

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

11 May 2005

Contact: Victoria Cheung 852.2978.9919 vcheung@christies.com
Dick Lee 852.2978.9966 dlee@christies.com

**EXCEPTIONAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND MODERN INDIAN
PAINTINGS TO BE OFFERED IN CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG
SPRING SALE**



Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès (Belgium, 1880-1958)
Women by the lotus pond
oil on canvas
40 x 47 in. (101 x 120 cm.)
estimate: HK\$2,000,000-2,800,000 (US\$256,400-359,000)

Southeast Asian and Modern Indian Paintings, including Contemporary Art

29 May 2005

Hong Kong – Following the huge success of the *Southeast Asian Pictures* sales in 2004, Christie's Hong Kong will offer a broad selection of works in its *Southeast Asian and Modern Indian Paintings, including Contemporary Art* sale to be held on 29 May. Apart from Indonesian, Vietnamese, Indian and Filipino paintings, the sale will also feature, for the first time, a selection of contemporary works by promising Singaporean, Malaysian and Thai artists. It also marks the first time that Christie's will stage the auction at the internationally-renowned Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Leading the sale is *Women by the lotus pond* by **Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès** (Belgium, 1880-1958) (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-2,800,000/US\$256,400-359,000) which depicts four graceful female figures, comprising a virtual catalogue of poses from which the artist frequently worked and

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

reworked. His familiarity with his subjects imbued the work with an overwhelming sense of fluidity and spontaneity that is only possible when Le Mayeur knows his subjects like the palm of his hand. In this painting, Le Mayeur directs his attention to the capturing of the evanescent light of the tropics.

Affandi (Indonesia 1907-1990), a leading Indonesian artist, is represented in the sale with several works that illustrate his artistic abilities in different genres. From majestic landscapes to the whimsical portrayal of a balcony or a depiction of the cockfighting scene, these works fully demonstrate Affandi's ingenuity as an artist. *From my Balcony* is arguably one of the best works by Affandi ever to come to market (estimate: HK\$350,000-500,000/ US\$44,900-64,100).

Of particular interest in the sale is very rare work by **Raden Saleh** (Indonesia 1807-1880), the renowned and only known Javanese artist from the 19th century. His works and his career are unique in his time and he played an important role in the development of Indonesian art. Saleh was educated in Europe and he became students of various famed painters like Cornelis Kruseman and Andries Schelfhout. *A family promenades along a path with two tigers in wait and the Borobudur in the background* (estimate on request) is an excellent example of Saleh's unique style of juxtaposing the romantic landscape with the human strength. This spectacular work portrays a family moving in seemingly peace with the beautiful Borobudur in the background, bathed in the splendid golden shower of dusk, in blissful ignorance of the two tigers laying in wait of them in the foreground. Unlike other works of the artist, the violence and force of this work is implied and therefore giving the work an uncanny twist of tragic and engaging atmosphere.

An exciting inclusion in the sale is the Contemporary section which features photographers like **Russel Wong** (Singapore) and **Yee I Lann** (Malaysia). Russel is known for his works with the celebrities in the movie industry. Over the years, the artist has developed a portfolio of images that embody his *Portraits of Asians* – imagery in which he questions and solves a riddle as old as time, the issue of identity. *Jackie Chan, Hong Kong, 2000*, is one of the best portraits by Russel (estimate: HK\$9,000-14,000/ US\$1,200-1,800). I Lann, on the other hand, resonates to the issues of urbanization and cultural displacement through his images, as demonstrated in *Pobon, 2003* (estimate: HK\$8,500-10,000/ US\$1,090-1,300).

Other important contemporary works to be offered include *The last description of Dutch tulip no. 3* by **Natee Utarit** (estimate: HK\$55,000-70,000/ US\$7,100-9,000) and *Toys for the boy: Trap; Be caught; To take one is to loose all* **Jakapan Vilasineekul** (estimate: HK\$32,000-48,000/ US\$4,000-6,100),

The Indian section of the sale contains a strong selection of works ranging from the Progressive Group of Maqbool Fida Husain, Francis Newton Souza, and Syed Haider Raza to the celebrated works of the following generation, such as Jagdish Swaminathan, Ganesh Pyne and Jogen Chowdhury.

The 89-year old **Husain** (b. 1915), one of India's most celebrated artists and personalities, is represented in the auction by *Spirit of Freedom* (estimate: HK\$400,000-500,000 / US\$51,300-64,100). This superb work depicts Husain's fascination with the majestic horse which serves as a popular and recurrent theme in his oeuvre. The bold brushstrokes and dynamic compositions evoke movement and energy, evoking the sense that the horses could represent the artist himself.

In a similar vein, a celebrated painting from the *Mountain, Tree and Bird* series by **Jagdish Swaminathan's** (1928-94) (estimate: HK\$480,000-650,000/ US\$61,500-83,300) is also rooted in the traditions of miniatures with its delicate balance of colour and composition.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

6 – 7 May Sir Stamford Room, Grand Hyatt Singapore
27 – 28 May Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Auction:

Southeast Asian and Modern Indian Paintings, including Contemporary Art
29 May 2005, 10 am at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

More information about Christie's sale of *Southeast Asian and Modern Indian Paintings, including Contemporary Art* can be found on 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 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 Web site at www.christies.com