

For Immediate Release

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**MASTERPIECE BY BADA SHAREN HEADLINES CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG
AUTUMN SALE OF CLASSICAL CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY**



Bada Shanren (1626-1705)
Flowers, Birds, Fish and Rocks
A set of four hanging scrolls, ink on paper
Each measures 182 x 49 cm.
Estimate: HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000 (US\$1,032,300-1,548,400)

Fine Classical Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy

27 November 2006

Hong Kong – In conjunction with the 20th anniversary, the *Fine Classical Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy* sale at Christie's Hong Kong on 27 November will present a superb selection of works by esteemed masters from the 11th to 19th centuries. Also on offer is a group of important paintings formerly in the collection of Prince Aschwin de Lippe-Biesterfeld (1914-1988) of Jena, Germany.

Leading the sale is an extremely rare set of four hanging scrolls, *Flowers, Birds, Fish and Rocks* by Bada Shanren (1626-1705), one of the "Four Monks" of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) (Lot 698, estimate: HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000/ US\$1,032,300-1,548,400). Each scroll measures 182 x 49 cm. and this is the first work of this size and magnificence by Bada Shanren to have ever appeared at auction. Representing the pinnacle of Bada Shanren's oeuvre, the birds, blossoms, fish and rocks are vividly illustrated using broad, free brush strokes

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within a well balanced composition. This imposing work both fully expresses Bada's artistry, and also refers back to the long-lost Zen philosophy that calls for a life of simplicity and only through which one can achieve ultimate freedom of mind. In this painting, Bada Shanren portrayed his letting-go of all the turmoil arising from political struggle and distress in life.

Another indisputable masterpiece in the sale is *Landscape*, an album of twelve leaves of ink and colour on silk, by Tang Yin (1470-1523) (lot 646, estimate: HK\$5,000,000-6,000,000/ US\$645,200-774,200). Dubbed as one of "The Four Gifted Scholars of Jiangnan", Tang is renowned for the romantic sentiments in both his poetry and paintings. The meticulous and refined lines in this painting are a virtuoso display of the artist's unique techniques and vision. It is not only the tranquil landscape and figures but the atmosphere that draws the attention of the viewers. Also included are inscriptions by renowned Ming Dynasty scholar Wang Yangming.



Landscapes, Figures and Calligraphy, an impressive album of eight double leaves on gold-flecked paper, by Wan Shouqi (1603-1652), is a further highlight (lot 749, estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/ US\$258,100-387,100). It was previously in the collection of the political figure Zhang Xueliang and artist Zhang Boying from China's Republic Period, and carries four collectors' seals. Executed in ink and colour, it carries also inscriptions by the artist which expresses his complex feelings and thoughts.

Paintings Previously Owned by Prince Aschwin De Lippe-Biesterfeld:

Of particular interest in the sale is a group of nine paintings formerly in the collection of Prince Aschwin de Lippe-Biesterfeld (1914-1988) of Jena, Germany. Prince Aschwin was the son of the Prince of Lippe, Leopold IV, and younger brother of Prince Bernhard of Netherlands. After serving as an officer in the German army during the Second World War, he carried out research at museums and universities in Berlin. In 1949, he worked as a senior research fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, and later in 1965 as a research curator, and Curator Emeritus in 1973. A well-known scholar in Indian art, he also had a great passion for Chinese classical paintings, and contributed important articles on Indian and Chinese art.



The collection features remarkable works by Chen Hongshou (1598-1652) Wan Shouqi (1603-1652), Jin Nong (1687-1763), Gong Xian (1612-1689), and Hua Yan (1682-1756). Among the rare offerings is *The Drunken Zhongkui* by Jin Nong (lot 682, estimate: HK\$600,000-800,000/ US\$77,400-103,200). The sophisticated yet strong strokes in this work exemplify Jin Nong's great artistic talent. It carries poetic inscriptions by the artist and seals of distinguished collectors and connoisseurs throughout the centuries.



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Also of note is *Lady* by late Ming master Chen Hongshou (Lot 683, Estimate: HK\$1,000,000-1,200,000/ US\$129,000-154,800). Applying ink and colour on silk in meticulous and eloquent lines, this is recognised as one of finest figure paintings by the artist.

Lake and Woods by Gong Xian (1612-1689) (lot 687, estimate: HK\$400,000-600,000/ US\$51,600-77,400), inscribed with a poem and signed by the artist, is a breathtaking landscape scroll painting that exudes elegance and refinement in a natural and graceful manner.

Previews:

Shanghai	Portman Ritz Carlton Hotel	1-2 November
Hangzhou	Hyatt Regency Hangzhou	5-6 November
Beijing	St. Regis	8-9 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	18-19 November
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	24-26 November

Auction:

Fine Classical Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy, 27 November 2006, 9:30 am
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

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More information about Christie's sale of *Fine Classical Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy* 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.