

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG SPRING SALES ACHIEVED HK\$1.2 BILLION/ US\$154 MILLION - A RECORD TOTAL FOR ANY SERIES OF AUCTIONS IN ASIA**

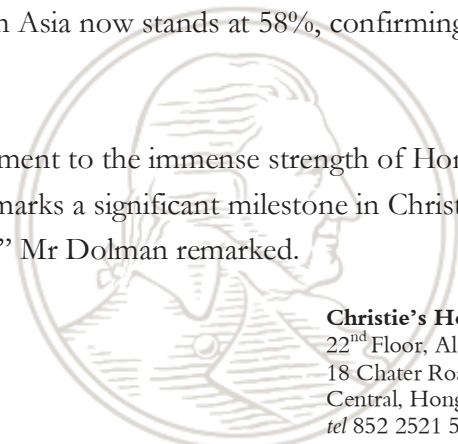
- **58% Market Share in Asia**
- **Highest Ever Total for both Asian Art & Jewellery Sale Series**
- **Largest Auction Series ever staged in Asia**
- **Ming Vase sold to Steve Wynn for over US\$10.2 Million, World Auction Record for Ming Porcelain**

**Hong Kong** – Christie's Asian Art, Jewellery and Watches Spring Auctions held in Hong Kong from 28 May to 1 June achieved fantastic results, realizing a sale total of over HK\$1.2 billion/ US\$154 million. This is a record total for any series of auctions in Asia. World records in numerous categories were established.

Bidding was extremely spirited throughout the five-day auction series in the packed saleroom at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. International collectors from around the world participated enthusiastically in all the sales, driving the prices of many lots to exceed by far pre-sale expectations. It was the largest auction series ever staged in Asia and up to 2,400 exceptional lots were offered.

Edward Dolman, Chief Executive Officer of Christie's International, said: "We are extremely pleased with the amazing results at Christie's Hong Kong spring sales, which achieved over US\$154 million, a record total for any series of auctions in Asia. Christie's market share in Asia now stands at 58%, confirming once again Christie's leadership in the region."

"Our tremendous success this week is a clear testament to the immense strength of Hong Kong as one of the three foremost auction centres in the global market. It marks a significant milestone in Christie's history as Christie's Hong Kong celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006," Mr Dolman remarked.



# CHRISTIE'S

The Asian art sales achieved a combined total of HK\$847 million/ US\$110 million, setting a record total for any series of Asian art auctions held anywhere in the world.

A magnificent early Ming underglaze copper-red vase, *Yubuchunping*, realized an astonishing HK\$78,520,000/ US\$10,207,600 in **The Imperial Sale**, setting a world auction record for Ming porcelain. The pear-shaped vase, decorated with a peony scroll, is the only copper-red vase of the Hongwu period (1368-1398) in perfect condition offered at auction in more than 15 years. It was sold to Steve Wynn, Chairman & CEO of Wynn Resorts (Macau). In the **Important Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art** sale which followed, an extremely rare blue and white 'three friends' jar, *Guan*, Yuan Dynasty (mid-14th century) sold for a staggering HK\$21,400,000/ US\$2,782,000. The above two sales realized HK\$331,411,800/ US\$43,083,534, the highest total ever achieved in this sale category at Christie's.

The **20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Art** sale and the **Asian Contemporary Art** sale realized a combined total of HK\$301,359,200/ US\$39,176,696, the highest total ever achieved anywhere in the world. The top lot was *Rouge, La pluie de pétales sur le village; Blanc, Le nuage au-dessus de la maison No. 53* by Chu Teh-Chun (Zhu Dequn, born in 1920) which sold for HK\$25,880,000/ US\$3,364,400, a world auction record for the artist. For the first time, the Asian Contemporary Art sale brought together Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Pakistani art. *Drawing for Man, Eagle and Eye in the Sky: Eagles Watching Man-Kite* by Cai Guo Qiang (born in 1957) realized HK\$6,952,000/ US\$903,760 and established a world auction record for the artist.

Taking the centre-stage in the **Modern & Contemporary Southeast Asian Art** sale was *Terrace affording a view of the sea with Pollock under an umbrella and several figures* by Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès (Belgium 1880-1958) selling for HK\$13,560,000/ US\$1,762,800, a world auction record for the artist. The sale achieved HK\$51,612,800/ US\$6,709,664, the highest total ever achieved in this category anywhere in the world.

In the **Fine Classical Chinese Paintings & Calligraphy** sale, *Bamboo and Rock* by Shi Tao (1642-1707) achieved HK\$3,032,000/ US\$394,160. *Snowy Mountains* by Cui Ruzhuo (born in 1944) in the **Fine Modern & Contemporary Chinese Paintings** sale sold for HK\$14,680,000/ US\$1,908,400.

The **Magnificent Jewellery & Jadeite Jewellery** sale realized in excess of HK\$295 million/ US\$38.3 million, the highest total ever for a jewellery sale in Asia. The top lot was a cushion-shaped Burmese ruby of 9.25 carats which fetched HK\$18,600,000/ US\$2,418,000.

In the **Important Watches** sale, a superb Piaget lady's 18K white gold and diamond-set oval "Kanthara" wristwatch sold for HK\$2,584,000/ US\$335,920.

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*Images available upon request*

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