATE

**TOP LOT**  
**FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY**

**SHEN ZHOU (1427-1509) / WEN ZHENGMING (1470-1559)**  
*Landscape and Calligraphy*

Estimate: HK\$5,500,000-7,500,000

Price Realised: **HK\$26,650,000 / US\$3,454,199**

**SOLD FOR OVER 4.8 TIMES ITS LOW ESTIMATE**

**FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY**

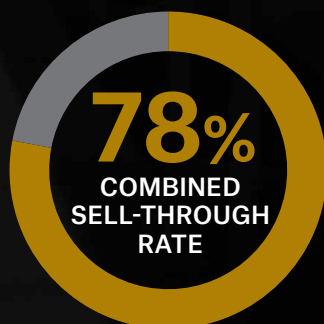
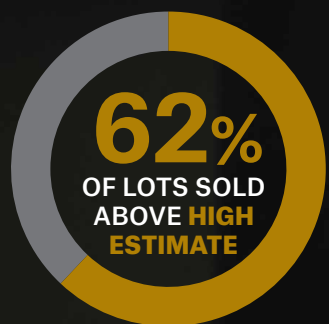
**WEN ZHENGMING (1470-1559)**

*Second Ode to the Red Cliff*

Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,200,000

**Price Realised: HK\$5,250,000 / US\$680,471**

**SOLD FOR OVER 4.3 TIMES ITS LOW ESTIMATE**





# OTHER TOP HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY SALE

## A Fable of Medicinal Herbs: Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe by Zhu Yunming

As a bright and precocious child, Zhu Yunming followed the family tradition and studied calligraphy. He had recalled that his family "prohibited [him] from emulating the recent and contemporary calligraphic styles. All I encountered was calligraphy from the Jin and Tang dynasties." Indeed, he adhered to this philosophy while honing his own individual style, and became one of the most celebrated calligraphers who excelled in every script, especially in the small-standard and cursive scripts.

In *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe*, more than 80 types of Chinese medicinal herbs and ingredients like Chinese Angelica, Polygala, Artemisia Anomala and Feather Cockscomb Seed are ingeniously employed to create the story. It is an imitation of a type of novel popular in the Tang dynasty, where whimsical and fantastical stories are told through poetry with quasi-historical background, which demonstrates the author's perspectives as well as his mastery of literary composition and knowledge of history. In his colophon, Chen Jiru points out the source of this story's inspiration—Han Yu's *Biography of Aloe*. Dong Qichang, on the other hand, suggests in his colophon that Zhu Yunming himself has written that humorous story. According to Ming accounts, there are even possible candidates for the authorship of *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe*: Sun Deyu of the early Ming from Jiangning and Xiao Shan from Changsha (active during the Ming Xuande reign). Fond of antiquity, curios, and legends, Zhu Yunming has authored stories and essays featuring ghosts and paranormal activities. As such, the authorship of *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe* is further complicated, especially given Dong Qichang's assessment.

Zhu Yunming transcribes *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe* in running-cursive script on paper, with smooth and elegant brushwork throughout. Wang Zhidong has commented that this handscroll appears "sometimes charming, sometimes archaic, and sometimes unrecognizable." This is reminiscent of the way the famous general Han Xin devised his military strategies—the established mixed with the unorthodox—unpredictable and wide-ranging. *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe* was owned by someone named "Tachong" during the Ming dynasty, with colophons by Dong Qichang (1555-1636), Chen Jiru (1558-1639) and Wang Zhidong (1555-1636). In early Qing it became part of the collection of Wang Weibo (1659-1725). Then it belonged to Ye Yunfeng (1797-1849) and towards the end of the Qing dynasty, it entered the collection of Chang Zhengyi (19th Century).

Since the end of Song dynasty, the Ye family resided in Cixi of the Zhejiang province. They prospered and ran the Chinese herbal medicine business successfully under the name of Zhong De Tang (Hall of Growing Virtues) since the Jiaqing period of the Qing dynasty. On the cultural front, they organized Buhai Shabei (White Lake Poetry Society), gathered frequently with the literati and started collecting calligraphy. In 1835 Ye Yunfeng arranged to have his calligraphy collection engraved on 91 stone tablets for the *Birth of Calligraphy Tablets* in the *Collection of Buhai* (2 vols & 8 volumes in total). Amongst the 77 pieces of calligraphy included are *Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe* by Zhu Yunming (documented in Vol. 3), *Seven-Character Poem in Running Script* by Dong Qichang and *Poem and Prose of Poetries of Prince Jing* by Wen Zhengmiao.

## 寓言於藥：祝允明《桑寄生傳》

祝允明天賦穎異，幼承家學，自負先輩，總令學友人服，目所接皆晉、唐帖也，由是盡善皆習，參以己意，終成家法，對指搦、行、草、尤精小楷、草書。

《桑寄生傳》以中藥名編織故事，作者開明中藥，文中堆集藥語、藥志、醫案，青箱子等藥名八十餘種，取其韻首敷衍成篇，仿唐傳奇“懸空虛構”假似小說以見詩筆、史才和議論。卷後陳繼儒跋文云“讀史之文，創自蘇軾《毛詩傳》，已罕免粘出宋處；而其書則以為《桑寄生傳》，樓閣山人以文為滑稽書耶？”《桑寄生傳》作者明人記載有二：一為“國初江陰陸大體作之所著”（一是浙浙人謂臨海(明宣德間人)，祝允明謂古好奇，傳世有《志怪錄》、《前聞記》、《野談》等小說為證，重其書有此形迹，復為此傳作者又增一證據。

祝允明《桑寄生傳》以行草書於紙上，用筆秀潤，點畫遒爽，王羲之評此卷“時而遺韻，時而高古，時而奔放縱逸”，猶如韓信用兵，奇正交鋒，變化無窮。此卷明末為“大坤”所藏，由董其昌(1555-1636)、陳繼儒(1558-1639)、王穉登(1535-1636)題跋，清初入王文柏(1659-1725)家，其後由精德堂藏家葉元村(1797-1849)藏，後登錄入《海國圖志》卷三，清末又由程德儀(19世紀)收藏，傳承有序。

葉氏自來學風居蘇深，家學繁行，至清高宗後以種德堂藏家葉元村(1797-1849)藏，又續進白湖詩社與士人相互唱和，並收徵大篆字畫精品，為浙東詩林一時健將。清道光15年(1835)葉元村把書帖收徵刻石印成《湖海閣藏帖》8卷，凡明清書家77人，包括江浙一帶名家如祝允明《桑寄生傳》(見卷3)、董其昌行書《龍王地、孝參、杜甫七律詩》及文徵明《魏主相序並詩》等，俱為雲林逸品。葉氏嗜好詩書，聲聞遐邇，故所積也厚，今所見祝允明《桑寄生傳》，僅其一冊也。讀者觀之。



THE FINE CHINESE CLASSICAL PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY SALE ACHIEVED

# HK\$114.5 million

US\$14.8 MILLION

**ZHU YUNMING (1460-1526)**  
*Biography of Mulberry Mistletoe*

Estimate: HK\$10,000,000-15,000,000  
Price Realised: HK\$11,650,000 / US\$1,509,997

Eyes:  
anren  
賞析

不多，《枯木  
自1940年代開  
電筆對象。

壯烈的畫氣，  
心懸與博宗想  
與你我心境，  
於畫裡。此類  
枯木之上，畫  
其其定種，  
畫。一上十針

社出版之《  
士標木張一，  
海南廣州鐵路  
3年於本歌編  
方字，節定華  
動》，實是華



Barren Tree and Birds  
BADA SHANREN (1626-1705)  
Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-7,000,000  
Price Realised: HK\$10,090,000 / US\$1,307,800

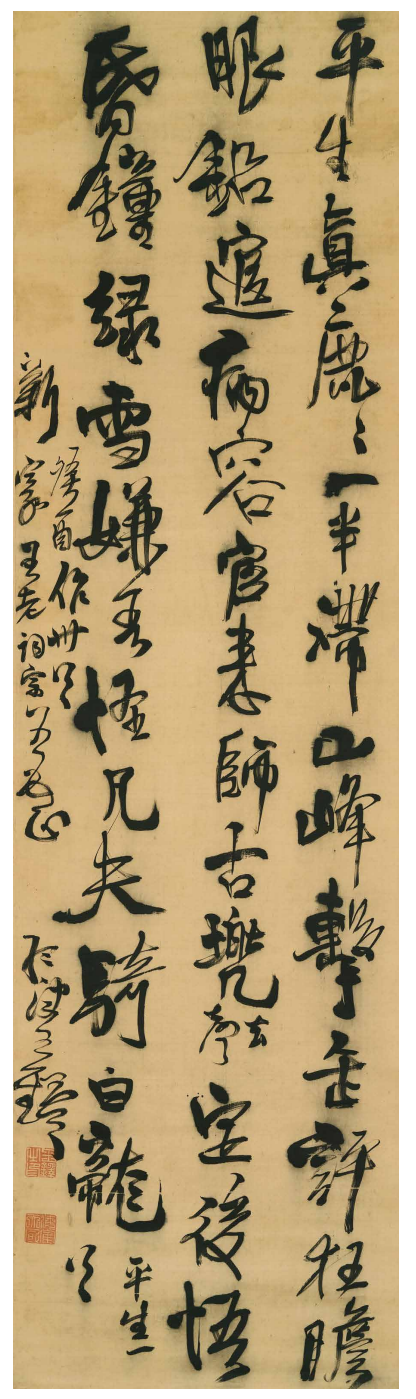
**BADA SHANREN (1626-1705)**

*Barren Tree and Birds*

Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-7,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$10,090,000 / US\$1,307,800**

**SOLD FOR OVER TWICE ITS LOW ESTIMATE**



**WANG DUO (1592-1652)**

*Poem in Running-Cursive Script*

Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-5,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$6,250,000 / US\$810,084**

**SOLD FOR OVER TWICE ITS LOW ESTIMATE**



# EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE FOR MODERN MASTERS

INCLUDING FU BAOSHI,  
WU GUANZHONG  
AND ZHANG DAQIAN



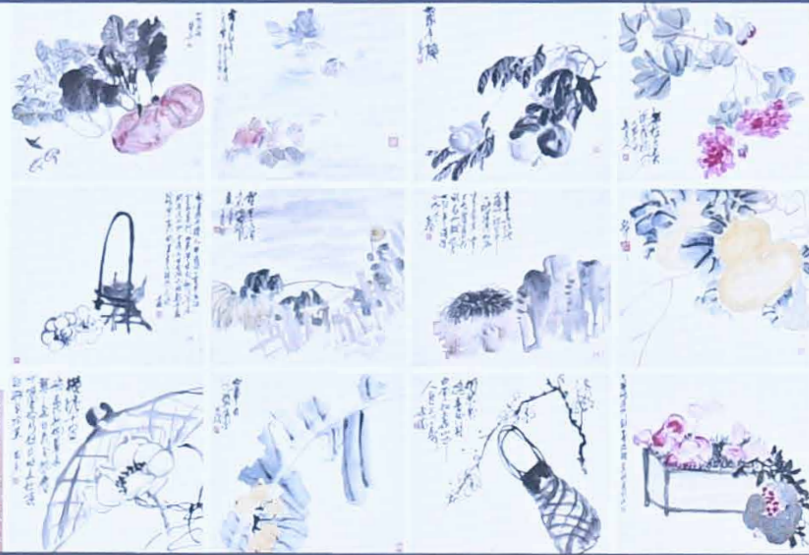
THE FINE CHINESE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY  
INK PAINTINGS SALE ACHIEVED

**HK\$201.1 million**

US\$26.1 MILLION

**82%**  
SOLD BY LOT

# CHRISTIE'S 佳士得



**WU CHANGSHUO (1844-1927)**

*Album of Flowers, Vegetables and Objects*

Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$18,250,000 / US\$2,366,265**



SOLD FOR OVER

**15x**

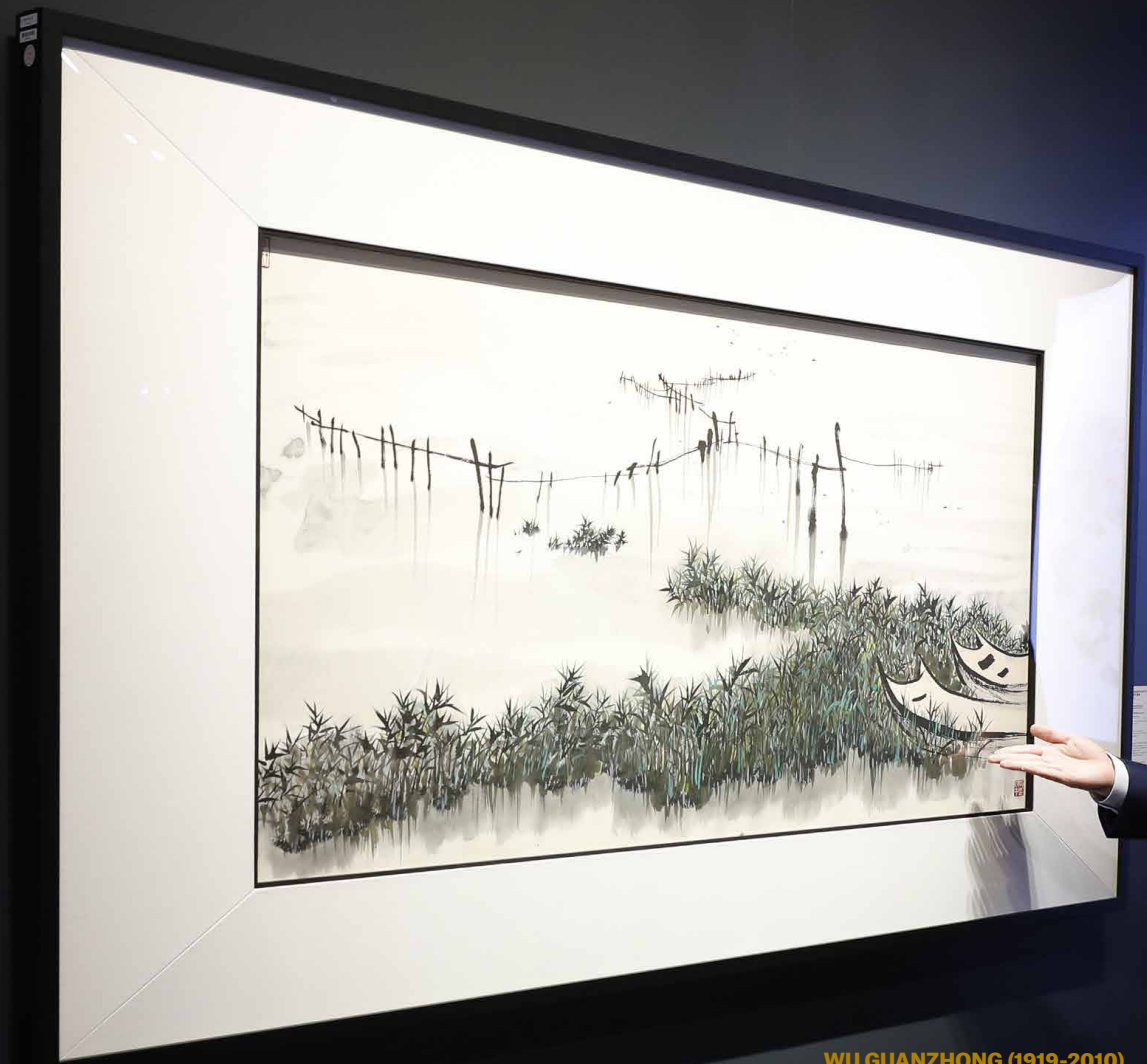
ITS LOW ESTIMATE

CHRISTIE'S



CHRISTIE'S 佳士得





**WU GUANZHONG (1919-2010)**

*Quiet Lake and Boats*

Estimate: HK\$15,000,000-20,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$17,050,000 / US\$2,209,010**





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**FU BAOSHI (1904-1965)**

*Cascading Waterfalls*

Estimate: HK\$10,000,000-15,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$17,050,000 / US\$2,209,010**



**ZHANG DAQIAN (1899-1983)**

*Two Scholars Amongst Pine and Clouds*

Estimate: HK\$10,000,000-12,000,000

**Price Realised: HK\$12,250,000 / US\$1,587,765**

# IMPRESSIVE RESULTS FOR RENOWNED PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

THE CHEN LIFU COLLECTION

# 100%

SOLD BY LOT



THE CHEN LIFU COLLECTION ACHIEVED

# HK\$17.1 million

US\$2.22 MILLION

ACHIEVED NEARLY

# 3x

ITS PRE-SALE HIGH ESTIMATE

“The results from our sales this season are a testament to Christie’s strength in selling private collections of Chinese paintings. Not only did works by master artists such as Wu Guanzhong, Fu Baoshi, Shen Zhou and Wen Zhengming perform extremely well, but a number of pieces this season achieved sale totals multiple times over their low estimates, further demonstrating Christie’s ability to offer the most coveted Chinese paintings to the most distinguished collectors.”

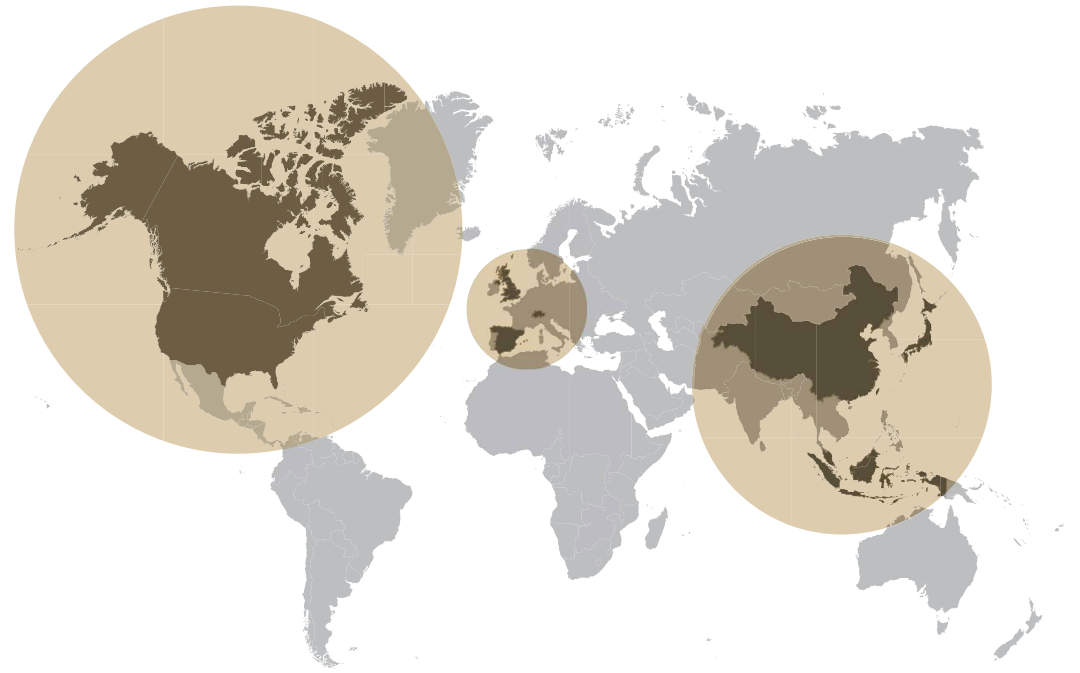
– Kim Yu, International Specialist  
Head of Chinese Paintings Department







# CHRISTIE'S EXTENSIVE REACH TO CHINESE PAINTING COLLECTORS WORLDWIDE



INTENSE BIDDING  
BY COLLECTORS FROM  
**15 countries**

ACROSS  
**3 continents**

**6000+ viewers in China of  
live-streamed Asian Art sales**

**Live bidding via WeChat to be  
introduced in 2021**



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