

For Immediate Release

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IMPORTANT 20TH CENTURY CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE YAGEO FOUNDATION IN CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE

Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation 31 October 2004

Hong Kong – Christie's Hong Kong is pleased to announce the sale of *Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation* on 31 October at the JW Marriott Hotel. The Yageo Collection in Taiwan is one of the foremost collections of contemporary Chinese art.

The property from the Yageo Collection is virtually a history of Chinese oil painting in microcosm and 62 works by the greatest artists of each generation of modern and contemporary Chinese art, including Liao Jichun, Chen Chengbo, Li Meishu, Hong Tong, Sanyu, Lin Fengmian, Zhao Wuji, Wu Dayu, Pang Xunchin, Wu Guanzhong and Ding Yanyong are represented. The sale is expected to realize in excess of HK\$35 million (US\$4.5 million).

Anthony Lin, Chairman of Christie's Asia, said: "We are very honoured to be entrusted with the sale of this unsurpassed collection. With its breadth and depth, its quantity and quality of works, the Yageo Collection is the most significant collection of modern and contemporary Chinese art ever offered at auction. We expect that these exceptional works will attract tremendous interest from the Asian and international collectors alike."

Executive Director of the Yageo Foundation, Ms. Carol Huang, discusses the origin of the sale: "The Foundation has always been devoted to internationalizing the work of modern and contemporary artists. In the future, the Yageo Foundation will focus on sponsorship activities and promotion of contemporary Chinese artists, while providing extensive support to promising young artists. In the mature European and American markets, we often see foundations or museums selling works from their collections, with the aim of raising funds for future projects or acquiring other works, while sustaining themselves as vital, growing organizations. The Yageo Foundation hopes to use the proceeds of this sale to further its future sponsorship activities."

Sale Highlights

Sanyu (Chang Yu) (1901-1966)

Four exceptional works demonstrating Sanyu's skillful depiction of the human physique are featured in the sale. The main highlight is undoubtedly Sanyu's *Reclining Nude*, expected to fetch HK\$4,000,000 - 5,000,000/ US\$512,800 – 641,000. In this painting, he draws on his practiced calligraphic skills, applying coarse, black lines in ink to create an exaggerated, heavy-limbed figure, albeit with finer lines that delineate supple shoulders and delicate facial features – a style that would create a stir at the Paris 1929 Fall Salon. With its dexterous use of thick lines from the ink-brush and simplified forms that put place the visual focus on line and space, the *Reclining Nude* epitomizes Sanyu's late-period style. By comparison with nudes produced by the Paris School during the same period, he eschews the sensual appeal of unrestrained colour in favour of an extra dash of the humor and unaffected simplicity that represents the Chinese literati painters at their best.

Li Meishu (1902-1983)

The sale presents the creative spirit of Li Meishu through figure studies, landscapes, and still lifes. An artist with a lifelong devotion to depicting the culture and spirit of the Taiwanese countryside, Li began a series of oils on rural women in the 1940s and *A Clear Day*, a vivid depiction of rural women at work, is one of the finest examples of his work during this period (estimate: HK\$1,800,000 - 2,000,000/ US\$230,700 – 256,400). Two other important works by Li are also offered; *Scenery of San Shia*, (estimate: HK\$1,000,000 - 1,200,000/ US\$128,200 – 153,800) and *Chrysanthemum with Still Life* (estimate: HK\$400,000 - 500,000/ US\$51,300 – 64,100).

Xi Dejin (1923-1981)

The varying styles of Xi Dejin's work are represented in the sale. From 1957 to 1962, Xi was in the US as a visiting academic, an experience which inspired greater freedom and breadth to his painting. The year after his return, in a joint exhibition held with Liao Jichun at the United States Information Service center in Taipei, Xi introduced new works that exhibit a more deeply personal mood and greater tension in composition than his early period works. *Double Self-Portraits* illustrates Xi's transformations of style of this period (estimate: HK\$1,200,000 - 1,800,000/ US\$153,800 – 230,700). *Ox* (estimate: HK\$220,000 - 280,000/ US\$28,205 – 35,800) and *Landscape* (estimate: HK\$80,000 - 120,000/ US\$10,200 – 15,300) are further highlights.

Wu Guanzhong (born 1919)

The sale will feature five works by Wu Guanzhong which fully illustrate the variations of his styles during different periods. *Lake Shaoxin*, dated 1977, depicting the scenery of southeastern China is the finest example among his 70's works. Wu uses simple colour blocks to express space

through emptiness as in the style of Chinese painting. With only a few strokes of black and white ink, the artist completely captures the unique tranquil elegance of the Chinese landscape (estimate: HK\$850,000 – 1,000,000/ US\$109,000 – 128,200). Another highlight is *Bamboo of Spring* which depicts bamboo forest after the rain using dense calligraphic lines (estimate: HK\$1,300,000 - 1,600,000/ US\$166,600 – 205,100).

Zhao Wuji (born 1921)

A prized offering in the sale is an impressive abstract work, *16.05.89*, by Zhao Wuji (estimate: HK\$1,200,000 - 1,500,000/ US\$153,800 – 192,300). Inspiration for Zhao's abstract works was drawn from traditional Chinese calligraphy and landscape painting. The graceful lines of calligraphy and the poetic atmosphere of the landscape genre perfectly complement his concern with style and form and his vigorous brushstrokes. Entering the 1980s, Zhao's work began to reflect inner moods of a more thoughtful and reserved nature, as expressed in the present work executed in 1989.

Ding Yanyong (1902 -1978)

Four works by Ding Yanyong, in different styles and media, will be presented at this sale. Ding applied modern western painting forms to the Chinese tradition, in particular, by re-examining that tradition from a Fauvist viewpoint. Ding had a great appreciation for ancient imperial seals and he fused these primitive symbols and lines with his works. Ding also makes use of calligraphy text elements when they can lend a unique air to a work in an altered form or through creating new structures; Ding's work features an ideal union of text characters, symbol, and image. Ding's *Fishes in the Basket* is expected to fetch HK\$400,000 - 500,000/ US\$51,200 – 64,100.

Chen Chengbo (1895-1947)

Tamshui is one of the few works by Chen Chengbo from his highly acclaimed Tamshui series (estimate: HK\$950,000 - 1,200,000/ US\$121,700 – 153,800). Also on offer is *Autumn Scene*, expected to realize HK\$950,000 - 1,200,000/ US\$ 121,700 – 153,800.

Hong Tong (1920-1987)

Hong Tong is considered one of the foremost proponents of the Naïve school in modern Chinese art. Greeting the viewer with a welter of lines and images, gaudy colour, and bending, curving forms, Hong Tong's art contains a rich native feeling. The *White Moon* presents a moonscape of the artist's own imagining, a riot of fantastic image and color with the sweetness of a child's paradise (estimate: HK\$300,000 - 400,000/ US\$38,400 – 51,200). A second work, *Flower Goddess*, turns written characters into images, shapes, and beautiful lines (estimate: HK\$180,000 - 240,000/ US\$23,000 – 30,700).

Pang Xunchin (1906-1985)

Embroidering is one of the most important work by Pang Xunchin. depicting the richly embroidered costumes of the Miao woman using detailed application of colours (estimate: HK\$540,000 - 780,000/ US\$69,200 – 100,000). Another rare offering is *Road* (estimate: HK\$1,200,000 - 1,800,000/ US\$153,800 – 230,700)

Other highlights include Li Jichun's *Abstraction Landscape* (estimate: HK\$2,000,000 - 2,500,000/ US\$256,400 – 320,500); Liao Dezheng's *Landscape* (estimate: HK\$1,300,000 - 1,550,000/ US\$166,600 – 199,300); and Guan Liang's *Hsin An Electric Power Station* (estimate: HK\$500,000 - 600,000/ US\$64,100 – 76,900).

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

New York	Christie's Galleries	September 16 – 20
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:

Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation, 31 October at 6 pm at the JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Important 20th Century Chinese Paintings from the Yageo Foundation can be found on 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. 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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