

For Immediate Release

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Top Works from Established and Cutting-edge Artists from the Indian Subcontinent Featured in Two Sales this month at Christie's Hong Kong

Hong Kong – Christie's Spring 2009 sales of *Asian Contemporary Art* on May 24 and 25 in Hong Kong will feature a select group of works by some of the most important and exciting artists from the Indian subcontinent. In both an Evening and Day sale, collectors will be presented works from established artists such as T.V. Santhosh, Jitish Kallat, and Atul Dodiya, as well as works by cutting-edge artists on the rise, some of whom are being represented for the first time at auction.

ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART & CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART EVENING SALE

Sunday, May 24 – 7pm



Global interest in Indian Art has established the category as a mainstay of the contemporary scene in New York, London and Hong Kong. Since launching Modern and Contemporary Indian Art sales in New York 2000, worldwide sales in this category at Christie's have grown from US\$656,000 to over US\$45 million in 2008.

Christie's *Asian Contemporary Art Evening Sale* on May 24 features two seminal paintings by the Mumbai based artists, **Jitish Kallat** and **T.V. Santhosh**. Having set the world auction record for a work by Jitish Kallat at over HK\$ 1.5 million in May 2008, this sale offers collectors the unique opportunity to acquire Kallat's painting *Universal Recipient 1*, (*image left*, estimate: HK\$ 700,000 – 900,000 /US\$89,700-115,400). The city of Mumbai and its teeming environs appear as both foreground and backdrop in a variety of Kallat's post-millennial works, effectively serving as his muse as much as the stylised 'Pop'-infused figures and subject matter he depicts. In this work Kallat sustains the sense of urban cacophony as a theme developed in prior works, while also bringing to the forefront the poignancy of the human struggle for survival in this Darwinian environment. The security guard depicted in his full regalia is, in fact, representative of impoverished itinerant workers, coming from India's villages with greater aspirations as they guard many of Mumbai's wealthiest enclaves.

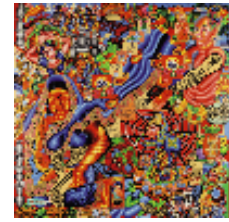
Also dealing with issues of social injustice is *Hundred Square Feet of Curses* by **T.V. Santhosh** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$ 500,000 – 800,000 / US\$64,100-102,600). Utilizing a photographic image in its negative state that has come to characterize the style of T. V. Santhosh, this work's uncluttered composition is charged with metaphors and social commentaries. The title refers to rehabilitation camps for victims of violence, specifically in connection with the riots of Godhra, Gujarat. As noted by the artist, the work indirectly refers to the narrow temporary sheds where victims lived with terrible memories of violent acts and the viewer is able to get a sense of ominous looming.



ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART & CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART DAY SALE

Monday, May 25 – 5pm

Christie's May 25 *Asian Contemporary Art Day Sale* promises to entice new and seasoned collectors with a number of works by both recognized and celebrated artists as well as the category's rising stars. Being included at auction for the first time is **Anirban Mitra**, a Kolkata-based artist whose painting *High Tide, Low Tide Everywhere* (image right, estimate: HK\$ 40,000 – 60,000/US\$5,100-7,700) weaves together elements of folk and tribal art, religion, mass media and popular culture. Consuming the entire canvas, sacrificing baseline and perspective for pattern and figuration, these works create fantastical and dreamlike situations that border on the absurd. Mitra, through these paintings touches on social issues particularly consumerism in India, where the masses struggle with maintaining their own traditional Indian identities while embracing new technology and products.



Also of note are a rare set of stamp works by **Ashim Purkayastha** (image left, estimate: HK\$ 60,000 – 80,000/US\$7,700-10,300) where the artist has meticulously painted over Indian revenue stamps to reveal a new meaning to these otherwise official and mundane documents. Purkayastha's oeuvre focusing on the iconography of the revenue stamp encompasses a wide range of media and manifestations. Oftentimes, Purkayastha attempts to alter the stamp itself and recreate it on canvas in ways that subvert and challenge both the greater institutions of India and the vehicles for revenue generation.

The Day Sale will also feature a canvas by **Sunil Gawde**, an artist who has received international critical acclaim and is included at this year's Venice Biennale which opens in June 2009. Also presented is a selection of works in a number of different mediums, including a sculptural installation titled *Your Pact of Angst II* by **T.V. Santhosh** (estimate: HK\$ 180,000 – 250,000/US\$23,100-32,100); photographs by the artist and active water-environmentalist **Atul Bhalla**, a watercolour by **Atul Dodiya** and exquisite drawings by **Tushar Joag** and **Mithu Sen**.

High-resolution IMAGES can be downloaded here:

<http://chikmipng/2009/03/Chris/21Hong/21Kong/21Spain/21Austria/Asian/21Contemporary/21Art/21Ind/21Chinese/210th/21Century/21Art/IMAGES/Indir/21Contemporary/21Art/>

The CATALOGS for these sales are available online:

Evening Sale: http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?Sale_ID=22523&cCatParameter=cCat/2523/03/01

Day Sale: http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?Sale_ID=22525&cCatParameter=cCat/2525/03/01

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Auctions:

Asian Contemporary Art & Chinese 20th Century Art Evening Sale
Asian Contemporary Art Day Sale
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Sunday, May 24, at 7pm
Monday, May 25, at 5pm

Previews:

Taiwan
Fubon Life Assurance Building

Saturday to Sunday, May 16-17

Hong Kong
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Friday to Saturday, May 22-25