

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S FALL SALE OF 20TH CENTURY CHINESE ART AND ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART FEATUES MASTERPIECES BY CHANG YU, LIN FENGMIAN AND ZHAO WUJI

Contemporary Korean Art Offered For The First Time at an International Auction In Asia

20th Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art 31 October 2004

Hong Kong – Christie's Hong Kong will offer a magnificent array of works by the most celebrated Chinese masters and renowned Korean artists in its sale of *20th Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art*. The sale is part of Christie's Asian Art Autumn Auction series, and will take place at the JW Marriott Hotel on 31 October 2004. This is also the first time that contemporary Korean art will be offered at an international auction in Asia and the Korean works include paintings, sculptures, and photography. The sale offers a good opportunity for collectors to acquire some of most significant contemporary Asian works of art in one of the strongest and fastest growing areas of the international art market.

The sale, expected to realize over HK\$25 million/US\$3.2 million, will feature superb works by the highly acclaimed and influential artists in the development of contemporary Chinese art such as Sanyu, Zhao Wuji and Lin Fengmian. Many of these artists studied art abroad and their works represent a harmonious fusion of the Eastern and Western styles. Among the highlights is an impressive oil painting, *Pink Chrysanthemum in a White Vase* by Sanyu (Chang Yu) (1901-1966) (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/ US\$256,400-384,600). In the 1920s and 1930s, the art world began a broad exploration of the differences between Eastern and Western approaches, and during this period, Chang brought westernized Chinese painting into new realms by retaining concepts central to the Chinese tradition and reinterpreting its pure feeling and beauty of line. In this particular painting, Chang used delicate lines, cheerful colours and simple modelling of forms to express his feelings.

Another highlight in the sale is *Scene of Assassination of Wang Liao* by Lin Fengmian's (1900-1991) from his highly acclaimed Chinese Opera Series. For Lin Fengmian, Beijing opera provided vivid themes for his work, in which its beauty and tradition undergo further abstraction. Through juxtaposing different time frames on a single canvas, Lin captures the flowing, continuous motion of Beijing opera. This superb work accentuates theatrical beauty and the contrasts between movement and rest (estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/ US\$128,200-192,300).

Also included in the forthcoming auction are outstanding abstract works, including *15.4.69*, by Zhao Wuji (born 1921) (estimate: HK\$2,500,000-3,500,000/ US\$320,500-448,700). Other highlights include *Unrevealed Crystal* by Zhu Dequn (born 1920) (estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/ US\$128,200-192,300), and *View of Mountain Himalayas* by Xu Beihong (1895-1953) (estimate: HK\$500,000-600,000/ US\$64,100-76,900).

The contemporary section of the sale will feature *Enjoying Opera* by renowned female painter, Wei Rong (born 1963) (estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000/ US\$25,600-38,500), *Great Criticism: Disney* by Wang Guanyi (born 1957) who originated the political pop style in China (estimate: HK\$250,000-350,000/ US\$), and a spectacular stainless steel sculpture of *Artificial Scholar's Rock Series – No. 10* by Zhan Wang (born 1962) (estimate: HK\$100,000-150,000/ US\$12,800-19,200).

Another prize offering in the sale is an extraordinary large wood sculpture by Zhu Ming (born 1938) from his celebrated *Taiji* series which reflects the great ingenuity and the spatial aesthetic that are unique to the artist. The present work is widely considered one of Zhu's finest sculptures and is expected to realize HK\$1,600,000-2,200,000/US\$206,100-282,100).

For the first time at an international auction in Asia, works by contemporary Korean artists will be offered. Among the Korean art offered are two spectacular copper wire sculptures by Cheong Kwang-Ho (born 1959) (estimate: HK\$120,000-160,000/ US\$15,400-20,500), and *Anchang Village* by Choi So-Young (born 1980) (estimate: HK\$25,000-35,000/ US\$3,200-4,500). A photograph, *The Costume of Painter – W. House*, by Bae Joon-Sung (born 1967) showing an exhibition in the Hawaii Museum and a nude model in the setting, is a further highlight in the sale (estimate: HK\$90,000-120,000/ US\$11,500-15,400).

Christie's fall auction on 1 October also features a sale of *Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation* valued at a total of HK\$35 million.

Highlights of the sales will be on view in New York, Taiwan, Singapore, Shanghai and Beijing in September and October prior to the exhibition in Hong Kong (29-30 October) at the JW Marriott, and the auction on 31 October 2004.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Taichung	New Age Gallery	October 2 – 3
Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	October 8 – 9
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	October 16 – 17
Shanghai	Portman Ritz-Carlton	October 20 – 21
Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	October 23 – 24
Hong Kong	JW Marriott Hotel	October 29 – 30

Auction:

20th Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art, 31 October at 4.30pm at the J W Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's 20th Century Chinese Art & Asian Contemporary Art sale 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.

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Images available on request

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