

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

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**EXCEPTIONAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN PICTURES TO BE OFFERED IN
CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE**

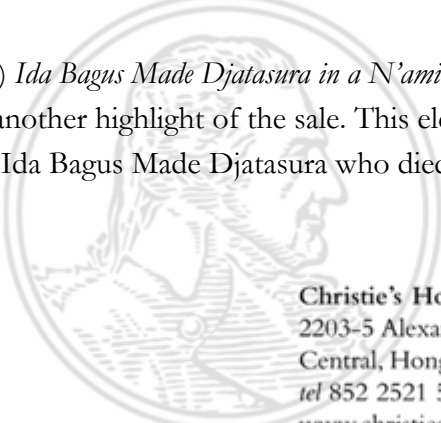
Southeast Asian Pictures

31 October 2004

Hong Kong – Christie's Hong Kong, the leader in the field of Southeast Asian Pictures, is proud to present its upcoming sale offering several exceptional works, on 31 October. The auction promises to be a visual festival of colours and styles, celebrating the cultural richness and diversity of Southeast Asia.

Christie's set a world auction record for **Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merprès** (Belgium 1880-1958) in April 2004 when his *Balinese Ladies in the Garden* was sold for HK\$4,767,750 (US\$619,808). This season, another superb painting by the Belgian artist from a private collection in Amsterdam, *Balinese Interior with Women* (estimate: HK\$1,600,000-2,400,000/ US\$200,000-300,000) will be offered for sale. The Balinese interior set against a luminous sun-bathed courtyard of tropical vegetation provided an ideal setting for Le Mayeur's impressionist palette while the contrast of light and shadow allowed for a great play of colours. As so many of his paintings, this work also features Le Mayeur's wife Ni Pollok. A famous *legong* dancer, Pollok served as Le Mayeur's only model during his Balinese period, or in the artist's words "C'est toujours Pollok" ("It's always Pollok"). *Balinese Interior with Women* will be the only large sized oil work from his Balinese period offered on the market this season.

Rudolf Bonnet's (The Netherlands 1895-1978) *Ida Bagus Made Djatasura in a N'amir pose* (estimate: HK\$650,000-850,000/ US\$83,000-109,000) is another highlight of the sale. This elegant and sublime portrait of the famed dancer and revolutionary Ida Bagus Made Djatasura who died in prison in 1947, has strong artistic as well as historical merits.



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Bonnet was at the height of his artistic powers when he painted this work as can be felt by an exquisite sense of spirituality and the unparalleled feeling of spontaneity, qualities that became rarer in his later works. The artist clearly had a penchant for the sitter and knew him well, and their collaboration resulted in several variations on the same theme.

Antoine A.J. Payen (Belgium 1792-1853) is a classic example of a 19th century landscape painter from the colonial era. Previously only known through works in institutions such as the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, both in Holland, it is an exceptional event to have two works up for sale: *The Market Place of Banyuwangi, with the Idjen Mountains beyond, East Java* (estimate: HK\$250,000-350,000/ US\$32,000-44,000) and *A view of Candi Sukuh* (estimate: HK\$80,000-120,000/ US\$10,000-15,000), both evoking a nostalgic sense for the Dutch East Indies.

The sale also features **Vicente Manansala's** *Crucifixion* (The Philippines 1910-1981) (estimate: HK\$1,400,000-1,800,000/ US\$180,000-230,000), a cubist representation of the crucifixion theme. A devout Catholic who painted religious subjects with profound piety and intense affection, Manansala commented on his *Crucifixion* subject: "I wanted to show the power of God in a silent manner, to express reverence and respect". The present work, dated 1968, evidently adheres to this philosophy. Manansala depicts the all-embracing, loving Christ on the cross, in peaceful repose while the Virgin Mary and John, Jesus' most-beloved disciple, are shown quietly grieving at his side.

Georgette Chen's *Scene from Peking* (Paris 1907- Singapore 1992) (estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000/ US\$65,000-90,000) superbly illustrates the artist's post-impressionistic tendencies and her Fauve influences cast a new light on the ancient Chinese Imperial capital.

Other highlights of the season include the works of the very popular Indonesian artists, **Affandi** (1907-1990) and **Hendra Gunawan** (1918-1983). Affandi's *Man with a Rooster* (estimate: HK\$480,000-600,000/ US\$60,000-75,000) is characteristically endowed with the vibrancy and spontaneity of the artist's expressionist style. Hendra's *Fish Vendor* (estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000/ US\$45,000-58,000) is a celebration of the common people and the artist's depiction of the fisherman in a regal pose fuses the heroic element with a sense of theatricality, a characteristic of Hendra's works.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Singapore	8 – 9 October	Grand Hyatt Singapore
Hong Kong	29 – 30 October	JW Marriott Hotel

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Auction: Southeast Asian Pictures, 31 October, 2:30 pm, JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Southeast Asian Pictures 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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