

For Immediate Release

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MASTERPIECE BY ZHANG DAQIAN AND PROPERTY FROM THE EDELLMANN FAMILY IN SWITZERLAND TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PAINTINGS AUTUMN SALE

Contact: Victoria Cheung

852.2978.9919

vcheung@christies.com

Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings 31 October 2004

Hong Kong - Christie's autumn sale of *Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings* on 31 October at the JW Marriott will offer 228 outstanding works by the most celebrated Chinese artists of the 19th and 20th century. Also included in the sale is an important collection of seven superb works by Lin Fengmian (1900-1991) from the property of the Edelmann Family in Switzerland.

The star lot of the sale is *The Fragrance of Lotus after Rain* by **Zhang Daqian**, expected to realize \$1,800,000 - 2,200,000/ US\$232,300 - 283,000. Executed in 1975, this masterpiece is considered one of Zhang's most outstanding works using his famous splashed ink and colour technique. The painting depicts an exotic subject, the red lotus, which is a mythical plant referred to in ancient texts. Zhang uses a gold paint outline to further highlight the rich vermilion of the lotus in a work of beauty and refinement.

Mount Taihua in Autumn by **Fu Baoshi** (1904-1965) depicts his beloved Huashan (once known as Taihuashan), one of the five sacred peaks in China (estimate: HK\$1,200,000 - 1,500,000/ US\$154,800 - 193,500). Black ink is applied in repeated layers in luxuriant and deep composition. The mountain is known for its great and magnificent features and Fu deliberately lowers the foreground in order to accentuate the imposing height of the peak.

The sale features several works by **Qi Baishi** (1863-1957) which illustrate the changing styles of the artist in different periods. Before the age of forty, Qi focused on finely detailed floral studies, particularly on vivid grass-and-insect compositions. Through close observation in their ecological niches, Qi had developed a good understanding of his subjects which he vividly transmitted into his

painting. *Grass and Insects* (set of two, estimate HK\$200,000 - 300,000/ US\$25,800 - 38,700) is a fine illustration of this style. Even on raw rice paper, the brush seems completely natural, the insects emerge from the varied thick brushstrokes with a detailed, lifelike presence.

Another important work by Qi Baoshi offered in the sale is *Red Sun over Lake Dongting* (estimate: HK\$300,000 - 400,000/ US\$38,700 - 51,600). In 1902, when Qi was 40, he travelled to Xian on an invitation from his friend, Xia Wuyi, to give private tuition in painting. On his first journey of such distance, he came across the wondrous scenery of Lake Dongting. The red rising sun appears by a distant sail with a solitary boat moving through the foreground. Qi effectively captures the feel of floating mists above calm waters in this exceptional work.

Ox under the Shade of Plum Blossom is a superb example from Qi's later years (estimate: HK\$280,000 - 320,000/ US\$36,100 - 41,300) depicting an oxen, freed of its harness, gazing at the blossoming flowers. Qi borrowed the particulars of daily rural life which retained the simple, guileless character to show his memory of childhood. Qi created this painting in celebration, symbolizing his welcome for the arrival of the new era, after the change of regime in 1949.

Another highlight is *Ancient Town in Western Hunan* by **Wu Guanzhong** (born 1919) (estimate: HK\$800,000 - 1,000,000/ US\$103,200-129,000). The artist uses strong colours to express his emotions towards the people and their pastimes in the ancient town. In *Tiger*, the artist employs free strokes, usually associated with his landscapes, to depict the form and movement of the tigers (estimate: HK\$500,000 - 700,000/ US\$64,500 - 90,300).

The sale also features an important collection of seven paintings by **Lin Fengmian** (1900-1991) from the property of the Edelman Family in Switzerland. Mr Hermann Arnold Edelman was General Manager of an aluminium production company in Shanghai from 1932 to 1951, and these paintings were originally purchased by Mr and Mrs Edelman in Shanghai during their residence in the city. When they left China in 1951, they took their collection with them, finally settling in Portugal, and the collection had been with them for over half a century. The collection of outstanding works reflects the multi emotions of Lin including *Chrysanthemum* (estimate: HK\$400,000 - 500,000/ US\$51,560 - 64,500), *Lady Playing Zither* (estimate: HK\$300,000 - 350,000/ US\$38,700 - 45,200) and *Opera Figures* (estimate: HK\$350,000 - 400,000/ US\$45,200 -51,600).

Also included in the sale is an album, *Flowers and Fruit* by **Shi Lu** (1919-1982) (estimate: HK\$800,000 - 1,000,000/ US\$103,200 - 129,000) probably painted after 1970, a period during which the artist appears to have been poised between reason and abandon. His wild, vigorous, sweeping strokes of ink and intense colours were deemed a revolutionary combination of realism and romanticism.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

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

Auction: Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings, 31 October at 10:00 am,
JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings 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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