

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS ASIA'S FINEST IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Superlative works with unique Asian perspectives, aesthetics and visions lead
Christie's Asian Contemporary & Chinese 20th Century Art Day Sales



Lot 1301

JU MING (ZHU MING, b. 1938)

Taichi Series - Sparring

Estimate: HK\$2,500,000 – 3,500,000 / US\$320,500 – 448,700

Hong Kong – Christie's Autumn *Day Sales* of Chinese 20th Century Art and Asian Contemporary Art will take place on November 30 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Presenting works by Asia's finest artists, the *Day Sales* offers collectors a chance to acquire art of superb quality and range.

CHINESE 20TH CENTURY ART DAY SALE: AT THE CROSSROADS OF EAST AND WEST

Monday, November 30, 2:30pm

The *Chinese 20th Century Art Day Sale* will feature 90 works from the modern masters of this category, with a pre-sale estimate in excess of HK\$25 million (US\$3.2 million). The 20th century was a time when China experienced immense changes as Western influences collided with Eastern values. As the wave of change swept through China, artists such as **Zao Wou-ki, Sanyu, Chu Teh-chun, Ju Ming, Yan Wenliang, T'ing Yin-yung** absorbed Western cultures in their own unique ways and left an indelible mark on modern Chinese art.

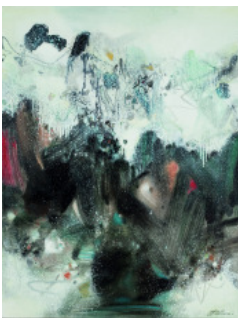
Ju Ming's *Taichi* and *Living World* Series of sculptures have secured a pre-eminent position in the international art scene. Based on a concept derived from martial arts, Ju Ming believes that when the spiritual practice of art is carried out, the appropriate artistic vocabulary will naturally emerge. In the three bronze sculptures offered at this sale - *Taichi Series-Sparring* (estimate: HK\$2.5-3.5 million/US\$320,500-448,700. *image above*), *Taichi Series-Shoulder through Arm* (estimate: HK\$350,000-550,000/US\$44,900-70,500) and *Taichi Series-Swing* (estimate: HK\$250,000-350,000/US\$32,100-44,900)- Ju Ming's unwavering Chinese cultural spirit is conveyed through the formal language of Taichi and infused with creativity and timeless style. Another work featured in this sale, *Living World Series* (estimate: HK\$700,000-900,000/US\$89,700-115,400), expresses a sense of energy and dynamism hidden beneath the serene, shiny exterior and the stillness of a sculptural work.



As one of the first in a group of Chinese artists to go abroad in the early 20th century, **Yan Wenliang** is recognized as one of the pioneers of Chinese realism. ***Snowy Night*** (estimate: HK\$600,000-800,000/US\$76,900-102,600) is a mature work from the artist's later period. Meticulous, but with an eye for beauty and light, this work is a triumph of technical dexterity in the oil medium and the creative use of light, colour and subject matter. A strong believer in the essential Western skills of sketching and oil painting, Yan infuses a Chinese aesthetic through a landscape where a sense of calmness and lyrical beauty

presides over the scene.

Also of note is ***Mask*** (estimate: HK\$150,000-200,000/US\$19,200-25,600) by **T'ing Yin-yung**. As oil works from the 1950's are rare in the artist's oeuvre - T'ing stopped working in oils for the later half of the decade – this work dated 1955 is indeed exceptional. Incorporating the techniques of Matisse and Fauvism, T'ing uses large colour blocks and bold hues to create visual space, improving on the Chinese approach to handling spatial composition by allowing for “blank spaces.” While epitomizing the unique motif of the mask in the artist's early oil paintings, this work demonstrates his endeavour to integrate Chinese technique of line drawing and ink painting with Western art.



A snowstorm witnessed during a train ride from Switzerland to France in 1985 made such a lasting impression on **Chu Teh-chun** that it became the inspiration for his series of snow scene paintings. Painted between 1985 and 1986, ***Hivernale A*** (estimate: HK\$1,800,000 – 2,400,000/US\$230,800-307,700) depicts the wondrously light movement of snow whirling in the wind. Fusing Western abstract expressionism with the poetry of Chinese landscape paintings, the work touches the viewer's senses and emotions by revealing the beauty and force of nature.

ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ART DAY SALE: ART REFLECTING THE NEW ASIA

Monday, November 30, 4:30 pm

Since Christie's Hong Kong first consolidated Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Indian contemporary art in the region's first ever *Asian Contemporary Art Sale* in 2005, this visionary approach has become a standard for the development of this category and has successfully established it on the global art scene. Christie's *Asian Contemporary Art Day Sale* this season again offers a platform showcasing a vast array of over 180 works of art from these countries, with a pre-sale estimate in excess of HK\$25 million (US\$3.2 million). Diverse in subject matter, styles and techniques, and yet distinctly Asian in artistic temperament, the works present a regional view of contemporary Asia. With the careful and expert selection of Christie's global specialists, the works in this sale cater to the broad tastes of collectors from around the world.

KOREAN CONTEMPORARY ART



If ink is the traditional medium of Chinese paintings, and tempera and oil often the medium in Western paintings, the most representative medium for this contemporary age in Korean would be television and digital media. **Paik Nam June**, the frontrunner of mixed media, is a rare visionary in that he combines art with technology, digital media and telecommunications. ***Alexander the Great*** (estimate: HK\$2-3 million/US\$256,400-384,600) is a colossal mixed-media sculpture of the classical legend who conquered the world and for whom nothing was impossible. In this work Paik reveals how dominant cultural and historical ideologies are challenged by man's pursuit of new environments

and innovation that lead to political and social transformation. A social commentary as well as a creative masterpiece, this 1993 work was widely received and acclaimed at the 45th Venice Biennale and was the recipient of the highly-coveted Gold Lion Award for Best Pavilion.

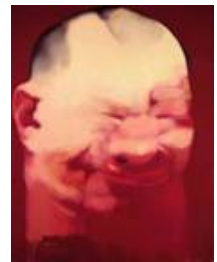
Skull (estimate: HK\$500,000 – 800,000/US\$64,100-102,600) from **Hong Kyoung Tack** is painstakingly created with clean and organized patterns that burst into a psychedelic vision of colours mimicking neon light bulbs or the vivid pixels of an LCD/LED screen. With passing references to the Damien Hirst's controversial diamond skull, Hong satirizes its cultural and commercial hype and kitsch appeal by encasing it like an object of worship on a shrine. A symbol of eternity and death, the sparkling diamond encrusted skull ironically reminds the viewer of the transience of fame and glory, and the inevitability of death.



Kim Tschang Yeul's *Water Drops* (estimate: HK\$1-1.2 million/US\$128,200-153,800) celebrates the artist's pursuit of the ideal of beauty. Here, the faithfully-executed water drops set against a raw, earthy monochromatic backdrop arouse a contemplative and reflective mood that traces the principles of Zen Buddhism and Confucianism and allows the viewer to take in the graceful, predicable and universal visual appeal of simple drops of water.

CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART

Yang Shaobin's *Untitled No. 3* (estimate: HK\$600,000 -1 million/US\$76,900 – 128,200) combines humour and violence in a uniquely surreal yet powerful image. Created between 1997 and 1998, this striking and unforgettable work is a haunting juxtaposition of the banal and the beautiful and the frightening capacity for evil by the fragile human body.



Xu Bing's *Landscript: Revisit 4* (estimate: HK\$500,000-700,000/US\$64,100-89,700) is exemplar in the fusion of the written word and visual aesthetics to give Chinese characters and images additional meaning. With an innovative use of Chinese characters collectively 'drawn' into clusters to represent different parts of a landscape, Xu returns to the roots of Chinese writing, based on pictorial symbols, while combining the traditional elements of poetry, calligraphy and painting in Chinese paintings.

JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY ART



The works of **Kei Hiraga** have been known for their wit and humour in depicting the lives of Casanovas and their women. His ***Tsujicho*** (estimate: HK\$180,000-260,000/US\$23,100-33,300) shows his talents in creating canvases of finely balanced Japanese heritage and French inspirations. Showing consummate skill in combining Japanese *ukiyo-e* -historic wood-block printing- with Western techniques of multilayered paint in various tones and translucency, the artist has created an influential work that is not to be missed.

The shark takes centre stage in the works of **Showichi Kaneda** who likens this underwater predator to humans – both always on the prowl for the next prey. Over 5 meters long, *Human's Own EVO5-01* (estimate: HK\$1.2-1.8 million/US\$153,800-230,800) is the largest single sculpture ever created by the artist. Here, a shark-like replica of a Formula 1 race car is covered with countless logos and brand names - signs of the inexhaustible pace of conspicuous consumerism in which humans live. By building the body of the car to resemble the slick streamlined body of a shark, Kaneda creates luscious curves invoking a sense of movement within this static body, yet as a whole this work stands as a biting critique of the modern-day culture of greed and superficial beauty.



INDIAN CONTEMPORARY ART



As a political artist, **Ashim Purkayastha's** vocabulary is firmly rooted in everyday India. In *FAKE-Error* (estimate: HK\$600,000-800,000/US\$76,900-102,600) the revenue stamp is made to represent a guarantee between the citizen and the state. It investigates society, probes national identity, and speaks with authority. Using a large portrait of Gandhi, Father of the Nation, the artist critiques the founding principles of the subcontinent; and in so doing points to a betrayal of ideals and continuing social inequalities that are prevalent in Indian society today.

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Images Available Upon Request

For more information in English and Chinese about Christie's Hong Kong Fall 2009 Season Highlights go to www.christies.com/chinese

Auction:	Monday, November 30
Chinese 20 th Century Art Day Sale	2:30pm
Asian Contemporary Art Day Sale	4:30pm
Viewing:	
Fubon Life Assurance Building, Taiwan	Saturday to Sunday, November 21-22
	10:30am – 6:30pm
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	Friday to Sunday, November 27-29
	10:30am – 6pm
Lecture:	
ArtAsiaPacific: In Conversation with Subodh Gupta	Saturday, November 28
Enquiries: events@christies.com	2:30pm – 3:30pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. www.christies.com