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For Immediate Release

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RARE OVERSEAS COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHT FOREVER AUTUMN AUCTIONS

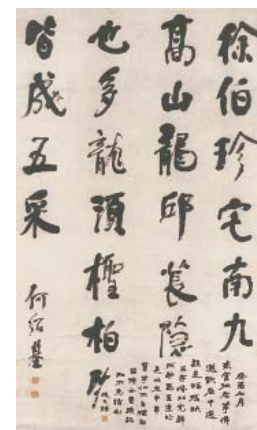
Beijing –Over 500 fine Chinese paintings and calligraphy sourced from overseas will highlight the autumn sales held by Forever International Auction Company Limited (Forever) on 9 November. As in its previous and first three auctions, Forever will use the trademark of Christie's during the two sales of *Chinese 19th Century Paintings and Calligraphy* and *Chinese 20th Century Paintings and Calligraphy* at Sofitel Wanda Beijing.

Featuring a total of 632 lots, these auctions are estimated to be worth RMB¥72,000,000-93,000,000/US\$9,600,000-12,500,000. A public exhibition of all works offered in these two exciting sales will be held at the Sofitel on November 7 and 8. In addition, a selection of 70 top works will be exhibited at Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai on November 3 and 4.

Forever was established in the People's Republic of China in 2005. Christie's, in recognition of Forever's vision and mission, has agreed to license its name to Forever for its auction events. The inaugural Christie's/Forever branded auction of Chinese paintings and calligraphy was held in Beijing in November 2005, achieving a total sale price of RMB¥97 million/US\$12 million. Two successful auctions followed in October 2006 and May 2007.

Most of the 185 lots in the morning sale of *Chinese 19th Century Paintings & Calligraphy* were recently sourced from overseas after being kept in private collections in Japan for nearly a century.

Among the highlights are two handscrolls from the late Qing Dynasty: an extra long hand scroll painting entitled *Mount Jiao* by Tang Yifen (Lot 78, Estimate: RMB¥120,000-150,000/US\$16,000-20,000) and *Calligraphy in Running Script (image right)* by He Shaoji (Lot 92, Estimate: RMB¥120,000-150,000/US\$16,000-20,000).

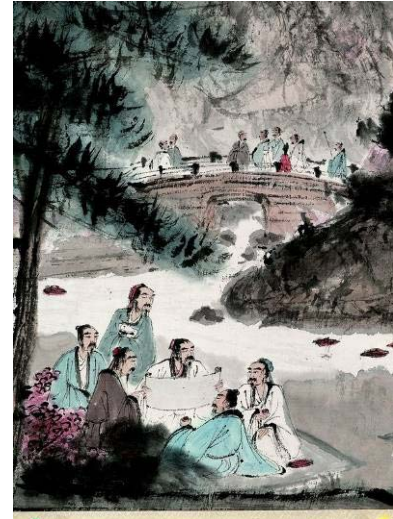


Most of the highest estimated lots of the day will be on offer in the afternoon session of *Chinese 20th Century Paintings & Calligraphy*.

The centrepiece, *Gathering in Lanting* by Fu Baoshi (1904-1965) (Lot 288, *estimate on request*). Fu's masterpieces are highly sought-after by collectors and often garner record prices. Forever's October 2006 sale made headlines when *Du Fu's Poetic Sentiments* sold for RMB¥11,200,000/US\$1,416,000, a new record for the artist.

As with *Du Fu's Poetic Sentiments*, *Gathering in Lanting* (*partial image right*) was painted in the mid 1940s during Fu's isolation at Jingangpo near the south western Chongqing city. The hand scroll painting stretches nearly 3 meters long, illustrating a well-known gathering of literati in East Jin Dynasty (AD 317-420) at Lanting in today's eastern Zhejiang province.

More than 50 figures are vividly depicted in this important work, with great detail taken to illustrate the surrounding scenery. Besides Fu's own calligraphic writing, the scroll is attached with eulogizing colophons from such masters as Xu Beihong, Wu Zuoren, Liu Haisu, Zhu Qizhan and Tang Yun, some of whom inked the praises when shown the painting by its previous collector Li Yimang, a late senior government official.



Another heavyweight in the *20th Century Century Paintings & Calligraphy* sale is Qi Baishi (1863-1957), some of whose works were sourced from overseas, such as the hanging scroll *Eagle on Rock* (*image left*, Lot 379, Estimate: RMB¥700,000-900,000/US\$93,000-120,000) and some from domestic collections, including *Insects and Flowers* (Lot 224, Estimate: RMB¥5,000,000-7,000,000/US\$ 667,000-933,000), an album of eight leaves, each of which can stand alone as a true masterpiece.

Also on offer throughout the afternoon sale are exceptional artworks by modern Chinese masters including:

- Wu Changshuo (*Orchids*, Lot 447, Estimate: RMB¥350,000-400,000/US\$47,000-53,000),
- Xu Beihong (*Letters to Song Ting*, Lot 261, Estimate: RMB¥1,800,000-2,200,000/US\$240,000-293,000)
- Zhang Daqian (*Watching the Waterfall in a Distance*, Lot 258, Estimate: RMB¥1,000,000-1,200,000/US\$133,000-160,000),
- Chen Shaomei (*image right*, *Dressing up*, Lot 219, Estimate: RMB¥200,000-250,000/US\$27,000-33,000)



- Cheng Shifa (*Feeding sheep*, Lot 239, Estimate: RMB¥130,000-160,000/US\$17,000-21,000),
- and Feng Zikai (*Figures*, Lot 204, Estimate: RMB¥40,000-50,000/US\$5,300-6,700)

Auctions:

Chinese 19th Century Paintings and Calligraphy - November 9

Chinese 20th Century Paintings and Calligraphy - November 9

Viewings:

Sofitel Wanda Beijing November 7-8 (Full Public Exhibition)

Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai November 3-4 (selection of 70 top highlights)