

Press Release

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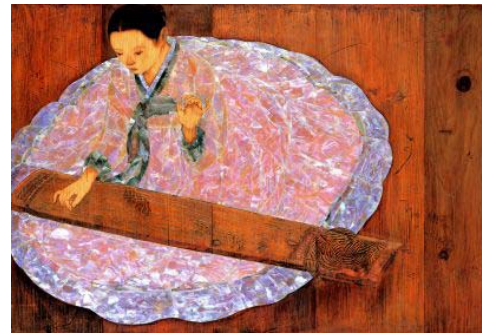
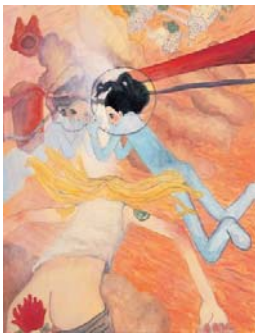
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**CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG TO HOLD INAUGURAL SALE OF
ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART**



**Asian Contemporary Art
27 November 2005**

Hong Kong - Christie's Hong Kong will hold a sale devoted entirely to Asian contemporary art in its forthcoming autumn sale, a première for any international auction house. The inaugural *Asian Contemporary Art* sale to take place on 27 November features superb works by contemporary Chinese, Korean and Japanese artists. Ranging from paintings, mixed media to sculpture, the excellent works on offer are destined to satisfy the growing appetite for contemporary art around the world.

Chinese Contemporary Works

The 1980's saw Chinese artists developing a keen interest in political subjects as well as a growing curiosity in and analysis of ideas based in Western cultures. In the 1990's, the powerful forces of the market economy reinforced this trend, causing artists to shift their attention toward a new national consciousness and a further concern with the world culture.

Contemporary artists such as Wang Guanyi, Yue Min-jun, Yan Pei-ming, Yang Shao-bin grew up during the ten-year Cultural Revolution, which was followed by a challenging impact on China's

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social, governmental, economic, and cultural conditions, fueled by the influx of information from the West. The growing awareness of the unsettling influence of structural changes initiated by society on the personal values of its people became a major source of creativity.

Christie's sale will offer representative works by Wang Guanyi (born in 1957) from his famous *Great Criticism* series including *Nike* (Lot 311, estimate : HK\$350,000-450,000/ US\$44,900-57,700) and *Louis Vuitton* (Lot 342, estimate: HK\$200,000-360,000/ US\$25,600-46,200). These works represent a disparaging commentary on the pervasive influence of Western materialism on Chinese society, and the resulting shifts in the life of the Chinese.

The most startling aspect of works by Yue Minjun (born in 1962) is the use of classical aesthetic elements such as beauty, nobility, and moving and poetic sentiments, in critiquing and reflecting upon the modern society. *Gyeong-Gyeong* is an intense satire on the governmental and militaristic expansion and the insignificant state of highly-controlled citizenry (Lot 310, estimate: HK\$350,000-450,000/US\$44,900-57,700). It depicts a celebration scene in Tiananmen Square where throngs of citizens are enthusiastically waving flags while majestic formations of human-shaped "fighters" fly overhead forming a contrasting backdrop.

Also featured in this sale is *Seal Project*, a set of 200 seals deriving from a square word calligraphy project conceived by Xu Bing (born in 1955) (Lot 378, estimate: HK\$280,000-360,000/ US\$35,900-46,200). Completed in 2001, *Seal Project* involved using traditional Chinese seals in the printing works with square-block English lettering. Also called "Xu Bing's new English calligraphy," the concept began during the late 1980s when Xu designed a new calligraphy style that made letters appear Chinese though they were in fact English. The project expresses Xu's views and attitudes toward the relationship between art and society.

Cai Guo Qiang (born in 1957) is famous for his 'gunpowder paintings' which are painted with traces of gunpowder ignited on the surface of the canvas. Featured are *Project for Mass Moca-Tiger with Arrows* (Lot 329, estimate: HK\$350,000-550,000/ US\$44,900-70,500) and *Project for the British Art Museum: Spider Web* (Lot 331, estimate: HK\$150,000-250,000/ US\$19,200-32,100).

No. 1 by Yang Shaobin (born in 1963) embodies the core themes in his art – the iron will, the evil of human nature, and the weakness of the body (Lot 315, estimate: HK\$300,000-400,000/ US\$38,500-51,300).

Korean Contemporary Works

Contemporary Asian art is often used as a powerful vehicle for social criticism and advancement of new ideas, as reflected in *Water Drops* by Korean artist Kim Tschang-Yeul (born in 1921) (Lot 333, estimate: HK\$300,000-400,000/ US\$38,500-51,300). In this spectacular work, Kim employs his famous water-droplet and script lettering themes to produce neo-realist works that reflect Eastern Buddhist and Daoist mind-sets, leading viewers toward a state of deep meditation.

Works by Yoo Seung-Ho (born in 1973) clearly demonstrate a breakthrough in Korean contemporary art as the artist uses words rather than brushworks in his paintings. *Reconstruction of the Chinese Landscape Series - Dada*, executed in 2005 (Lot 340, estimate: HK\$200,000-240,000/ US\$25,600-30,800) is hailed by the artist himself as the best work in the series. At first glance, the image just offers a beautiful landscape. However, observed from nearby, the lines appear to be made up of calligraphy characters of the word 'dada' (meaning more, more). This visual effect evokes a sophisticated combination of sight, sound, and imaginative experience.

Anchang Village in the Mountains by Choi So-Young (born 1980) (Lot 337, estimate: HK\$200,000-240,000/ US\$25,600-30,800) is one of Choi's excellent denim works expressing his feelings about his Korean hometown whereas Kim Duck-Yong's *Girl playing harp* (Lot 344, estimate: HK\$54,000-70,000/ US\$7,000-9,000) and Kwon Ki-Soo's *Donguri with a dog & Plum Blossoms around a Cottage-Visting a friend on a snowy day* (Lot 350, estimate: HK\$58,000-74,000/ US\$7,400-9,500) are excellent examples of multi-media works.

Further highlights of Korean art include *Aewan Series-Love #1* by Ham Jin (born in 1978) comprising a photograph and a sculpture (Lot 366, estimate: HK\$48,000-52,000/ US\$6,000-6,700), and *Two girls*, a sculpture by Lee Yong-Deok (born in 1956) (Lot 335, estimate: HK\$220,000-280,000/ US\$28,200-35,900).

Japanese Contemporary Works

The new generation of Japanese artists born after the war is influenced by the Western culture and the vast influx of information triggered by the rapid development of information technology and the internet. In *Eat a Hand* by Korehiko Hino (born in 1976), the boy's bewildered eyes, awkwardly crouching pose and the enclosure within a corner space reflect feelings of intense suffocation and anxiety inherent to a society on the run (Lot 321, estimate: HK\$46,000-60,000/ US\$5,900-7,700).

Meanwhile, with the advance of modern industrial technology in Japan, many media employed in the production of high-tech objects have been turned to new uses in the field of contemporary art. *Minotaur*, a sculpture by Masao Kinoshita (born in 1971), is one of the examples. In that human-

headed bull and its naked and fleshly form, the artist exposes a primitive and ultra-realistic view of muscle and skeleton, thereby initiating a discussion about the relationship between humanity and its gods, and between reality and fabrication (Lot 368, estimate: HK\$18,000-25,000/ US\$2,300-3,200).

Another highlight is *Towards eternity* by Aya Takano (born in 1976) (Lot 348, estimate: HK\$46,000-60,000/ US\$5,900-7,700). The young girls depicted seem to be floating in a smoky, futuristic environment. Their behaviour and the world they are engaged in are entirely fictional, yet wonderfully fantastical.

Atsuhiko Misawa (born in 1961) is well-known for his animal sculptures. Of particular interest in the sale are *Bull Dog* (Lot 327, estimate: HK\$75,000-95,000/ US\$9,600-12,200) and *Bull Terrie* (Lot 328, estimate: HK\$110,000-150,000/ US\$14,100-19,200).

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	7 – 8 October
Beijing	St. Regis Beijing	5 – 6 November
Shanghai	The Westin Shanghai	8 – 9 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	19 – 20 November
Hong Kong	Convention & Exhibition Centre	25 – 27 November

Auction:

Asian Contemporary Art, 27 November 2005, 2:30pm

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

More information about Christie's sale of Asian Contemporary Art 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 upon request

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