

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

佳士得香港有限公司

**For Immediate Release**

11 May 2005

**MASTERPIECES BY ZHANG DAQIAN AND FU BAOSHI TO BE OFFERED AT  
CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE  
PAINTINGS SPRING SALE**

Contact: Victoria Cheung

852.2978.9919

vcheung@christies.com

Dick Lee

852.2978.9966

dlee@christies.com



Zhang Daqian (1899-1983)

*Landscape*

Hanging scroll, ink on paper

129 x 346 cm.

estimate: HK\$3,000,000–4,000,000/US\$387,100–516,100

**Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings**

29 May 2005

**Hong Kong** - Christie's Hong Kong Spring sale of *Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings* on 29 May will present 333 outstanding works by the most celebrated Chinese artists of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Zhang Daqian, Fu Baoshi, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Lin Fengmian and Wu Guanzhong. It also marks the first time that Christie's will stage the auction at the world-renowned

Christie's Hong Kong Limited  
2203-5 Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
tel 852 2521 5396 fax 852 2845 2646  
www.christies.com

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will provide an excellent opportunity for the Asian and international collectors alike to acquire Chinese paintings of exceptional quality and rarity.

The star lot is *Landscape*, a hanging scroll of ink on paper by the undisputed modern master Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) (estimate: HK\$3,000,000–4,000,000/ US\$387,100-516,100). This exceptionally large scroll, measuring three meters long, is one of the most significant works by Zhang ever to be offered at auction. The painting captures vividly the magnificent scene of the sacred nature in remoteness, and brings the towering mountains and the ancient trees before the eyes of the viewers. Zhang dedicated this work to his beloved woman Li Qiujun.

*Bamboo* is another superb brush work by Zhang Daqian offered in the sale (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/ US\$258,100-387,100). Bamboo drawn in 'gongbi' technique is very rare in Zhang's works and the present work is an excellent example of Zhang's obsession in details and the use of green colour.

The sale will also feature two important works by another highly-acclaimed Chinese artist Fu Baoshi (1904-1965). *Gathering beside the waterfall* (estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,000,000/ US\$387,100-516,100) is considered one of Fu's best early landscape works in which the traditional ink brush technique and his unique drawing style known as "Baoshi Xun" was perfectly assimilated. Fu employed a skillful use of colours to depict the green verdant mountain and gorgeous waterfall.

In *Waterfall* (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/ US\$258,100-387,100), Fu Baoshi portrayed a well-known waterfall of over 20 meters high in the Heilongjiang Province. The rage of the waterfall was perfectly incarnated and the viewers could almost feel its cool water splash and hear the thunder-like sound.

*Two horses under pine trees* (estimate: HK\$ 2,500,000-3,500,000/ US\$322,600-451,600) was executed in 1937 by the celebrated painter, Xu Beihong (1895-1953) who was well-known for his horse paintings. During the Sino-Japanese War, Xu, like many other artists, travelled across China to raise funds for the nation whilst creating works along the journey at the same time. This painting was one of those excellent war-time works and executed in three different cities: the pine trees in Nanjing, the two horses in Guilin and the painting was completed in Chongqing. In 1941, Xu dedicated this painting to Mr Chen Chenyong, a patriotic businessman who donated a warplane to the Chinese government during the war.

Lin Fengmaian (1900-1991) is represented in the sale by *Admiring the maple wood* (estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/ US\$193,500-258,100). Lin studied in Paris and his style is greatly influenced by the Western impressionist elements. Using layers of rich colours, he leads the viewers from the water source, the maple wood, white houses and to the mountain summit.

*Clouds and Snow* by Wu Guanzhong (born 1919) (estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000/ US\$64,500-90,300) is a further highlight. Wu loved to draw outdoor. The artist made the sketch of the present work on a snow mountain in Tibet, where he was deeply attracted by the beauty of the clouds and snow. He sketched until sunset and the work becomes one of the most exceptional outdoor paintings he has ever produced.

*Red leaves and cicada* by Qi Baishi (1863-1957) (estimate: HK\$ 300,000-400,000/ US\$38,700-51,600) marvels the viewers with his detailed depiction of the cicada during the change of seasons and an expressive use of brushstrokes.

## Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Jakarta	Christie's	May 3 – 4
Shanghai	Portman Ritz-Carlton	May 9 – 10
Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	May 12 –13
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	May 21 – 22
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	May 27 – 28

## Auction:

Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings, 29 May at 3:30pm,  
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

*More information about Christie's sale of Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.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. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.*

###

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's website at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*