

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

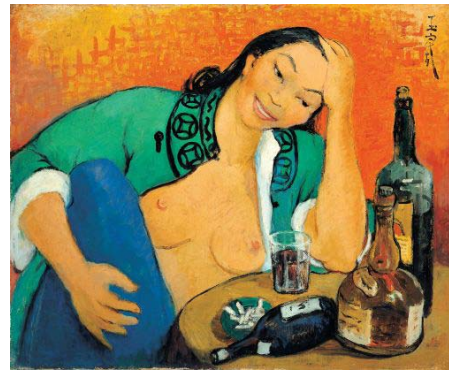
佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

21 October 2005

Contact:	Victoria Cheung	852.2978.9919	vcheung@christies.com
	Dick Lee	852.2978.9966	dlee@christies.com

**EXCEPTIONAL 20th CENTURY CHINESE ART ON OFFER
AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE**



**20th Century Chinese Art
27 November 2005**

Hong Kong - Following the phenomenal success of the Spring sales, Christie's Hong Kong is pleased to offer yet another selection of unparalleled works by some of the most celebrated modern Chinese masters in the *20th Century Chinese Art* sale on 27 November.

Sanyu

Taking the centre-stage is *Four Nudes* by Sanyu (Chang Yu) (1901-1966) from the Collection of the Yageo Foundation in Taiwan (Lot 185, Estimate: HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000/ US\$769,200-1,028,600). The arrangement of style, composition and colour builds upon the artist's renderings of his early nudes with their delicate and glowing forms. What might have been ordinary physical forms that are realistically depicted become highly imaginative landscapes in a work that shows Sanyu at the peak of his stylistic development.

Christie's Hong Kong Limited
2203-5 Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong
tel 852 2521 5396 fax 852 2845 2646
www.christies.com

In addition, Sanyu offers an interpretation of the subject of the nude that differs radically from the painters of the Paris School during the same era. Eschewing the sensualism of Western painters, he represents a truthful, unaffected simplicity of feeling, creating works in which Eastern thought and aesthetics take full bloom.

Pan Yuliang

Pan Yuliang (1895-1977) displayed an especially distinctive, individual manner of expression in her melding of Eastern and Western styles, successfully blending the calligraphic brushstrokes and lively sense of composition found in the Eastern tradition with realist techniques borrowed from the West.

The *Artist Self Portrait*, completed in 1949, distinguishes itself from other works in its genre through the colours and the composition, revealing the artist's intense personality and feminine refinement (Estimate: HK\$3,000,000-3,500,000/ US\$384,600,400-448,700). One can only imagine the complex and agitated mood that must have accompanied the creation of a work in which she throws off the restraining social mores of her time to present herself naked on the canvas. The painting projects a sense of the loneliness felt by a creative artist missing her homeland while abroad.

Liao Chi-ch'un

The floral still life was a genre dear to Liao Chi-ch'un (Liao Jichun) (1902-1976), and there is a clear change in style from his early to late periods. By the 1960's and 70's, he was a master at gauging the colouristic and brushwork effects that would become the hallmark of his work. *Flower* (Estimate: HK\$1,500,000-2,000,000/ US\$192,300-256,400) is one of his consummate creations from this period. The variations of colour in Liao's work display his sensitivity toward the pure elements of painting. He knew how simple hues could highlight the feeling he wanted in a particular work, and how to produce innovative imagery through rearranging colour, line, and form. Liao excelled at his own unique brand of poetic lyricism, establishing a delicate balance between reality and reverie.

Chu Teh-chun

Abstract works by Chu Teh-chun (Zhu Dequn) (born in 1920) such as *Autumn* (Estimate: HK\$1,500,000-1,800,000/ US\$192,300-230,800), from a French private collection, radiate the artist's innermost feelings. In this painting, Chu's abstraction is not so much a matter of symbol as of lyricism. One can easily imagine mountain landscapes, waterfalls, and gushing springs in the free, evocative spaces of his paintings. The viewer connects with the artist, and on a deeper level, with nature and the universe itself.

Zao Wou-ki

Zao Wou-ki (Zhao Wuji, born in 1921) defined "abstraction" in his own way, finding a correspondence between the Western concept and the Chinese emphasis - in its painting and calligraphy tradition - on coexistence with nature. Interpreting the spirit of nature through the techniques of abstraction, he creates an extension of traditional Chinese landscape painting.

An exceptional group of paintings by Zao Wou-ki will be offered in the sale. Of particular interest is *Vieille Ville* painted in 1955 (Estimate: HK\$3,500,000-3,800,000/ US\$448,700-487,200). Other works by Zao include *Bocage* (Estimate: HK\$2,000,000-2,800,000/ US\$256,400-359,000), *19.8.74* (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,400,000/ US\$153,800-307,700), *Inspiration from ancient bronze* (Estimate: HK\$800,000-1,200,000/ US\$102,600-153,900) and *City of Paris* (Estimate: HK\$800,000-1,200,000/ US\$102,600-153,800).

Wu Guanzhong

Wu Guanzhong (born in 1919) understood that Chinese art could only capture its own time and have room to grow through embodying aesthetics fundamental to both Eastern and Western art.

Old Pine in the Jingshan Park in Beijing (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,500,000/ US\$153,800-192,300) and *By the Lake* (Estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,200,000/ US\$128,200-153,800) are two exceptional works from a series produced in the 1970's featuring the strikingly different sceneries of the Northern and Southern regions, and reflecting the inspiration that the gardens of the Jiangnan region held for Wu. The artist adeptly captures the strangely twisting, arcing lines of the forest terrain and rock formations as well as the towering strength of the lacebark pines, found in the Imperial palace grounds.

Lin Fengmian

The paintings of Lin Fengmian (1900-1991) reveal a concept of intermingling Eastern and Western elements that goes beyond mere technique. Lin's genuine affection for his subjects can be sensed throughout his oeuvre.

Offered in this season's sale are Lin's works from different periods, executed in oil and coloured ink. Highlights include a number of works from his *Chinese Opera Series*, including *Farewell My Concubine* (Estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/ US\$128,200-192,300), *Madame Snake White* (Estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,500,000/ US\$128,200-192,300) and *Scene of Assassination of Wang Liao* (Estimate: HK\$600,000-900,000/ US\$76,900-115,400), which vividly depict the Beijing opera characters and stage scene.

CHRISTIE'S

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:

20th Century Chinese Art, 27 November 2005, 12 noon
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

More information about Christie's sale of 20th Century Chinese 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.

#

*Images available upon request
Visit Christie's at www.christies.com*