

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

佳士得香港有限公司

For Immediate Release

5 November 2007

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**EXCEPTIONAL CONTEMPORARY INDIAN & PAKISTANI ART OFFERED
AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE**

Asian Contemporary Art

25 November 2007

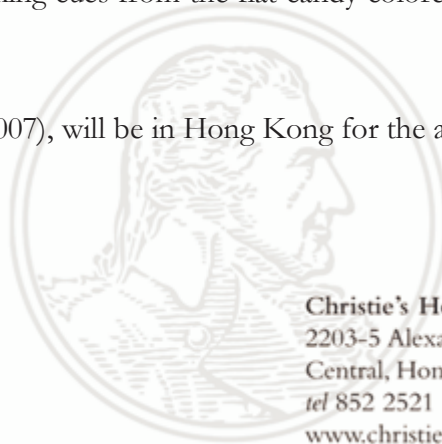
Hong Kong - An exceptional selection of cutting-edge works by 20 Indian and Pakistani artists will be offered in the *Asian Contemporary Art* autumn sale at Christie's Hong Kong alongside outstanding works by contemporary Chinese, Korean and Japanese artists. The auction will take place on 25 November at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Atul Dodiya (Born in 1959)

Regarded as one of the leading artists of his generation, Dodiya has become a widely recognized figurehead in South Asian contemporary art influencing many of the country's burgeoning younger artists. Born and still residing in Mumbai, the culture and history of India play an important role in shaping his imagery. Starting his career with a deadpan realist style, Dodiya moved away from the literal in the mid-1990s towards the fragmented and multilayered techniques which now dominate his oeuvre. *Lodging in Somnath* (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,600,000/ US\$ 153,800 – 205,100, Lot 454), a fine example of the straightforward style which defined his oeuvre in the 1980s, is from an important series in which the artist focused on the simultaneous depiction of the interior and exterior of a given space, often taking cues from the flat candy colored pop style of David Hockney.



The artist, recently featured in *Documenta 12* (2007), will be in Hong Kong for the auction.



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N.S. Harsha (Born in 1969)

N.S. Harsha is represented in the sale with *Mass Marriage* (Estimate: HK\$1,200,000- 1,600,000/ US\$153,800-205,100, Lot 481). He has a keen interest in structure and spatial organization which often forms the base of his pictorial narratives while the interactions between his figures reflect greater issues of religion, globalization and the clichés present in Indian everyday life. Through his unique and eclectic style as well as the



choice of symbols he depicts, Harsha captures the dichotomy between the traditional and the contemporary, the eastern and the western. Considered to be meticulous and labor intensive, it is very rare to find his works on the market.

N.S. Harsha was recently shortlisted for Artes Mundi International Visual Arts Prize (2007).

Subodh Gupta (Born in 1964)



On offer in the sale is the oil on canvas *Untitled*, painted in 2006 (Estimate: HK\$600,000-900,000/ US\$76,900- 115,400, Lot 502). Internationally acclaimed, Subodh Gupta casts traditional elements of Indian culture in contemporary media and contexts, constantly referencing the idiosyncrasies of his life in Delhi. The artist has an uncanny ability to identify those icons of Indian culture that possess innate dichotomies suggesting both the traditional and modern, the rural and urban, the wealthy and the impoverished. Predominantly, however, these quotidian vessels are used by middle-class Indians as dishes and cooking implements in place of the porcelain china used in upper-class Western cultures. They are also recognized as objects of desire for the less well-to-do.

Influenced by the artist Gerhard Richter, one of Europe's most prominent living artists, Gupta's series of *Pots*, recall Richter's 'Photo-Painting' series, enlarging seemingly simple objects on canvas in order to address more important issues of class, religion and identity.

Gupta was featured in the 2005 Venice Biennale and is currently on view in the exhibition of François Pinault's collection, at the Palazzo Grassi in Venice.

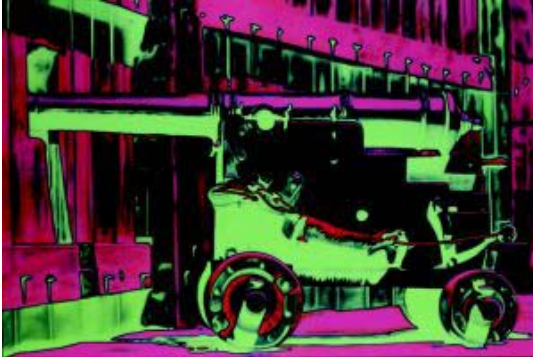
Ravinder Reddy (Born in 1956)

On offer in the sale is *Untitled (Head)*, created in 2002 (Estimate: HK\$1,100,000–1,500,000/ US\$141,000–192,300, Lot 478). Ravinder Reddy references ancient Indian sculptural traditions and popular culture with his massive polyester-resin heads. Contemporizing images of traditional Indian goddesses, Reddy plays on the concept



of "super-sizing," inflating these distinctly South Asian busts to gargantuan proportions. In spite of their imposing size and saturated colors, he cunningly imbues his sculptures with a sense of serenity and the brash faces remain docile and oddly domestic. Reddy's works address issues of femininity and beauty, suggesting both the pressure to look beautiful through the aid of make-up, clothing and hair styling, as well as the pressure to maintain a reverence for and adherence to tradition, conservative as it may be.

T.V. Santhosh (Born in 1968)



Two outstanding works for sale, *Untitled*, (Estimate: HK\$250,000- 400,000/ US\$32,100–51,300, Lot 473) and *Traces of an Ancient Error II* (Estimate: HK\$ 320,000-380,000/ US\$41,000-48,700, Lot 474). Amongst India's prominent artists, T.V. Santhosh is present on the contemporary market scene with his works making record prices and attracting international attention. Santhosh has adopted a unique and striking painting technique which makes his work instantly recognizable. The artist appropriates the logic of turning a positive photographic image into its negative, evoking the inverse aspects of the phenomena. His subject-matter references contemporary societal issues on war and politics.

Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra (Jiten Thukral, born in 1976, Sumir Tagra, born in 1979)

Amongst the new generation of young Indian artists, collaborative artists Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra, address current issues in urban India through a wide variety of stylistic devices and media. Drawing from pop culture, history and street life, they meld their respective backgrounds in art history and graphic design to create a body of work, which incorporates video, sculpture, installation and musical elements. *Somnium Genero – Turbo* (Estimate: HK\$380,000–450,000/US\$48,700–57,700, Lot 495) is a large and remarkable triptych by this artistic duo in which they play with ideas of photorealism and Surrealism in their depiction of an interior scene, just outside the boundaries of real life.

Mohammad Ali Talpur (Born in 1976)

Among the Pakistani section are two works, both entitled *Leeka* – the larger estimated at HK\$60,000–95,000/ US\$7,700–12,200, Lot 743 and the other at HK\$40,000-60,000/ US\$5,100-7,700, Lot 744. Talpur's works diverge from representation commonly found in the neo-Miniaturist School, instead taking on an obsessive and minimalist focus on line. Often confronting and breaking down the geometry of the grid in his works, the artist attempts a universal message through the distillation and abstraction of representation and in so doing connects himself to the work of other prominent Pakistani artists including Zahoor ul Akhlaq and Rashid Rana. Talpur's intricate "woven" drawings were first inspired by watching the flight patterns of birds and attempting to capture them on paper.

Talpur was most recently featured in the *Best of Discovery Section*, ShContemporary in Shanghai, 2007.

Pre-sale exhibitions:

Jakarta	Christie's Jakarta	21 -23 September
Moscow	Pavlovsk Library	16 - 21 October
Singapore	Grand Hyatt Singapore	19 – 20 October
Mumbai	Christie's Mumbai	24 – 27 October
Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel, Shanghai	3 – 4 November
Beijing	Sofitel Wanda Beijing	7 – 9 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	17 – 18 November
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	22 – 24 November

Auction:

Asian Contemporary Art, 25 November at 4:00 pm
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / US\$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / US\$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by US\$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from US\$200 to over US\$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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