

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

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**IMPORTANT 20TH CENTURY CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE
YAGEO FOUNDATION TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG**



LIAO CHI-CH'UN
(LIAO JICHUN, 1902-1976)
Spanish Chateau
oil on canvas
91 x 72.5cm. (35 1/2 x 28 1/8 in.)
Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,200,000(US\$384,600-538,500)

The Inception of a New Era – The Yageo Foundation Collection

29 May 2005

Hong Kong – Following the highly successful sale of *Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation* at Christie's Hong Kong last October, Christie's is pleased to offer another 28 paintings from the Collection in the Spring sale on 29 May at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Yageo Collection from Taiwan is one of the most significant collections of contemporary Chinese art ever assembled. Distinguished by its superlative quality, the Collection represents the highest achievements of some of the most important modern and contemporary Chinese artists. The sale is expected to fetch in excess of HK\$30 million (US\$3.8 million).

Sale Highlights

Sanyu (Chang Yu)

Sanyu (1901-1966) is well-known for using simplified forms, bold lines and bright colours in his still-lives and paintings of animals and landscapes. In *Horses in a Green Landscape* (estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,200,000/ US\$384,600-538,500), executed in the 1930s, Sanyu uses the contrast of

colours to create the illusion of space. The sweep of the broad brush over the clean white base leaves a natural layering in black-verdigris. The lines of the horses are skillfully scrapped out with the brush-tip adding extra depth to the composition. With a minimum of colours and lines, Sanyu creates an impressionistic work possessing depth and complicity.

White Chrysanthemum in a Blue and White Jardinière (estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,200,000/ US\$384,600-538,500) is a rare and exceptional work among Sanyu's floral still-lives of the late 1940s and early 1950s. This work exhibits a direct use of pure colours to express an Eastern conception: the China red, bright yellow, and porcelain blues and whites all point strongly toward the Chinese feel for the beauty of colours and an understanding of Chinese artistic spirit.

Liao Chi Ch'un

Liao Chi-Ch'un (Liao Jichun) (1902-1976) was among the first generation artists of the new Chinese modern painting movement who used abstract expressionism in his works. *Spanish Chateau* is one of the finest landscape paintings by Liao from the 1960s, demonstrating a bold use of solid colour blocks and striking rearrangements of lines, colour and abstract forms (estimate: HK\$3,000,000-4,200,000/ US\$384,600-538,500).

Zhao Wuji

Zhao Wuji (Zao Wou-ki) (born 1921) defined 'abstraction' in an individual way, finding synergies between Western approaches and the Chinese emphasis on nature. Interpreting the spirit of nature through the techniques of abstraction, he combines the two in a way that seems an extension of traditional Chinese landscape painting. *Herbs* (estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/ US\$192,300-256,400) painted in 1954 is an outstanding example of Zhao's early abstract works.

Zhao's later works in the 1980s and 1990s reflect a more thoughtful and reserved mood, as demonstrated by *25.10.90* (estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,500,000/ US\$153,800-192,300).

Wu Guanzhong

Works by Wu Guanzhong (born 1919) are characterized by the fusion of traditional Chinese in-wash techniques with Western painting styles. He adopted the compositional features of ancient Chinese paintings to create oils with engaging images and colours and a magnificent sense of space. In 1972, Wu began to use rural people and landscapes as subjects of his paintings. *Golden Autumn* (estimate: HK\$700,000-900,000/ US\$89,700-115,400) depicting the scenery of the Huaxi River is a classic example of the works produced during this period. A rare offering in the sale is *The Nude-Sources*, painted in the 1990s, one of only a few nudes ever painted in oil by Wu (estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000/US\$44,900-57,700).

Wu Dayu

Wu Dayu (1902-1976) used vibrant brushwork, intense colours to express elemental energy, lyricism and atmosphere in his paintings. *Rhythms of Chinese Opera* (estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000/ US\$64,100-89,700) and *The Melody of the Light* (estimate: HK\$400,000-550,000/ US\$51,300-70,500) are significant examples of his dramatic style.

Li Meishu

Li Meishu (1902-1983) combined realistic human subjects with idealized vistas of nature and the countryside in his works. In *Lady in a White Dress* (estimate: HK\$780,000-1,000,000/ US\$100,000-128,200), *The Girls Washing Clothes by the Riverside* (estimate: HK\$320,000-460,000/ US\$41,000-59,000) and *The San-shia Backyard* (estimate: HK\$320,000-460,000/ US\$41,000-59,000), he profoundly convey his feelings for nature beauty and landscape.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

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| New York | Christie's Galleries | March 23-30 |
| Singapore | Grand Hyatt Singapore | April 8 – 9 |
| 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:

The Inception of a New Era –The Yageo Foundation Collection, May 29 at 1 pm
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre.

More information about Christie's sale of The Inception of a New Era –The Yageo Foundation Collection 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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