

## For Immediate Release

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## CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK TOTALS \$44,316,701 FOR THE FALL 2007 SERIES OF ASIAN ART SALES

**New York** – The Fall 2007 edition of Asia Week at Christie's New York realized \$44,316,701, the second highest total for Asia Week at Christie's New York. The sales showed robust results and were carried by collectors from East and West. The sublime 12<sup>th</sup> century Chinese gilt-bronze figure of *accuoye guanyin* became the most valuable classical Asian work of art sold this week at \$1.95 million. Christie's also led the week in the classical Chinese art field with sales totaling \$17.3 million and the Indian art category where classical and contemporary art side by side realized \$21.7 million. Christie's holds its *Asian Contemporary Art* sales in Hong Kong whose role as a center for contemporary Asian art has increased exponentially, while also offering works by the most acclaimed contemporary Asian artists alongside their Western counterparts in the *Post-War and Contemporary Art Sales* in London and New York.

### Overview Asia Week at Christie's

#### Japanese and Korean Art ~ September 18

A superb pair of six-panel screens in ink, color and gold leaf on paper by Maruyama Okyo (1733-1795) led the sale at \$1,105,000. *Cranes*, as the work is titled, is dated to the seventh month of 1774, and each screen has been sealed *Okyo no in*. The Korean section was highlighted by a 16<sup>th</sup> century painting, *Gathering of Scholars*, with an inscription by Chung Sayong (1497-1572), executed in ink and color on silk with fetched \$825,000.

Total: \$5,265,887

Sold by Lot: 64%

Sold by \$: 65% Pre-Sale Estimate: \$5.8/7.6 million

#### Fine Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Works of Art & ~ The Meriem Collection: Important Chinese Snuff Bottles September 19

*Fine Chinese Ceramics, Jades and Works of Art* totaled \$13.3 million, the second highest total ever for a single sale of Chinese Art at Christie's New York. The superb 12<sup>th</sup> century gilt-bronze figure of

acuoye guanyin became the centerpiece of the sale at \$1,945,000. *The Meriem Collection: Important Chinese Snuff Bottles* achieved \$3,988,050 and was led by a rare Beijing enamel snuff bottle from the Kangxi Yuzhi period which sold for \$657,000.

Total: \$17,298,788      Sold by Lot: 70%      Sold by \$: 78%      Pre-Sale Estimate: \$13.29/18.5 million

#### South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art ~ September 20

The sale was led by Tyeb Mehta's *Mahisasura*, which realized \$1.1 million and 12 new world auction records were set. With many of the top-selling works still belonging to the Progressive Movement Artists, it was equally driven by extremely strong prices obtained for contemporary artists. Atul Dodiya's position as one of South Asia's leading artists was confirmed with the result for *Three Painters*, which at \$541,000 more than tripled its pre-sale estimate and set a new record for the artist. In the cutting-edge contemporary field, many prices wildly exceeded pre-sale estimates including for Rameshwar Broota's *Untitled* (\$265,000); T.V. Santosh's haunting *Across and Unresolved Story* (\$217,000); Shibu Natesan's *Montage I* (\$157,000); and Rashid Rana's extraordinary photo collage *A Day in the Life of a Landscape* (\$133,000).

Total: \$10,115,050      Sold by Lot: 78%      Sold by \$: 88%      Pre-Sale Estimate: \$7.4/10.5 million

#### Gandharan Buddhist Art from the Collection of a Prince ~ Indian and Southeast Asian Art ~ September 20

"The two classical Indian Art sales at Christie's, *Gandharan Buddhist Art from the Collection of a Prince* and *Indian and Southeast Asian Art Including Property from the Collections of Ariane Dandois and Robert H. Ellsworth*, totaled an unprecedented \$11.6 million, far succeeding the previous record total in the field at Christie's New York. The top lot of the sale was the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century gilt-bronze Buddha from the Ellsworth collection which realized \$657,000. The *Gandharan Buddhist Collection of a Prince* was led by a gable relief, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century which fetched \$529,000 and totaled \$2,175,350.

Total: \$11,636,975      Sold by Lot: 81%      Sold by \$: 87%      Pre-Sale Estimate: \$7.4/10.4 million

### **Fall 2007 Continuation**

#### **Asian Contemporary Art**

Asian contemporary art is one of the fastest growing areas in the market. As the market leader in the field, Christie's realized a worldwide total for the category of \$89.7 million of the spring season of 2007. The fall presents an equally attractive story with Asian contemporary art being offered in London, New York and Hong Kong with a total value in excess of \$50 million.

### London ~ Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale ~ October 15

An exceptionally strong selection of **Chinese** contemporary art will offer works by many of the leading artists in the field. Painting highlights include Yue Minjun's (b. 1962) early work *Sunshine*, 1993, portraying the artist's brother after he was sent to prison (estimate: £500,000-700,000) and *Remember and Forget*, 2003 by leading contemporary Chinese artist Zhang Xiaogang (b. 1958) (estimate: £300,000-400,000).

### New York ~ Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and Day Sales ~ November 13 & 14

The November Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale will include Zeng Fanzhi's *Mask Series 1995 No. 5* (estimate: \$700,000-900,000) and Zhang Xiaogang's *Bloodline Series: Mother with Three Sons (The Family Portrait)*, 1993 (estimate: \$1.8 – 2.2 million). The Day sales will include Zao Wou-ki's *Untitled* (estimate: \$180,000-\$220,000).

### Hong Kong ~ Asian Contemporary Art ~ November 25

One of the Hong Kong highlights of Asian Contemporary Art is Cai Guo-Qiang's *Drawing for Asia Pacific Economic Corporation*, 2002 (estimate: \$3.6 – 4.6 million). Further artists featured include Yue Minjun, Zeng Fanzhi, Liu Yeh and Zhang Xiaogang.

### **Classical Asian Art**

The increased focus on contemporary Asian art and on Asia in general has also shed a new light on the classical Asian art landscape. Our Hong Kong sales at the end of November will present an extraordinary array of treasures from the Chinese past.

### Hong Kong ~ November 26 & 27

A single owner sale, *Important Chinese Jades from the Personal Collection of Alan and Simone Hartman Part II*, will showcase the beauty and preciousness of jade. The collection was assembled over the past fifty years by renowned New York-based dealer and collector Alan Hartmann and his wife Simone and is comprised of Chinese jade and jadeite carvings ranging from the Neolithic period to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many of which were made for the Imperial household. The estimated sale value is in excess of \$10 million and the highlight is a white jade brushpot, Qianlong period, carved with an extensive landscape (estimate: \$1 – 1.2 million). Other sales will focus on Chinese ceramics and works of art and classical Chinese paintings.

## Full Hong Kong calendar for Asian art sales

November 25

- Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art
- Chinese 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art
- Asian Contemporary Art

November 26

- Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy
- Fine Chinese Modern Paintings

November 27

- Important Chinese jades from the personal collection of Alan and Simone Hartman Part II
- Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

### About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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*Images available on request~ Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*