

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

佳士得香港有限公司

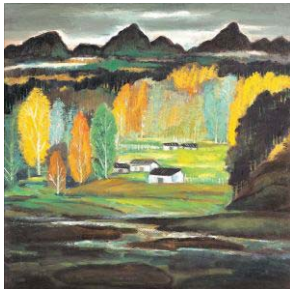
**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG OFFERS SUPERB 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CHINESE ART & CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE AND KOREAN ART IN THE SPRING SALE IN MAY**

Contemporary Japanese art to be offered for the first time at an international auction in Asia



(Figure 1)



(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art**

**29 May 2005**

**Hong Kong** – Christie's Hong Kong will offer an unparalleled array of works by some of the most celebrated modern and contemporary Chinese masters, as well as contemporary Japanese and Korean art in its spring sale of *20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art* on 29 May at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This auction also marks the first time that contemporary Japanese art is to be offered at an international auction in Asia.

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The sale offers a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire superb Asian contemporary art spanning from oil paintings in realistic and abstract styles, watercolours and ink paintings, to sculptures, mixed media and photography works. The 168 pieces featured in the sale are collectively expected to realize in excess of HK\$60 million/US\$7.7 million.

## 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART

### **Zhao Wuji**

Zhao Wuji (Zao Wou-ki) (born 1921) derived inspiration for his abstract works from Chinese calligraphy and landscape paintings. A total of 12 paintings by Zhao are offered in the sale, representing a broad spectrum of his styles from the 50s to 90s. The star lot is *Juin-Octobre 85*, the largest triptych ever produced by Zhao (measuring 2.8 meters x 10 meters), executed during the peak of his career in the 80s. Estimated at HK\$16,000,000-20,000,000/ US\$2,050,000-2,560,000 this spectacular piece is expected to set a new world auction record at Christie's sale.

### **Lin Fengmian**

Lin Fengmian (1900- 1991) was among the first group of Chinese artists to study in France after World War I, and seven works by Lin from a European private collection will be offered. The collection had been assembled by the captain of the Sea Coral, an ocean liner servicing the Asia-Pacific lines in the early 60s. After visiting Lin in Shanghai, the captain was immediately fascinated by his works. He subsequently acquired a selection of Lin's works which for nearly half a century, had graced the walls of his home, allowing them to escape the destruction of the Cultural Revolution. *Hamlet* (estimate: HK\$1,600,000-2,000,000/ US\$205,000-256,400) *see figure 1* is among these superb early works from the Collection.

Further highlights from the Collection are two important works from Lin's highly acclaimed Chinese opera series: *Stealing the Royal Horse* and *Madame Snake White* (each estimated at HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/ US\$128,200-192,300).

### **Sanyu**

Christie's is pleased to offer a collection of works by Sanyu (Chang Yu) (1901-1966) from the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Neyrinck including oils, ink paintings and charcoal sketches. *Cat and Butterfly* (estimate: HK\$1,400,000-1,600,000/ US\$179,500-205,100) is a representative work from Sanyu's animal painting series in the 1930s, depicting the soft and graceful feline subject stretching out and batting leisurely at a butterfly.

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Another highlight from the Neyrinck Collection is *Chrysanthemums on the Red Table* (estimate: HK\$1,600,000-1,800,000/ US\$205,100-230,800). Sanyu had created not more than ten works in this floral still-life series featuring horizontally structured compositions, most of which are now in the collection of Taiwan's National Museum of History. Of particular interest is *Young Lady's Portrait* (estimate: HK\$10,000-15,000/ US\$1,300-1,900) which is a beautiful portrait of Mrs Neyrinck.

## **Zhu Dequn**

The works of Zhu Dequn (Chu Teh-chun) (born 1920) possess all the flowing, living energy of Chinese paintings and the appealing atmosphere of their landscapes. *Obscurity is receding* is among the best of Zhu's oil paintings (estimate: HK\$1,500,000-1,800,000/ US\$192,300-230,800).

## **Zhu Ming**

Also of note is a bronze sculpture, *Single Whip* (estimate: HK\$600,000-1,000,000/US\$76,900-128,200) from the famous Taiji Series by Zhu Ming (born 1938). Drawing upon the sense of time and space experienced by Taiji devotees, the works aptly capture the essence of the orderly progressions of physical movements of Taiji.

The sale also features an unprecedented selection of works by celebrated contemporary Chinese artists. **Cai Guo Qiang** (born 1957) is famous for his 'gunpowder paintings' which are painted with traces of gunpowder ignited on the surface of the canvas. *A certain lunar-eclipse (Project for humankind No. 2)* (estimate: HK\$1,800,000-2,500,000/ US\$230,800-320,500) is an excellent example of such works.

Representing the realistic style in contemporary Chinese paintings is *Wu-Long Yuan* by **Wei Rong** (born 1963) (estimate: HK\$150,000-200,000/ US\$19,200-25,600).

A further highlight is *Romanticism & Realistic Study #4*, a plastic sculpture by **Yue Minjun** (born 1962) (estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$25,600-38,500). *Materialist* by **Wang Guangyi** (born 1957) is a representative work of China's unique pop-art (estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$25,600-38,500).

## **CONTEMPORARY KOREAN ART**

Christie's inaugural sale of Contemporary Korean art staged last October was extremely enthusiastically received. The Korean section in the upcoming May sale will be expanded to demonstrate the breadth and vitality of Korean contemporary art. While focusing more on the variety of materials compared to artists from other Asian countries, a unique and unifying

characteristic of these works is the pursuit of the Korean cultural identity. Their language also alludes to metaphysical, philosophical ideals transcending the finite realism of pictorial materiality.

*Reed* by **Seo Jung-kug** (born 1958) is a remarkable work comprising two sculptures and one drawing (estimate: HK\$60,000-80,000/ US\$7,700-10,300). *Boys Playing Basketball* by **Lee Yong-deok** (born 1956), a mixed media sculpture, creates an amazing visual impact and unshakeable impression (estimate: HK\$170,000-220,000/ US\$21,800-28,200).

Of particular note is a copper wire sculpture, *Flower*, by **Cheong Kwang Ho** (born 1959) (estimate: HK\$140,000-200,000/ US\$17,900-25,600). A sculpture made of sequins, *For the Worshippers – Buddha* by **Noh Sang-kyoon** (born 1958) is another rare offering in the sale (estimate: HK\$120,000-180,000/ US\$15,400-23,100).

*Seascape of Busan* by **Choi So-Young** (born 1980) is an interesting piece made of denim (estimate: HK\$25,000-35,000/ US\$3,200-4,500) and *The Costume of Painter – W. House 20041201* (estimate: HK\$110,000-170,000/ US\$14,100-21,800) by **Bae Joonsung** (born 1967) will also be featured.

Other highlights include *Aewan Series -Love #3* by **Ham Jin** (born 1978) (estimate: HK\$30,000-40,000/ US\$3,800-5,100); and *Ya-Hoo!* by **Yoo Seung Ho** (born 1973) (estimate: HK\$50,000-70,000/ US\$6,400-9,000); and *Hair series - traces of time* (estimate: HK\$20,000-30,000/ US\$2,600-3,800) by **Kim Hyun Sik** (born 1964).

## CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE ART

Christie's will offer a selection of contemporary Japanese art for the first time in this sale. This is also the first time that contemporary Japanese art is to be offered at an international auction in Asia.

**Aida Makoto** (born 1965) is among the first group of the Japanese avant-garde artists to receive international attention. *Girls don't cry* (estimate: HK\$30,000-40,000/ US\$3,800-5,100) is one of Makoto's stunning photographs utilizing his unique explosive visual effects. Lurking beneath the sweet surface colours is an exploration of anguish, human value and social reorganization in the wake of the bursting bubble economy.

**Konoike Tomoko** (born 1960) transmits her wild fantasies to the audiences through multi-media forms. *Untitled – A girl's imaginative world & Mimio* (estimate: HK\$80,000-100,000/ US\$10,300-12,800) *see figure 3* is an exquisite example of Tomoko's ability to evoke a sense of her unique imagination through a highly refined realistic painting technique.

**Nishizawa Chiharu** (born 1970) and **Satoshi Watanabe** (born 1967) approach Japanese society and culture with objectivist eyes and produce humorous, satirical works. In *Diorama A & B* (estimate: HK\$120,000-180,000/ US\$15,400-23,100), **Chiharu** calls on allusions to the traditional “Yamato-e style” of composition to create an intriguing perspective on the structure of the Japanese society and the lifestyle of the people.

Two superb works by **Satoshi Watanabe** are featured in the sale: *The voice says Don't even think about it* (estimate: HK\$20,000-25,000/ US\$2,600-3,200) *see figure 2* and *Mount Rushmore* (estimate: HK\$30,000-40,000/ US\$3,800-5,100).

### Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	May 6-7
Shanghai	Portman Ritz-Carlton	May 9 – 10
Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	May 12 -13
Taichung	New Age Gallery	May 17 – 18
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	May 21 – 22
Hong Kong	Convention & Exhibition Centre	May 27 – 28

### Auction:

20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art, May 29 at 1:45 pm  
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

*More information about Christie's sale of 20th Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art can be found on christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.*

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*Images available upon request  
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